His name is synonymous with Assumption athletics, as the department makes its home and the basketball and volleyball teams host games in a building bearing his moniker, the Andrew Laska Gymnasium (dedicated in 1975). He amassed a 224-96 record and two New England Coach of the Year awards in 17 years at the helm of the basketball team, and also coached the golf team for 17 seasons.

The first director of Assumption athletics, Laska helped the College gain admission to the NCAA, was involved in the implementation of Title IX (including adding scholarship aid for female athletes), and was instrumental in the formation of the Northeast-10 Conference, which has grown to 15 institutions. He was elected to several Athletic Halls of Fame including Assumption, New England Basketball and Holy Cross, where he was a member of the 1947 NCAA basketball championship team. In 1968 he was the first recipient of the Honorary Alumnus Award from the Assumption Alumni Association. And in 1990 he received an honorary degree from Assumption for his three decades of dedicated service and achievements.

Affectionately known as “coach,” Laska’s former players flock to him at home basketball games and reunion celebrations to thank him for his leadership and support during their formative years. His wife of 53 years, Ruth, passed away in 2001. Among their five children are Michael AP’66, Kim ’81 and Diane ’76, Assumption’s director of alumni relations, as well as his granddaughter, Jessie ’10.