

GREATEST PANTHER EVER

Keith Gilbertson Sr. devoted a lifetime to Snohomish High School as an inspirational teacher, coach and role model, and was a common link for three generations of students at his alma mater, where he graduated with the Class of 1945 and was a celebrated Panther athlete himself.

Before retiring after 31 years as a coach and respected English teacher in 1981, he coached state, national and world record-setters in track and also coached the Panthers' first five state-championship teams as the head coach in cross country (1960 & 1965) and an assistant coach in boys basketball (1970) and football (1976 & 1978). He then spent another 30 years as a volunteer SHS assistant coach. In his lifetime, he had a hand in 389 Panther football victories as a player or coach. The girls basketball team twice reached the state finals with him on the bench (2005 & 2009).

Honored throughout his legendary 61-year coaching career and acknowledged as a conditioning genius, Gilby never stopped learning, caring and sharing. He personified what he taught: Whatever you do, give it your best effort.

Along the way he defined Panther excellence and helped an entire community feel like champions.