

Fred Rice was the most successful football coach in the history of Nicolet High School.

Fred attended Fremont (Ohio) Ross High School and participated in football, basketball & track. He earned a football scholarship to Marquette University, where he lettered as a fullback and linebacker from 1939-1941 and helped Marquette to a 28-7 victory over the University of Wisconsin in 1941.

During WW-II, Fred served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division as a captain, seeing combat service on Guadalcanal, Guam and Iwo Jima. After the war, he coached freshmen football at Marquette University for Lyle Blackburn.

In 1952, Fred became Colgate University's backfield coach and chief scout. He developed many of Colgate's star players in the 1950's. In 1957, he was selected to fill the head coaching position at Colgate.

In 1959, Fred rejoined Coach Blackburn at Marquette with the challenge to rebuild the MU football program. In 1961, while the program was making excellent progress, MU's President decided to drop football to focus on basketball and Marquette hasn't had a football program since.

Fred was then recruited to become Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Nicolet High School. From 1961 through 1975, he had a 70-53-9 record, winning the Braveland Conference Championship in 1966 with an 8-1 record. Nicolet was the conference runner-up in 1968, 1969 and 1970. During a 5-year period in the late 1960's, his Nicolet football teams posted a 37-7-1 record. Known by many in the Braveland Conference as "The Gentleman's Coach", he retired from coaching in 1975, but continued to guide the athletic program until he retired from Nicolet in 1986. Fred's integrity, honor and dedicated work ethic, along with his strong commitment to excellence, discipline, teamwork, character development, strategic innovation and respect for others, provided a great life-learning experience for all players, coaches, managers, officials and teachers that he worked with. Fred is also a member of the Fremont Ross High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Fred is indebted to his wife, Phyllis, children Eric (wife Linda) and Roseanne, their grandchildren and all the players and coaching colleagues who have all contributed to his coaching and teaching successes.