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Steve Lurie, 69, sportswriter, high school track coach

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Steve Lurie, who traded in a career as a North Jersey sportswriter for one as a much-honored track and field coach, died March 6 in Tucson, Ariz. The former Washington Township resident was 69.

Mr. **Lurie**, a reporter in the '60s and '70s for The Record and the Paterson Morning Call, tried his hand at coaching by starting the North Jersey Striders track club. That led to a series of coaching positions, including part-time assistant at Seton Hall University and Manhattan College, head coach at American University in Washington, D.C., and from 1990 to 2000 boys' track coach at Westwood High School.

Westwood won scores of track championships during Mr. **Lurie's** decade at the helm, and Mr. **Lurie** was honored multiple times by the Bergen County Coaches Association.

Mr. **Lurie**, a Long Island native, also was a founder and director of the Five-Star Cross Country Camp in the Catskills.

Rob DeCarlo, track coach at Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, worked at the camp and called Mr. **Lurie** "one of the biggest track fans out there" and an excellent coach and motivator.

"**Steve** was very goal-oriented and set high standards for his kids, but he helped them understand why they needed to do certain things, rather than make them do it," DeCarlo said. "He never struck me as a because-I-said-so type of coach."

Mr. **Lurie** stayed active in coaching after moving to Tucson several years ago. He died of natural causes and had no surviving relatives, said Florham Park lawyer Danielle Reinert Greene, the named executor of his will.

Greene, who ran track at Immaculate Heart High School in Washington Township in the '90s, also had worked at Mr. **Lurie's** camp.

"**Steve** took people under his wing and did everything he could to make them better people," said Greene, who added that Mr. **Lurie's** passions extended to opera, Broadway shows and the Giants.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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