



Glen “Larry” Cooper, MS, LAT, ATC ’78 has made his mark in the world of athletics as a nationally recognized athletic trainer. He got his start at GHS as a member of the cross country and wrestling teams, winning Section 2 and District 10 wrestling titles as a senior. He placed 4th at Regionals, qualifying him for the State tournament. Larry was awarded the Rodney K. Wentling Award for his efforts, while helping the Trojans to a 12-3 team record.

Following high school Larry studied Business Administration and wrestled two years at Thiel College before transferring to the University of Pittsburgh to pursue a career in teaching and athletic training. There he earned a BS in Health, Physical and Recreation Education and Dance, labeling his athletic training experience as “nothing short of amazing”. He experienced a first-rate athletic care model while traveling with the Pitt’s Division I soccer team, experiencing the 1982 Sugar and 1983 Fiesta Bowls with the football team, and working with other sports as well.

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Post-graduation and after passing the athletic trainer certification exam, Larry moved to Virginia to begin his teaching career in Health and Physical Education in Arlington. He became the first Certified Athletic Trainer employed by the Arlington County Public School System. He was charged with creating the job description, Sports Medicine course curriculum and class structure that still exist there today.

Cooper moved back to PA with his family in 1991 to become Head Athletic Trainer for East Suburban Sports Medicine Center in Monroeville. There he coordinated athletic training coverage and in-service programs at six high schools and two clinics. In 1993 he began working for Penn-Trafford School District in Harrison City, PA. Here he started the Sports Medicine curriculum and had the opportunity to mentor hundreds of students entering various healthcare professions. He remained there until retiring in 2018. His program resulted in Penn-Trafford being the first PA school to receive the Safe Sports School Award, a designation coveted by schools providing athletics to secondary school students.

Larry also became professionally active at the regional and national level with the National Athletic Trainers Association (Chair of the Secondary School Athletic Trainers Committee), the Eastern Athletic Trainers Association (Executive Council) and the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers Society (Chair of Membership Committee and Secondary School Committee, Southwest Regional Representative, Parliamentarian).

His high school involvement in wrestling paved the way for Larry to become involved with PIAA wrestling as a trainer at the individual and team state tournaments from 1998-2012, and he helped develop and implement the PIAA weight loss program. He’s been Master Assessor for the West, a joint effort with the National Wrestling Coaches Association, PA Athletic Trainers’ Society and the PIAA. He has been responsible for training the Weight Assessors in each school that offers wrestling in PA since 1997 continuing to make the sport safer, provide growth, and keeping PA at the top of the sport nationally.

Larry has been honored many times during his career; however, highlights include induction into the PA Athletic Trainers’ Society Hall of Fame (2014) and the National Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame (2016). He joined another GHS grad and Athletic Hall of Fame member, Tina Bonci, with the NATA honor. In addition, he is a PATS Service Award and Distinguished Merit Award winner, as well as a NATA Athletic Training Service Award and Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award winner.

Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award winner. In 2020, he was recognized by the University of Pittsburgh as a Distinguished Alumni, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences during its 50th Anniversary.

Cooper is active in the community as a local food bank and a Special Olympics Volunteer Athletic Trainer. He’s active with Pitt’s Athletic Training Education Program Tim Kerin Scholarship Committee and has served as a panel member for the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences Care Conference.

He continues to give presentations throughout the country and speaks to local athletic training education programs at Duquesne University and California University of PA. He is a co-founder of ESSAR (Excellence in Secondary School Athletic Training), an online educational program that is elevating the level of athletic training for secondary schools across the country.

Larry lives in Harrison City with his wife of nearly 37 years, Lisa. They enjoy spending time with their three daughters, Sara, Molly and Delaney, their husbands, and their three granddaughters.