



## FERRAINOLO ONE VICTORY SHY OF SHATEL'S STATE RECORD

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By **Paul Bruno/For The Star-Ledger**

**Tony Ferrainolo** has proven for over three decades his baseball acumen, as well as being a gentleman.

He's also quietly proving to be a tough fighter, too.

Ferrainolo, in his **34th season** as skipper at **Memorial of West New York**, has been battling lymphoma this year.

His club's 9-8 victory over Hudson Catholic on April 29 was the 751st of Ferrainolo's career, putting him one shy of state-record holder Harry Shatel, the former Morristown legend who suddenly passed away on May 1.

Ferrainolo, who has been in **New York Presbyterian Hospital** all week going through another round of chemotherapy, was stunned by Shatel's passing.

"I was so sorry to hear about Harry's passing," said Ferrainolo, whose career record now stands at 751-205. "It was terrible news. It puts his record in another light. Harry was a great coach, but he was a respected gentleman. He was the best, and my condolences go out to his family."

Although he won't be on hand, Ferrainolo's squad will look to advance in the Hudson County tournament's Round of 16 on Saturday. Sixth-seed Memorial will play host to 11th-seed Weehawken at 2:30 p.m. at Miller Stadium in West New York. A victory would also give Ferrainolo a state-record tying 752d victory.



Tim Farrell/The Star-Ledger

Memorial skipper Tony Ferrainolo, shown here being soaked by a water bucket after a his team defeated Bayonne, 2-0, for his 500th career

Ferrainolo has guided Memorial to five sectional titles and one state championship, the 1988 team that was one of the finest high school baseball teams in New Jersey history.

**Click here for a blog on that 1988 team.**

victory on May 11, 2000. Ferrainolo is one triumph shy of tying the state record for career victories.

Perched on the precipice of reaching the milestone with his respected colleague

Shatel, Ferrainolo merely thinks back to all his players.

"It's really about doing what you love," Ferrainolo said. "It makes you think back, and for my career it brings back a lot of memories and all the players that I've had the honor of coaching.

"To me, coaching game I love and dealing with great coaches and players is special. You put it all together and all the hard work to accomplish things. I've always told my players to do your best at all times. If you work hard good things will come. I've been fortunate to have always had players that had the Memorial tradition in them. They always went out with pride in the game.

"And I still have kids that love the game and play hard and play the right way."

Ferrainolo, who has coached several games this spring from the dugout, gives much credit to his assistants and former players **Jack Nagurka** and **Dan Marroquin**.

"Jack pitched for me and won three county titles in the early 1980s, and Danny was another outstanding pitcher in the early 90s. They've done a great job."

The chemotherapy has slowed Ferrainolo slightly, but he is ready to get back in the dugout.

"It knocks you out a bit, but I haven't had it as bad as some people. I've gotten a little nauseous and fatigued but I've bounced back. I have one more treatment to go after this round is over. I go down and spend time with team and have been coaching some games when I can. I talk to the players on the phone and get text message updates when I'm in the hospital."

If Memorial defeats Weehawken on Saturday, Ferrainolo could set the record on May 10 against Marist in Bayonne.

"I have a tremendous amount of support from coaches and umpires," Ferrainolo said. "It's all about my players. They did everything. I was just a coach who was trying to guide them."

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