

LEGENDARY BASKETBALL COACH SPEEDY MORRIS TO RETIRE AFTER SEASON

In his 52nd season, He Has 1,024 Wins & 14 Championships

PHILADELPHIA -- Legendary basketball coach Speedy Morris has announced his retirement from coaching at the end of the 2019-20 season after a 52-year career that spanned high school and college (men's and women's) and has accumulated 1,024 wins thus far. Morris is the winningest coach in the Philadelphia schoolboy history as well as in the history of St. Joseph's Prep and La Salle University and he has the best winning percentage in Roman Catholic High School's history.

"Speedy has been an incredibly gifted coach for half a century but he is an even better man," says Athletic Director Dennis Hart. "His contributions to the St. Joseph's Prep community over the past 18 years have been impactful. We are really grateful to have had Speedy as part of our community."

A search committee will be formed shortly and Hart hopes to have a new coach in place in the Spring.

In 2001, after he left La Salle, Speedy was welcomed to the Prep. In his second and third seasons, the Prep won the Catholic League titles, their first since 1971. Those two championships added to the six he won at Roman to make him among the most successful coaches in league history. More recently, his 2012-13 team went 24-6 and advanced to the state semifinals, with Steve Vasturia (Notre Dame), Miles Overton (Wake Forest/Drexel), Chris Clover (Saint Joseph's), and Kyle Thompson (Saint Joseph's) as starters who moved on to play at Division I programs. The 2018 squad also reached the Catholic League semifinals at the Palestra and earned a spot in the PIAA Playoffs.

Morris, who was born in Manayunk and has lived in Roxborough for decades, is a Philly-guy through and through. He started coaching at Roman, his alma mater, in 1967, turning the program into a winner in just his second season. After leaving Roman, he did the same thing at Penn Charter, winning the Inter-Ac championship in his second and final season there.

In 1986, Morris moved to La Salle University to be the head women's coach. In his second season there, he won the conference championship and earned the program's first-ever NCAA Tournament berth. He then moved to the men's program where he again won the league championship and advanced to the NCAA Tournament in just his second year.

Speedy has earned numerous accolades, including admission to 11 Halls of Fame (including the Philadelphia Sports Hall of Fame and the Big Five Hall of Fame). He has received honors from La Salle University, Roman Catholic, the Atlantic 10 Conference, and the Basketball Hall of Fame. At the Prep, Speedy earned the prestigious Rev. Charles A. Schnorr, SJ Award for Service. In 2018, Speedy and his wife Mimi were honored at the annual Stand Up for the Prep event and a scholarship was established in their name.

In addition to coaching the basketball team, Morris also was the Prep's Assistant Athletic Director. He also served as an adult leader on more than a dozen Kairos retreats and attended nearly every Cape and Sword Drama Society performance. A daily communicant, Morris has spoken pro bono at hundreds of Communion Breakfasts, CYO banquets, and sports camps.

St. Joseph's Prep, 355-128 (18 seasons)

- Most wins in school history
- 2 PCL championships
- 2012 4A City Champions/4A PCL Champions
- 2013 PIAA State Semifinalist

La Salle Univ. (men), 238-202 (15 seasons)

- Most wins in school history
- 4 league championships
- 4 NCAA Tournaments
- 2 NIT Tournaments

La Salle Univ. (women), 43-17 (2 seasons)

- 1 league championship
- 1 NCAA Tournament

Penn Charter, 41-14 (2 seasons)

- 1 Inter-Ac Championship

Roman Catholic, 347-82 (14 seasons)

- 6 PCL Championships
- 8 Southern Division Championships
- Best Winning % of any coach in school history

Totals:

- 1,024 wins, 443 losses
- 14 league/conference championships