

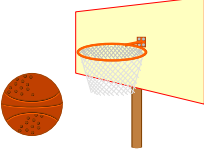
## *Irvington Varsity "I" Club Newsletter*

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**NEWSLETTER # 72**

**AUG. SEPT. 2002**

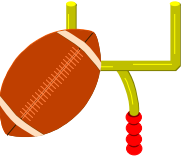


**Hi Folks:**

Here it is the middle of July, and I am chaffing at the bit, wanting to write something to you folks. All I have been reading in the newspapers was the upcoming Sept. 11 Holiday, we realize that this will become a national Holiday in this area, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut immediately and soon it will be National Holiday throughout the country.



As you folks may have read and heard we had an election in the Town of Irvington. They elected a new Mayor, Mayor Wayne Smith and he carried a few of his Councilmen in with him therefore things will be a little more pleasant at Town meetings. How many of you know Michael Damiano, he was appointed Acting Police Chief. I do not know how our previous Mayor, is reacting to this but I would assume she is not saying anything, waiting for her indictment and trial by the government. She and former Mayor of Newark, Mayor Gibson. We will keep you abreast of their situation as we find out.



Speaking of Mayors, one of own, Mayor Harry Stevenson serving in the years 1966 to 1974 was recently in the Hospital with a case of Pneumonia. Harry is now well and living a life of retirement. Harry, gained experience by serving on the Board of Education and President of the Council under the Lovell administration.



In retirement is our other Mayor, who we finally caught up with, via Sol Schwartz, is living in Florida, Bob Miller, former Police Chief and became Mayor in the years 1974 – 1982. Both these Gentlemen are Irvington High School graduates and did a good job for our Community. Bob, served his community well with his success as the football coach with the P.A.L.



Bob writes; Sol Schwartz sent me a copy of your Newsletter. It was great reading about the doings of all of our old friends. Yes, It is sad to hear what is happening to our old town that I loved so much. I lived 64 years in the Town of Irvington and was always proud to tell people about my Town.



I think Roy Madsen stated it well when he said “Lets be happy with our memories of what it was for us.”

Keep up the good work. I’ll always remember you as Captain of our football team in 1934.

Thanks again,  
Bob.

I wish to tell you of the sudden death of Satch Green and Vic Oechner. Both these Gentlemen passed away in between issues and it is the purpose of this Newsletter not to become an Obituary Column (it is bad enough that sooner or later we all must go). The notices of these gentlemen passing away went out on our email list, if you wish and have a computer, and have an email address, we will put you on our email mailing list and you will receive all notices that we have in between issues. All you folks with computers, who wish to be on this list, please send us your email address.

Do you know that every May for the last few years that there are four couples, Marilyn and Frank Neigel’53, Julie & Gene Cullan ’53, Pat and Rick Calascibett ’53, Laura and Andy Mabo ‘53

. Andy starts from N. J. Rick starts from Sun City, Az. and they all meet in Florida, where the Neigel’s and Cullen’s live.

These folks spend a few weeks together, renew old acquaintance, hash over old times, and just love to talk about their youthful days in Irvington.

How many other groups such as this one, meet at different times, I know that there are mostly the Females who are in groups such as this. I know that Joan Jennings Santoriello had a group that she wrote me about previously. How many of you Ladies still meet. The men usually go to Reunions to meet their classmates.

LETTERS

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Dear Vito: I never took advantage to come down as a guest of the Varsity club, but I was always interested to hear what good times all the fellows had. Since I was not a Varsity player at Irvington, in the four years I was there I always believed the privilege to be at the reunion, belonged to the ones who earned their letters.

In 1933, when Irvington and Bloomfield had 19,000 people at the Irvington High School field, and near the end of the game, Eddie Berlinski received a punt on his own five yard line and ran for a ninety five yard touchdown. Leo Menkin had replaced you at safety and was unable to stop Berlinski. To this day, if you weren’t hurt, I know for sure you would have tackled him. >>Vito: Correction, that was a fake kick formation, and I grant you, I would have never caught Berlinski, Leo Menkin was a little faster than I. But thank you for the good thoughts.

I remember the first touchdown Bloomfield scored was on a blocked kick that was picked up and run back. No point after.

Second touchdown was a pass that Bud Boroughn threw as he was being hit, the ball was intercepted by a lineman, who went all the way. No point after the score

12-0 Late in the game Ed Berlinski ran 95 yards with the fake kick. Point after was good. Final score 19-0

Thanks Vito for bringing me up to date on all the news you have sent to me. I remember In 1931, when the Freshmen infield could have replaced the Varsity, they were so good. You were the third baseman, Charlie Kautzman was the second baseman, John Druze was the first baseman, I think the shortstop was Les Smith. >>Vito: Three of us went on to make All State at our positions and we were the first team to win the first Greater Newark Championship at Bears Stadium in 1933. We beat Kearny 1-0

The Varsity had Argast at third, Frech at short, Flash Williams on 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jake Garb on first.

Enclosed is a check to defray your expenses. May God bless you and your loved ones. Your Friend in Sports, Paul Rugg.

Hi Vito: Here are a few items from the past.

#1 One day in 1939, during practice, Coach Matthews came over to me and starting pounding on my shoulders, saying I was goofing off, and to shape up, etc. etc. I told him, my right shoulder was hurting, he took a look and then sent me to the Doctor. Sure enough I had a broken collar bone, Last year I had some chest ex rays. They showed the left collar bone was fractured also.

