

MoATA Hall of Fame Spotlight

September 2019

Fred Wappel, ATC

Hall of Fame Inductee 1984

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Career Beginnings

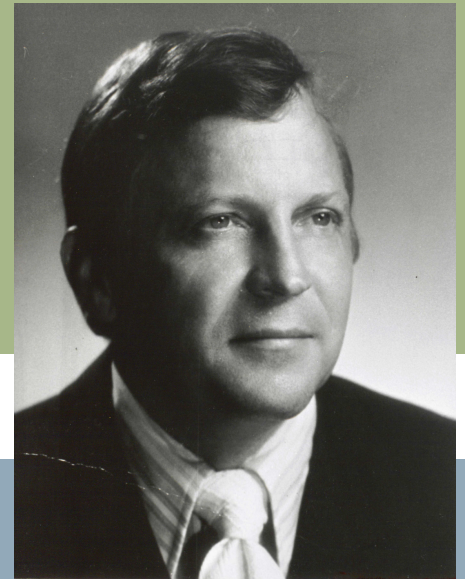
Fred Wappel began his love for sports when he was young. In high school, he played football, track and basketball. He continued his education in Champaign, IL at the University of Illinois as a physical education student because there was no curriculum for athletic training at the time. He started working in the athletic training room getting paid \$1/hr and that increased each year until he was a senior at \$4/hr. After college Fred went on to work at a VA in Illinois. He came to the University of Missouri as the assistant athletic trainer.

Mentors

Fred discussed many people who guided him along the way in his career. Starting with Dick Klein the assistant athletic trainer at Illinois at the time. Even with no curriculum at the time for athletic training, Fred was able to learn so much from Dick Klein about being an athletic trainer.

Another mentor in athletic training for Fred was Ike Hill. Ike was the head athletic trainer at Illinois. Ike Hill lead Fred down the path to athletic training, showing him the ropes and helping him get connected to other athletic trainers.

Coach Don Faurot was one more person who had a huge impact on Fred. When talking about Coach Faurot, Fred said, "He handled people well and would treat them like human beings." Fred went onto say, "He stood by you and did not let anyone else hassle you."



Advice for Young Professionals

Fred expresses how important it is to care for people and to take care of all of their needs.

"You have to want to take care of them. It is your job to get them ready to play."

He also mentioned the importance of communicating with the athletes in a positive way. Very rarely did Fred ever raise his voice to athletes. He felt it was essential to keep the respect between himself and his athletes.

Fred recalled one time that he did get mad at an athlete however. Laughing, Fred told a story of an athlete he would pick up for rehabilitation. The athlete did not show up. When he came in for practice Fred had to talk to him a little harshly to teach him a lesson in life.

Overall, Fred really wanted young professionals to see the importance of caring for their athletes.

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Memorable Moments

Throughout the years there were many things that stood out in Fred's mind.

In the offseason for football one year during conditioning in the stadium a player went down. He was not breathing. Fred remembers getting to the athlete as he was turning blue and established his airway. The athlete lived and was able to return to football.

Another memorable moment for Fred was being hired as the assistant athletic trainer for the University of Missouri and then later taking over as the head athletic trainer. Fred loved working with the athletes at Mizzou. They worked hard and so did he to keep them on the field.

In the University of Missouri's history of athletics, there have been many renovations to Don Faurot field and other sports facilities during the years that Fred helped give advice and participate in.

One of Fred's most memorable moments was when the players of 50's and Beyond had a plaque made and presented it to Fred at a football game honoring him for his years of service to Mizzou and to the Mizzou football team.

Contributions to the Profession

Fred worked for the St. Louis Knights, a professional football team for a year before coming to the University of Missouri as an assistant athletic trainer. In 1958 Fred took over as the head athletic trainer at the University of Missouri and stayed until his retirement in 1996. Throughout those years Fred helped many athletes compete at their highest level, served as a guest lecturer numerous times, and was at eleven post-season bowl games with the Mizzou football team.

Fred served on the National Athletic Trainers' Association board of directors for District V from 1958 to 1961 and the National Convention Chairman for the National Athletic Trainers' Association from 1957 to 1964. Fred also gave his time to the Missouri Athletic Trainers' Association Advisory Committee and Program Chairman from 1982 to 1983. Fred said it is important to give back to your profession and to get involved with your profession.

He was inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in 1986 and would like to be remembered for caring about his athletes. It is the most important part of athletic training.



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