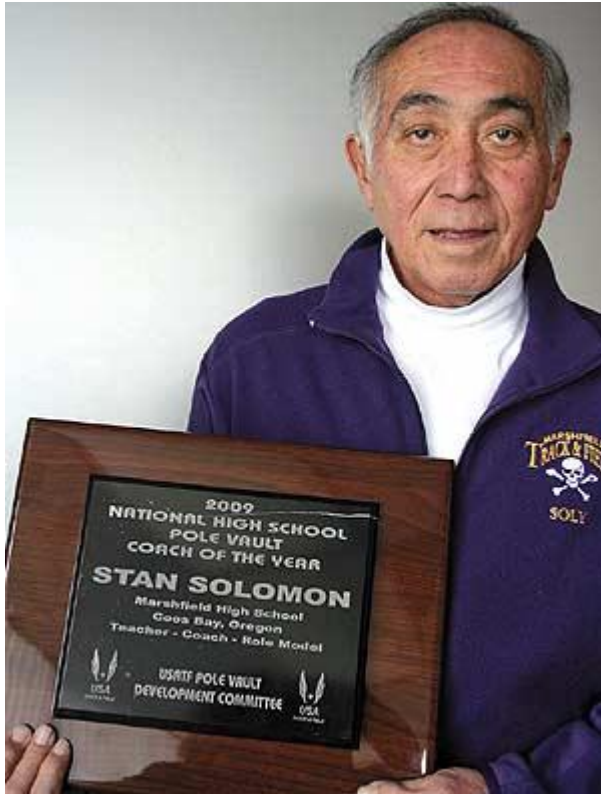


STAN SOLOMON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



The Stan Solomon Memorial scholarship was established in 2009. Soly, as he was affectionately called by athletes and coaches, began his teaching and coaching career at MHS in 1966. He retired from teaching in 1994 but continued coaching track and field until his death in 2009. He coached football, girls' basketball, and track & field for many years.

Stan was the defensive coordinator on MHS's 1992 state championship football team. In 1980 his girls' basketball team won the Consolation championship at the state tournament.

He coached several state champions in track & field: 7 girls' and boys' pole vault champions in the last 10 years he coached. His expertise in coaching pole vaulters was recognized in 2009 when he was named National High School Pole Vault Coach of the Year.

Soly was a mentor and friend to the athletes he worked with. He was committed to his coaching mission, but also provided fishing, crabbing, hunting, and barbecue experiences.

Soly believed that athletics were a way for young people to improve themselves. He grew up in Hawaii with his single mom where they had economic struggles. His athletic prowess allowed him to attend Willamette University on a full athletic scholarship. This experience led him to help athletes attain athletic success so they could earn scholarships to earn a college education that they might not have been able to achieve without that help. Solly believed, "...you didn't go to college to play sports, you played sports because it could help you go to college."

In high school, he was voted the MVP of Hawaii's East-West Coaches Football Game. While at Willamette he was the all-conference running back three straight years and was twice named a first team All-American in the NAIA. He is also a member of Willamette University's Hall of Fame.

On January 25, 2009, a celebration of life was held at Pirate Palace. More than 800 people attended. One of the speakers was Rich "Mac" MacIntosh (1971). Mac, a hurdler, was Soly's first state champion athlete. He summed up Soly's influence on athletes, "Stan Solomon lives in me, and he lives in every one of the thousands of athletes who had a chance to call him Coach."

It is most fitting that an endowed scholarship has been established in Stan Solomon's name. The scholarship money will help a young person earn a college education, which Soly believed was so important to the betterment of a person's life.