

Who was Jay Ward and what is the Jay Ward Endowment Fund?

Jay H. Ward was a football player, track star and scholar from Aurora, Illinois. He attended Stanford University on a football scholarship, and continued with a career as an estate-planning attorney in the Bay Area.

What defined Jay's life, however, was his love of sports. Head Coach for Menlo School's junior varsity football and varsity softball teams, during Menlo's 1991 season, Jay's JV football team went undefeated. As a dedicated fan of youth athletics, he served as the Commissioner of Alpine Little League, coached little league baseball, softball, and CYSA soccer.

Upon his death in 1995, his brothers-in-law established the Jay Ward Memorial Fund in honor of Jay's dedication to and love of the scholar athlete. The fund has assisted hundreds of Menlo School athletes with need-based athletic expenses.

Jay's son, Jason ('88), and his daughter, Buffie ('89), are Menlo graduates and both returned to Menlo as coaches. Buffie has worked at the school since 1997, in Development and more recently as the Assistant Athletic Director. Jay's wife, Beverley, still lives in Portola Valley and is an avid fan of Menlo Athletics and his grandson, Dylan, ('18) is a current student athlete in the Upper School.

Today, the Sea of Blue merchandise sales add to the Jay Ward Endowment annual payout to service nearly all the need-based requests from Menlo student athletes.