

# Coach Ira “Red” Finney

*First Inductee (Inducted in 1989)*

Ira Finney, the legendary Dixon High School coach, was the first and only inductee when the Dixon High School Hall of Fame was established in 1989. In light of Coach Finney’s recent honor, the naming of the Dixon High football stadium after Coach Finney, and the length of time that has passed since he was first honored by his induction to the Hall of Fame, it is important to remind everyone the company that this year’s inductees join. Before coming to Dixon, Red first experienced success as a player at the University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley, he was an All-American on the baseball team. In his senior year in 1947, Berkeley’s baseball team won the N.C.A.A. championship for the first time defeating Yale to win the first College World Series. After receiving his degree in history and physical education, Coach Finney eventually made his way to Dixon where he taught and coached for 32 years, along with being Dixon High’s athletic director for 19 years. His coaching record was phenomenal. During his time at Dixon, he coached football, basketball, baseball, tennis and track. His football teams, over 21 years of coaching, won 10 league championships, two section championships (1971 and 1974) and had a winning record of 129 wins, 49 losses and 5 ties. In 1958, his football team was recognized by the San Francisco Examiner newspaper as the Best Small School in football in Northern California. As a basketball coach, he won 6 league



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championships. Coach Finney coached the varsity as well as junior varsity basketball teams. In 13 seasons coaching track, his teams won 6 championships. His tennis coaching success was also amazing as his teams won 11 league championships and two section single championships with a record of 155-21 in 17 years of coaching. Overall, Red had 27 league championships at the varsity level. Coach Finney wasn’t just a high school coach as he was instrumental in the founding of the Dixon Little League. Dixon could not have asked for a better person than Coach Finney to teach and coach their children. Red retired from teaching in 1982 and passed away in 1990. Red was married to Mary and had two children Dennis and Kate.