

Steve "Sonny" Szekely '67

Probably one of the most recognizable persons in the Northridge community is a home-grown boy who has spent his life living, working and coaching at Northridge.

That home-grown boy is Steve "Sonny" Szekely, who was born in 1949, spent 13 years in the Northridge Schools, and graduated in 1967. While in high school Sonny played basketball and baseball and was on the track and cross country teams. He comes from a Northridge family. His mother Wilma worked in the Treasurer's office for many years and his Aunt Pauline Mullins worked in the High School and Middle School offices for many years. He earned a B.S. from Wright State in 1971 and started a 30-year career as a social studies teacher and coach at Northridge (Esther Dennis) Middle School.

Over the years Sonny has coached boys and girls track at the High School and Middle School levels, basketball at the High School and Middle School levels, boys and girls cross country, and football. His biggest love is track and cross country. He has coached and helped coach 93 track and cross country athletes who qualified for the Ohio State meet, including his son, C. J.

In 1982, Sonny was named Esther Dennis Teacher of the Year. In 1984, he was named the South West District Track Coach of the Year; he was named the 1991-92 SWBL Boys Basketball Coach of the Year. He was President of the SW Ohio Track Coaches Association 1977-1982. He was a co-founder and Vice President of the Huber Heights Youth Basketball 1985-1988. And he was President of the Northridge Bear Boosters 1991-1996. Sonny also has an interest in cars, organizing the car show for the annual Northridge Parade.

Anyone who knows Sonny knows that he is dedicated to the youth of Northridge. Countless times he has spent his own money to see that a kid has school supplies or clothes or shoes to participate in sports. He is always ready to listen to people's problems and will lend a helping hand if possible. Although he has officially retired as a teacher, Sonny still does some coaching and substitute teaching.

Sonny has two children, C. J. '95 and Cindy '96. "All I ever wanted to do was to help Northridge students," said Szekely. "My biggest thrill in life was teaching and coaching my two kids and seeing my son win the State Track Meet at OSU."