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Loyola Academy's Head Track and Field Coach Frank J. Amato of Wilmette has been named the National Coach of the Year for Boys' Track and Field by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association. The honor was announced at the 46th annual National Awards Banquet, held on June 22, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Amato was one of eight finalists for track and field.

Mr. Amato has been a coach at Loyola Academy for 45 years. So far, he has won 19 Indoor Catholic League championships and 12 Outdoor Catholic League championships and has a win/loss record of 2557/1095. Since 1966, Mr. Amato has held several administrative posts at Loyola Academy, most recently as executive director of the Academy's Athletic Hall of Fame, to which he was inducted in 1990. In 2006, he and his wife, Alice, were given one of Loyola's highest honors, the Rev. Daniel A. Lord Award for Distinguished Service in the Cause of Youth.

Mr. Amato was also inducted into the Illinois Track Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1985. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1952 and joined the U.S. Marine Corp in 1945, spending 10 months in North China with an honorable discharge in 1946.

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