

## Rudy Brandl



Rudy Brandl spent 20 years covering Hillsborough High School athletics as the sports editor for the Hillsborough Beacon.

He was hired in 1989 by the Princeton Packet as a sports writer and quickly was promoted to sports editor after six months on the job. Rudy also served as the Packet Group's sports editor in Manville and covered local sports in Franklin, South Brunswick, Hopewell and Lawrence at various times during his tenure. However, he always considered Hillsborough his primary beat and took tremendous pride in the community and how he covered it.

Rudy had the privilege and the pleasure of working with two outstanding athletic directors, Rocky Forte and Mike Fanizzi, as well as many dedicated coaches and talented athletes.

Professional highlights include two first-place awards from the New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) for Sportswriting in 1992 and 2000 and a total of nine second places and 12 third places. Rudy also took great pride in receiving the Skyland Conference Media Award in 2007.

Rudy grew up loving sports and always wanted to become involved in the media. He was a sports writer and sports editor for the school newspaper, ironically also called The Beacon, at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, from which he was graduated in 1983.

In college at the University of Notre Dame, Rudy turned his focus to radio and television. He covered Fighting Irish football and basketball and hosted his own weekly sports talk show on the campus radio station. He also worked for two network television affiliates in South Bend, one as a sports intern and another as a production intern.

Rudy returned to New Jersey after graduating from Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies/Broadcasting in 1987 and worked in the family business, Republic Mold and Tool Co, Inc., for two years prior to the start of his professional career in newspapers.

During his 20 years covering HHS athletics, Rudy enjoyed many highlights both on and off the playing fields. While it was very enjoyable covering the 2005 State Group 4 baseball championship, the 2000 Central Jersey Group 4 football crown and all the other sectional, county and conference titles won by HHS teams and individuals, Rudy valued most the relationships he built with many members of the community – the athletes, the coaches and the parents.

Leaving the Hillsborough Beacon was one of the most difficult decisions of Rudy's life. He took advantage of a wonderful opportunity to work closer to his home in Fanwood at the same private independent institution, The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison that he attended from seventh grade until graduation from high school.

Rudy is the school's Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund. He works closely with the school's communications and public relations and serves as the faculty advisor to the student newspaper while also teaching two journalism classes. His most important role in life, however, is raising a family with three young children.

Rudy is married to Macada Kathleen McMullen Brandl and has three children, who are the greatest treasures of his life – 7-year-old son Robert, 5-year-old son Ryan and 2-year-old daughter Braelyn.

