

A baseball player throughout high school and most of college Mike VanAuker switched to track and field. He was drawn to the hurdles. As a competitor Mike won more than a dozen track and field titles from AAU through Masters National Championships in the hurdle races, pentathlon, decathlon and various relays. One might think Mike VanAuker is being inducted into the Section Five Track and Field Hall of Fame today for his own success on the track. However, as great a career Mike had as an athlete his greatest success came as a coach.

Mike started his 45 year coaching career as the hurdles coach at Brockport State in 1973. The next year he took over the head coach's position at Hilton High School where he also taught. In his 17 years at Hilton his teams had 16 winning seasons including 6 unbeaten campaigns. His boys and girls teams combined for seven Monroe County divisional titles. While at Hilton Mike spent a few years as the girls coordinator for Monroe County

In 1992 Mike took his coaching talents to Greece Athena where he took over the girls program. In Mike's 12 years his teams never had a losing season. Mike also received a Section Five Class A Coach of the Year award.

After retiring from teaching he joined the Fairport coaching staff as the girls coach. In 9 years at Fairport his girls won 8 divisional titles and 3 Class A sectional titles.

In addition to the 37 winning seasons Mike's team amassed, dozens of his athletes won sectional and state titles. Many of them went on to have successful college careers.

After Mike's retirement from high school coaching he coached another six years as the hurdles coach at St. John Fisher College where he won the NCAA Eastern Assistant Coach of the Year in 2018.

A member of the inaugural Hilton High School Sports Hall of Fame and the Greater Rochester Track Club Hall of Fame we are honored to add his name to the Section Five Track and Field Hall of Fame. Congratulations Mike.