



Photo Courtesy Seton Hall University

Horace J. 'Hoddy' Mahon, shown as Seton Hall University's head men's basketball coach during the 1981-82 season, led Orange High School to a state group boys' basketball championship in 1968.

Local sideline presence dies

'Hoddy' Mahon coached 1968 OHS hoop champions

By John Zucal
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Horace J. "Hoddy" Mahon, who brought Orange High School a state boys' basketball championship during the 1960s and later spent more than a decade at Seton Hall University, died Nov. 25 at his home in Allenhurst.

Mahon coached five seasons at Orange High School, including in 1967-68, when his Tornados went undefeated and won the NJSIAA Group 3 championship. He was named the state's Coach of the Year by *The Star-Ledger* of Newark. He coached three seasons at Immaculate Conception High School in Montclair and two seasons at Woodbridge High School prior to coming to Orange.

After he left Orange, Mahon spent a season as an assistant coach at Fordham University in New York City, then returned to serve as head coach at Essex Catholic High School in East Orange for 1969-70 season before he moved to Seton Hall.

As an assistant to Bill Raftery for a decade, Seton

Hall reached the National Invitation Tournament in 1974 and 1977 and became a charter member of the Big East Conference in 1979. After Raftery resigned in 1981 to become a television analyst, Mahon was promoted to head coach.

Seton Hall finished 11-16 after a strong start, but the 1981-82 season will be known for early-season victories over Notre Dame, Princeton, Providence and the Houston team of "Phi Slamma Jamma" fame.

After he was replaced by P.J. Carlesimo following the season, Mahon was out of coaching until 1985, when he coach William Paterson College in Wayne to a 16-10 record. He moved to Upsala College in East Orange in 1988, and soon faced adversity as the NCAA Division 3 program was hit with a 5-year probation sanction by the NCAA for cash payments and de facto scholarships issued by school officials prior to Mahon's arrival. He showed his dedication to the program by remaining until the school closed in 1995.