

# *Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame*



**Angela deBerjeois**  
**Health/Physical Education Teacher, Coach**  
*1969-1992*

She never prepared her classes for the SAT's or Advanced Placement Tests. In fact, she never assigned homework or book reports, and yet, Angela deBerjeois was one of the most effective, as well as one of the most beloved teachers on the Hills staff. So effective, and so beloved, in fact, that she gained the Teacher of the Year title in 1986.

Angela graduated as valedictorian with highest honors from Panzer College, an institution dedicated to the education of physical education/health teachers. She was a serious biology student, named to "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges," and coincidentally a field hockey standout.

In 1969, Angela's numerous talents brought her a teaching position at Watchung Hills, where she was called upon to put to use all of the skills and innovative ideas she had been accumulating, plus many good ideas of her own. In 1975, she taught the first co-ed health class. Her innovative senior health class dealt with topics of "grown-up" life, and students prepared for mock weddings, developed household budgets, learned about mortgages, and the typical problems of adult life. As one who was interested in the overall health issues of the day, Angela co-chaired an ad hoc committee to study alcohol and drug abuse in the regional district. She initiated SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk), designed to foster awareness and prevent death and accidents due to drinking and driving.

She then developed Safe Rides, which eventually enrolled over 100 members, both students and parents, a confidential program which offered rides home on Friday and Saturday nights to students who had used alcohol and were afraid to drive. A SADD Day was also developed; its purpose was to educate both youth and parents about ways to avoid alcohol-related accidents.

Angela's record as a varsity field hockey coach was also legendary. From 1970 to 1973 she was Director of all Intramural Girls' Sports. In 1973, she began Varsity Field Hockey, and the Hills team won Mid-State Conference titles in 1977, 1979, and 1981. They won Somerset County titles in 1982 and 1983, having had their hundredth win in 1982. In 1982, Angela received the Mid-State Conference Coaches Award, the first female to receive this honor!

When she retired from coaching in 1985, she had a record of 70% wins. For all who have had the privilege of knowing her, Angie was 100% winner!