

# Jeff Olson

Jeff Olson, long time & very successful football coach at Ishpeming High School, will be our guest speaker at the 2019 All-Star Banquet.

Jeff was born in Marquette & participated in athletics at Marquette high where he was recognized as an All U.P. selection in both football & basketball. He furthered his education at NMU & earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management in 1985 & followed with a teaching certificate in Physical Education in 1987. Besides his 22 years of teaching at Ishpeming, he has also taught at Marquette, Gwinn, & Sault Ste. Marie schools.

Jeff Olson has established a coaching career that can only be described as "remarkable". In addition to his legendary status as the Ishpeming football coach, he has also coached basketball for 30 years & track for 15 years. He has coached football for 37 years while being at the helm of the Ishpeming program for the past 27 seasons. The accomplishments that he & his Hematites have earned during his tenure are mind boggling. This impressive list includes more than 200 victories, several conference, District, & Regional championships, U.P. teams of the year recognition, 17 MHSAA playoff appearances that resulted in his Hematites playing every game possible for 5 different seasons: State Finalists in 2010 & 2014 and bringing the State Championship trophies across the Bridge in 2012, 2013, & 2015. Throughout Jeff's coaching career he has earned just about every kind of recognition that can be awarded to a high school football coach ranging from Conference, Regional, U.P., Detroit News, Associated Press, & the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association where he was selected as the Division 7 State Coach of the Year 4 times. In 2016 he was inducted into the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame, & last year he received recognition as the Detroit Lions Coach of the week which earned him & his wife Sally another trip to Ford Field (which I'm sure was a lot less stressful than the other trips).

His love & desire for the game of football has also influenced many other players & coaches within the U.P. & State of Michigan as a result of his willingness to coach All-Star games. Just last week he was downstate coaching in the East-West All Star football game in Saginaw & this week he participated in coaching his 7<sup>th</sup> U.P. Football All Star Game.

Jeff's family includes his wife of 28 years (Sally), sons Daniel, Taylor, & Isaac, & daughter Jamie.

Lastly, being the former football coach that I am, I decided to do a little "scouting report" about Jeff & try to find out things about him that probably never appeared in the media. I have to give credit to his wife for these interesting tidbits about her husband (which are statements in her own words):

He loves his family and is very proud of his children.

Getting to coach Daniel and Isaac and both of them getting to Ford field and Isaac being a major player in a State Championship game is huge for Jeff.

He is funny, but no PG stories to give as an example.

He LOVES chocolate chip cookies...every few years a student will figure out if they bring him chocolate chip cookies, they get excused for PE class.

He's not just a dumb jock, he actually plays the piano a little. Maybe I take that back, he introduced me by the wrong name last summer!

Married for 28 years, yup a LONG time! While dating-- Jeff invited me to a game. He is a quiet, fun, laid back guy. Game: not sure I saw a single play; some crazy guy jumping up and down, screaming was on the sideline. Yikes, is that really someone that is dating material?

Our daughter Jaime said: What makes dad a good father is that he will always listen to us. What makes him an even better dad is that he will always listen to us the second time because he was distracted when we told him the first time.

The story from his daughter about always willing to listen... you may have to tell the story twice so Jeff will hear it.... you might have to repeat everything so Jeff will hear it.

He put 110% into coaching,  
He puts 110% into his family,  
Now, he will have time to put 200% in relaxing.

Please join me in welcoming a man that myself & so many others admire, Coach Jeff Olson.

