



Donald J. Strasser Scholarship Fund

Donald J. Strasser grew up on Chicago's South Side playing basketball since the 6th grade. He attended Leo High School where he gained four monograms in basketball. After high school, Don attended the University of Notre Dame on a basketball scholarship majoring in Political Science. As a freshman, Don moved right into a starting berth on the varsity team. He was a great defensive player and was often assigned to guard the top offensive threat of any opposing team. Not only was he a strong defensive player, Don was also known to rarely miss given his strong long two-handed set or his driving layups.

In the mid-50's soon after graduation from Notre Dame, Don began his coaching career at IC. Over the years, he was the head basketball coach, the assistant football coach, and the golf coach. Don was a great teacher, coach and role model for students as he always taught integrity, fairness and determination. He carried these qualities throughout his personal life.

Don was also a basketball official for many years and a member of Central Officials Association, a not-for-profit organization which trains and instructs basketball and football officials and interprets the rules of the sports to make such interpretations uniform. In 1991, the COA inducted Don into their Hall of Fame for his work in the field.

To recognize Don's many contributions to IC, Albert J. '58 and Amy D. Roemer established the Donald J. Strasser Scholarship Fund. "Don should be remembered for his many contributions to the institution as a Teacher, Head Basketball Coach, Assistant Football Coach and Golf Coach," said Al Roemer. "We are so pleased to recognize his contributions to IC and establish this in his honor," he said.

Don was quoted often in Michael Coffey's *Echoes on the Hardwood: 100 Seasons of Notre Dame Men's Basketball*. One quote related to an event during his sophomore year. "I goofed up in Spanish. I just didn't hit the books as hard as I should have. It was probably one of the biggest regrets that I had by not applying myself a little more. We were going to be playing Kentucky in the Chicago Stadium and after the grades came out, I was coming back to Chicago and I couldn't play. It was a hard pill to swallow, but I got through it, and it turned out all right. But it's something that I regret."

The scholarship will be awarded to an ICCP student who exemplifies Don's spirit and who meets the following criteria. The student should be entering their sophomore year and has shown exceptional determination in accomplishing a task. The scholarship committee will select the individual based upon the applications received and their collective observations of the students.

The application deadline is Friday, March 15, 2019.

