

Butte Public High School



Jon McElroy



WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING...IT'S THE ONLY THING IN THE MINING CITY WHERE BULLDOGS ARE SUPREME!

Title teams are nothing new to coach Jon McElroy, Butte High mentor. He was a standout on a great 1964 Butte title team – went on to become one of the all-time greats under Coaches Jim Sweeney and Tom Parac at Montana State where the Bobcats produced great title teams. Jon was a split-end and defensive halfback for the Cats. He returned to Butte High in 1970 where he was hired as a chemistry teacher...Jon served as an assistant football coach from 1970 through 1975 before taking over as Head Coach of the Bulldogs in 1976. He was the Bulldogs Head Coach for 18 years from 1976-1993. It's the second longest tenure as Butte High football coach in school history behind only Swede Dahlberg. Once McElroy began coaching, there were 24 seasons of football, 40 seasons as an assistant track coach, 6 seasons as an assistant basketball coach, and a season as a trainer. Jon McElroy was an outstanding teacher, coach, and mentor at Butte High School!

As an assistant under Head Coach Dan Peters, McElroy helped lead the Bulldog football team to back-to-back runners-up finishes in both 1974 and 1975. During his tenure as the Head Coach, Jon compiled a record of 118-65 (65% winning percentage) and became only the second coach at Butte High to win 100 football games during his career...the other coach was Swede Dahlberg. McElroy led his Bulldogs into the state playoffs seven times. His Butte High squads won the Class AA State Championship in 1977, 1981, and 1991. His Bulldogs were also runners-up to the title in both 1986 and 1987. Jon also coached in the East-West Shrine Game 3 times...in 1978, 1982, and 1992. One thing was certain under McElroy...the Bulldogs needed no newspaper clippings – they came to play, and PRIDE was their password!

"I have been blessed with a good family. I believe a coach has to have a successful family," said McElroy. "You win because of the kids, coaches and the community." McElroy said. "That and a little bit of luck."