

I was asked to coach boys tennis at Morris Knolls back in 1981. I wasn't a tennis guy, but I agreed to do it—with one condition. I would only coach for one year. Well, that didn't exactly work out as planned. I ended up coaching 72 seasons of boys and girls tennis. I had more losing seasons than winning ones, but along the way I was fortunate enough to have a few **"Seasons in the Sun."** We won some championships, had some great teams, and created memories I'll never forget. But looking back, the championships weren't what I enjoyed the most.

What I really loved was coaching **"The Tennis Kid."** You know the kid I'm talking about. Smart. Dedicated to the sport. Always trying to get better. Hated to lose. Loved to compete. And, most importantly, just fun to be around. I was fortunate to coach a lot of those kids over the years. Basketball may have been my first love, but tennis became a huge part of my coaching life. It gave me great players, great teams, lifelong friendships, and some of the funniest and most memorable moments of

my entire career. That's why *My Basketball Journey* has so many tennis stories.

I wasn't a tennis guy when I started. Seventy-two seasons later, I certainly was.