

JIM MEHLING

Back to High School

Graduate: Class of 1977 Occupation: Teacher/Administrator

By Brandon Begle, Spring, 2009

After high school, many leave never to return again. Jim Mehling, however, left Forest Park High School in 1977 only to return four years later and remain there to the present day. Throughout that span of 30 years, he coached a multitude of sports teams, taught various math-related classes, and today maintains discipline within the school as assistant principal. Sports he coached include high school baseball, freshman basketball, junior high boys and girls basketball, and cross country.

Prior to his employment with the Southeast Dubois School Corporation, Jim made a trip through the school himself. About his experiences in school, he says, “The greatest memories of my high school experiences were the tremendous sense of pride and fellowship that was found at FP at that time.” As a very athletic person, he was involved in many sports and participated in many memorable competitions. According to Jim, the most memorable of these moments occurred in 1975 when Jasper defeated Forest Park in triple overtime of the basketball sectional final. He identifies himself as the one who threw away the ball to send the game into the second overtime. As a member of the 1976 baseball team, he participated with the only Forest Park team to advance to the state finals prior to class sports. In addition to the athletic opportunities he was presented with, Jim acted as the state vice-president of Beta during his senior year of high school.

Jim was presented with many other opportunities following his attendance of Forest Park. On a baseball scholarship, he attended Indiana State University where he earned a bachelor of science degree in education in 3 ½ years. Immediately thereafter, he worked another three years to receive a master of science degree. In 1997, Jim received a secondary administration and supervision license; this licensing allowed him to be an administrative figure, which he became in 2004 as the assistant principal. Currently, he is taking his final class in an effort to receive an EDS, or educational specialist degree, which will allow him to be a superintendent.

For current students and youth, Jim shares these thoughts, “There really are not mistakes, there are only lessons to be learned. Be contenders in life, not pretenders.” He continues by saying, “Life is about memories and relationships. Work hard to develop good ones!”