

# Bob Betkus, McBride Secondary

## Coach

### *About Bob Betkus:*

Bob currently teaches at McBride Secondary, where he has been the Athletic Director on and off for eight years.

He's coach of the senior boys volleyball team, and helps out with golf, curling and snowboarding throughout the year.

### *How He Got Into Coaching:*

"I've been coaching since 1980. My first coaching experience was as a co-coach for volleyball with someone who had a team already. I was working my way into the coaching scene. Being a phys. ed. person, it was expected, but my degree in PE from Lakehead University had a lot to do with it. I was sort of semi-groomed in the coaching system, and coaching is just another great way to connect with the kids."



### *His Most Rewarding Experience:*

"I hate to say it's been the wins, but I guess taking a senior girls team to provincials and senior boys team to our zones. More than that, it's been seeing what the young athletes do after they finish school. Many have gone into different aspects of sports. Some students have asked my opinion on things they should do with athletics in regards to teaching and coaching."



### *Biggest Challenges:*

"Funding. That's huge. I see that cost has been a deterrent for kids over the last 4 or 5 years. They have to make choices and you hate to see young athletes restricting themselves because families can only afford so much."

### *What do Athletes look for in a Coach:*

"Commitment that they can see. Not just showing up in the gym when they do. But being ready for them. In some cases a coach goes to bat for them if they have scholastic issues. At times, as a coach, we have to keep other staff members tuned into what these kids are doing."

### *Most Memorable Experience:*

"At a senior boys volleyball tournament, we won a match after a long road trip. One of my players, who was not particularly strong academically, hugged me. He was so pumped and proud, and said this was the first thing he'd ever won in his life."