

Diane Liberatore Jackson

Legend of Women's Sports at Mansfield High School

Diane Liberatore Jackson is the first inductee in the Mansfield High School Legends of Women's Sports category for her tremendous success as a pre-Title IX athlete. A 1961 MHS graduate, Diane excelled in both tennis and basketball during her high school years. Her success in tennis took place on a regional and then national level with numerous awards and recognition:

- Most improved junior tennis player in New England (1957-1958)
- Junior Wightman Cup Team championship representing Mansfield – top player.
- Member of the New England tennis team vs. Canada for 3 consecutive seasons (1959-1961)
- Member of the Intersectional tennis team representing New England in 1960.
- Qualified for the National girls' tennis tournament in Philadelphia in 1960.
- New England Lawn Tennis Association ranked junior tennis player 1957-1961.

At MHS, she captained the varsity tennis team during her senior year and was also co-captain of the varsity basketball team that same year. In 1960, the Mansfield Tennis Club named her their "Sportsman of the Year."

Diane continued her athletic prowess at Salve Regina University where she was named the best all-around basketball player in 1964, captained both the tennis and basketball teams from 1962-1965, and was inducted into the Salve Regina Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002 for her achievements in both basketball and tennis. She was also Student Body President from 1964-1965 and a member of the Sigma Phi Sigma National Honor Society.

Diane spent 26 years as a French teacher and Foreign Language Department chair at Mansfield High School. She served as the Girls' varsity tennis coach for 20 years, gaining recognition as the Attleboro Sun Chronicle Coach of the Year and the 1993 Boston Globe Coach of the Year during her tenure during which MHS won four Hockomock League titles. Currently, Diane teaches at Archbishop Williams High School. She resides in Mansfield with her husband of 49 years,



Diane with her presenter Alex Salachi