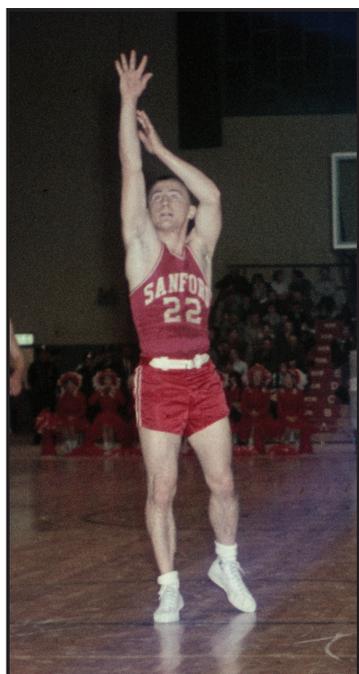


LEGACY MINUTE



The extended Cote family gathered at the Sanford High School tennis courts on Sunday, Aug. 22 to help officially dedicate the Cote Tennis Courts, named after Roland Cote, a beloved Sanford athlete, teacher, coach and selectman, among other titles.



HOLDING COURT

Tennis courts named for Roland Cote

Standing at 5'6", Roland Cote was quick, athletic and known as a fierce competitor. He was captain of his football, basketball and baseball teams when he graduated Sanford High School in 1961. This was after he quarterbacked Sanford High School's state championship football team in 1959.

"Basketball was probably his best sport, where he played as point guard," said Sanford High Principal Matt Petermann. "In fact, during his senior year the Portland Press wrote 'there is no equal to Roland Cote on the basketball court.'"

Despite all the honors for this three-sport-athlete — fast-forwarding seven decades, which included many years of service as a history/civics teacher and coach at Sanford High — tennis was and always will be the passion of his athletic life.

So it is only fitting the new four-court complex at Sanford High School should be named the Cote Tennis Courts in his honor. On Sunday, Aug. 22, family and friends gathered at the Spartan-red and green courts to dedicate and celebrate the raising of the sign for all to see.

"I usually don't have a problem speaking. Everyone knows that," said a choked-up Roland Cote. "I just want to thank everyone for naming the courts after me. It's a tremendous honor to receive that, and I'm very,

Coaching honors

- Roland was the varsity boys tennis coach during the early 1990s when his teams compiled a combined record of 36-6 and won the Western Maine Championship in 1993.
- In basketball, Roland was named SMAA Coach of the Year in 1989. After stepping down as varsity coach, Roland returned a few years later to coach the boys junior high teams for another 15 years.
- Cote coached the Sanford girls varsity basketball team for 12 years, where his teams were consistently among the top teams in Class A.
- Coach Cote was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2009 in recognition of his years as a standout player and coach.
- Served as freshman baseball coach and assistant to the varsity coach John Cochin for many years, including the Class A State Championship team in 1978.

very appreciative. I've been fortunate in my life to have the many successes in the area of sports, my family and so on, but this is one of the top honors for me to receive this."

"I've coached over 1,000 games of Sanford athletes, and I've never been

Community honors

- Selectman
- Commissioner of the Parks Department
- Trustee of the Sanford Water District
- Worked the back-gate ticket booth at Sanford's home football games for 40+ years

so happy in my life as coaching them," he said.

The key to Roland's success has always been his ability to connect with and inspire kids in this community, said Petermann in his remarks on Sunday. "He has been a positive role model to thousands of Sanford kids as a teacher, a coach and a mentor."

"We're super excited to have the courts named after him," said Roland's son, Adam Cote, standing there with his five school-age children, one of whom plays tennis for the Spartans. "It will be a long-standing legacy to have them named after him."

Petermann said Roland has also been vocal about providing access for everyone to the great courts we have in this wonderful new school. "So Roland, you can now rest assured you will always have access to these courts because they are named after you!"

To learn more about naming opportunities available through the Legacy Foundation, visit www.sanordschoolslegacyfoundation.org.