

Fred W. Perkins
1952 – 2009

Long before the days the CAHA Affiliate existed in the Southeastern District, youth hockey had quite a following in the Carolinas. As history has documented, Raleigh, Charlotte and Charleston were common places fielding very competitive teams in the late 1990's going into the early 2000's. Also were Winston Salem, Hillsborough and Greenville, SC. This made for a great foundation in the Mid-Atlantic Hockey League, the ancestor of the CHL.



Coach Fred Perkins, Standing Left

Fred Perkins played a very involved role with the Greenville Hockey Association in those days. He was President of the association for two years, coached of a very successful Midget program, and probably the most notable, a friend to the entire hockey community. Fred was a salesman by trade and that experience was always beneficial in making cooler heads prevail in difficult situations. He never lost his cool and he always lead by example. His professionalism and the fact that it was all about the kids and never politics with Fred, made him a very special man.

His love for the game was evident as well as his teaching and love for his players. This was true in good times when his Midget team in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 representing Greenville won a berth in the Southeastern District Tournament which was a first for the association at any age level or the difficult times when Fred would speak very emotionally on a player's character during an unfortunate disciplinary hearing. Not condoning the infraction, but trying to see the positive side of the young man and explain it knowing there was a price to pay and that this was a life lesson. He always was open to talk to his players about anything they wanted to talk about. Fred believed the game prepared you for the future. He would frequently catch you in a conversation with a reference to his college playing days at Western Michigan and what his coach meant to him. Fred was giving back and he was a master at doing it.

Fred Perkins passed away unexpectedly on June 28, 2009. He leaves family and more friends than he probably ever realized. We will miss Fred very much.