

Tony Van Rooy grew up in a Catholic family and was the 3rd youngest of 10. Tony attended Catholic grade school and his parents required that he not only attend, but also fund his own attendance at Xavier High School. So while working in the summers and on weekends, Tony managed to fund his education. Tony still managed to participate in sports and lettered a total of 6 times in football and track & field. That time at Xavier was also important to Tony as that is where he met the love of his life Laura Lindberg, (XHS '77).

Tony graduated Xavier in 1976 and immediately joined the workforce full-time to provide for his family. While working, he decided to serve as a volunteer basketball coach at the old St. Joseph's Elementary School. Tony wanted to serve the community and the Catholic Education System by serving as a basketball coach. Little did he know that he would continue coaching at the 8th grade level for 40 years. Throughout those 40 years, he served many Catholic Schools as he coached at St. Joseph's Elementary School, St Mary's Elementary School, Catholic Central Elementary School, St. Joseph's Middle School and now, St. Francis Xavier Middle School.

During those 40 years, he also was able to find time to help coach at Xavier High School. Tony coached at Xavier for a total of 12 years in track and field, football and basketball. He was able to coach with great coaches such as Mike Heidemen, Don Dineen and Tom Neises. Many years Tony would donate the money allocated for him back to Xavier for their athletic fund.

Tony has a passion for coaching/teaching not just about sports, but many life lessons. Tony took so much pride in making a positive impact in the lives of the kids on his teams. He taught them that similar to sports, life is not always fair. He would teach them about doing the right thing and treating everyone with respect. He taught them about giving back to the community and following the teachings of the Catholic Church. Throughout his 40 years of coaching, Tony was able to positively impact hundreds of young men and women at a critical age in their life where positive influences were most needed. Several of Tony's athletes wrote letters to support Tony's nomination. They, and others, have gone on to impact thousands of other people in their communities and pass on the lessons they learned from Tony.

In 1986 Tony started Cut'n Care Lawn Service. Tony has been the owner/president for 30 years and counting. His success with Cut'n Care Lawn Service embodies the hard work and dedication that he has exhibited throughout his life. Tony often hired current Xavier students to work for him in the summer.

Tony and his wife Laura have been married for almost 41 years. They have four children who are all Xavier Graduates: Jenifer '94 (Eric), Sara '95 (Devon), Kevin '99 (Marissa) and Brian '04 (Kerri). They also have 9 grandchildren with one more on the way in December. Tony and Laura have been active members of St. Thomas More Parish for 40 years.

Tony's belief in the Catholic Church and catholic education is evident throughout every facet of his life. His education and experience at Xavier High School afforded him the opportunity to find his faith, his family, and his characteristics that have helped him pay it forward through his service. His years of service to Catholic Schools and the community are something to be celebrated. Throughout his life, Tony has been a selfless leader who has put his faith, family, and community first.