



## Meet the Clinician: *Gerard Mergardt*

A closer look at our newest BFS clinician

**A**lthough coaches often joke that the only value of school administrators is as a good-quality source of protein, athletic programs would not be possible without their leadership and skills in management and fundraising. And it follows that exceptional athletic programs require exceptional administrators. One such individual is Gerard C. “Rod” Mergardt, who this year became a BFS clinician.

Mergardt has an exceptional athletic background that includes being a multi-sport athlete in high school and a springboard diver in college, a sport he still participates in at a master’s level. Academically, Mergardt received a bachelor’s degree in physical education from State University of New York at Cortland and a master’s in physical education at the University of Bridgeport in 1966. In 1987 he did post-master’s studies in school administration at State University College in New Paltz, New York.

Mergardt says he’s known about BFS for over 30 years, but it wasn’t until he met Coach Jeff Sellers at a

convention for athletics that he decided to take a closer look at BFS. It wasn’t long until Mergardt booked a flight to Salt Lake City to begin his initial



Rod Mergardt with BFS president Bob Rowbotham (left) and BFS clinician Jeff Sellers (right). They are standing in front of Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, where they held a BFS certification clinic.

training as a BFS clinician. He finished the hands-on training and on May 1st started the extensive mentoring process. As of this writing Mergardt has given two BFS clinics and is committed to doing many more. So why is Mergardt such a big fan of BFS?

“From my experience as an administrator of athletic and physical

education, I am extremely sensitive to the fact that many of the individuals we have supervising our weightrooms are not adequately prepared to be in there. So the first consideration of the safety of our kids is to understand the benefits of implementing the principles of the BFS programs at all levels,” says Mergardt. “And I would like to add that I think the BFS Readiness Program should be implemented in every elementary and middle school program in the country.”

As an administrator, Mergardt believes that prevention is the best approach to providing a safe environment in all areas of athletic and physical fitness. Says Mergardt, “And you can certify a lot of coaches in your school district with the BFS program for the cost of one lawsuit because you didn’t have things covered well!”

Asked about his long-term goals with BFS, Mergardt replies, “I’m excited to be a part of BFS, and I’m committed to helping them achieve the goal of being a major piece of every school district’s athletic and physical education program.” **BFS**

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