

Carl Kuss



Carl M. Kuss was a standout athlete at UW-River Falls, a notable biology teacher, coach and athletic director in the West Bend School District, and a community leader. While at UW-River Falls, Kuss competed in football, basketball and baseball for the Falcons and earned 11 letters. In the 1933 basketball season, he was the team's co-captain and was named to the All-WIAC team. Kuss was a member of the R Club from 1931-34 and served as the club's vice president in 1934.

After his great playing career at UW-RF, Kuss taught and coached football, basketball, and baseball at Owens High School from 1935-41. He was hired by West Bend Public Schools in 1941. Kuss served in the U.S. Army from 1941-46 in the European and Pacific Theaters during World War II, achieving the rank of Captain. In August 1944 during the war, Kuss married Ida Levina Kuss while he was on leave in San Francisco. After the war, Kuss and his wife returned to West Bend where he taught biology and coached until his death in 1966.

In West Bend, Kuss coached football, basketball and baseball. In 1951, he led the West Bend baseball team to the WIAA State Championship. Several of his baseball teams won conference, district and regional championships.

Kuss was actively involved in the West Bend community as the summer baseball director for 15 years. He also organized the Puddles Baseball League, the West Bend Preps baseball team and the Threshold Program, which was an annual baseball game for the handicapped. Kuss was awarded the Don Bosco Squire Circle plaque for his voluntary service to youth in West Bend. He was also the Land O' Lakes Northern Division baseball commissioner for 13 years and led efforts to establish summer baseball conferences and tournaments for the WIAA, culminating with the WIAA Summer Baseball State Tournament being held in West Bend from 1965 through 1988. Kuss was the West Bend Athletic Director from 1958-66. He was also served as the Chairman for the WIAA Advisory Committee.

In 1987, the West Bend Regner City Park baseball field was dedicated as the Carl M. Kuss Memorial Field in recognition of his lifelong contributions to the community.

Carl M. Kuss was born in Oak Grove, Wisconsin on December 11, 1911 to Herman G. and Ida H. Kuss, and was the youngest of seven children. Kuss is a 1934 graduate of UW-River Falls. Kuss and his wife, Ida, had three children, Terry Kuss, Michael Kuss and Karla Kuss West, and seven grandchildren. He died in June 1966. Kuss was inducted into the UW-River Falls Athletic Hall of Fame on October 17, 2009.