#2 In 1940, I failed English, and I had too double up on Classes. I thought this was great, I'll never pass two English classes and I'll be able to another year of football. You know as faith has it, For some reason or another, I passed both classes. I then played with the Irvington Sports Club for a few years.

#3 Summer 1942 late July, a week before I joined the Navy, I was swimming a Olympic Park Pool. In the morning, the price to get in was 25 cents. Walking by the First Aid room I heard a cry for help, about 25 feet out I saw this girl 14-15 years old, was having trouble, I looked up to the Life Guard, he was pre occupied. I jumped into the Pool and swam out to her as she was going down. I grabbed her head and managed to bring her to pool side. She scooted off, the Life Guard, still preoccupied. I often wonder why I or others do things, without thought, when danger exist. I guess the answer is, "One does not think of the Consequences". Right or Wrong. Have a good Summer. Signed Sam Lesser '41

Vito: Enjoy your Newsletter. Big, Bocci games coming up. As you know they change my name to Boylano. (Joke) Last year our four man Bocci team came in second.

Signed Bill Boyland '43

Email from Claire and Kurt Armbruster.

Dear Vito: Your Newsletter came and has been read through twice by us both. You are fantastic to keep it going with great news from so many. The saddest is of course the condition of our dear Irvington. With memories we can keep in our Hearts. The Olympic Park Museum.com is a good memory builder. They are

completing the real museum in Union to be finalized by the end of the year. I will keep you posted. You keep mentioning Jerry and the time he spent in Irvington. Yes, we all think of him, But, we also have 2 more who have made it to the big screen. Roy Scheider from Jaws, lived at 75 Prospect Ave. (next door to me) when he was young. His father owned the gas station on the corner of Chancellor Ave and Union Ave. across the street from the Roxy where Jerry Lewis worked. Also the class president of the June '48 class, John Ragin, was on the old TV show "Quincy ". John, played the Dr. who annoyed Quincy.

Till the next time, take it easy and keep the letter coming. – Claire and Kurt Armbruster'46

Received this letter from Hal Dorer'40 Dear Vito: My cousin Dorothy Hecht, brought me your June letter in the hospital for me to read (a successful back surgery) and it was Great to see all those Old familiar names. Some of the things that you can never remember, snap back as soon as you mention the old familiar names. Keep the good news coming----you are important to all of us old timers.

I'm not sure of my graduating class; I think it was 1940, because I worked at the Pru" for a year and then after 12/7/41, I was in the Navy, but I do remember you and all the Irvington athletic endeavors --- we had great teams then. Remember the Garfield football game we lost 14-12 when Benny Babula(???) ran about 60 yards for a TD and we missed our two extra points=====and the great baseball games in Newark Bears Stadium at the Greater Newark Tournaments !!!

Your story about John Druze was also a great reminder === My good buddy, Joe Himpele and I would play hooky from Florence Ave. School just to run down to the High School field and watch John and the rest of them practice. I went on to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where Ara Parshegian was at his best and as you know, Ara became one of Notre Dame's great coaches. I wonder if he and John worked together.

Well, I'm happy to have made this connection and wish all you old Irvingtonians ( or should I say Camptowners ?) the best of health and keep the news coming.

Signed . Hal Dorer

Vito: It is really good hearing from you every once in a while. I see Gene Malinowski, Bill Carbone, Rich York, Don Pace (Pawley's Island SC) Carl Moog (Pawley's Island SC) Lou Bocchicco, quite often and all are doing well. Gene – Billy- Richie and I have been playing golf together and talking about the good old I H S days.

Since retiring I work at Weequahic Golf course a couple days a week, to get there I drive through Irvington, Chancellor Ave or Lyons Ave. and it breaks my heart knowing what it used to look like, what a disgrace!

The boys all say hello, keep healthy.

Ex Camper      Pete Zwingil

**WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THESE FOLKS:** most all attended our last Reunion but we have not seen or heard from them since. If you are acquainted with these folks, kindly contact them to see if they are living or have passed away. It would be appreciated. **FRANK BAHLMAN'53; JERRY BETZNER'52; JOHN BISSET'39; JACK CORDES'46; SAUL DONNER'37; BUD GALLAGHER'30; DAVE LIPKIN'29; JOHN MUHA'51; JOE CHOBORDA '32; BOB LAPP'44; CHAS MCCUTCHEON '54; JOEL PITMAN '54; CHAS REBER'51; EMIL RESHAVY '51; ADAM SCRUBSKI '49; HERB SIMON'48; RON SMITH '52; GEORGE HOPKINS'52; GEORGE ADDONIZIO '52; DON DEBENEDETT; NICK DENTE'52; ALEX EVERITT; WILLIAM JAYNE'43; HERB GETHARD'52; ROBERT KNOTH '38; JOSEPH MASTERSON'51; PHILIP MOSTOSKA '55; AL MOSKOW '58; BOB NEIGEL '40; DONALD PERKINS ; LARRY LEONARDIS '52; LAMBERT SADOWSKI '49; BILL STILES '57; DENNIS CARROLL '50; TOM GILLEECE '54; BUD MCCUTCHEON'50;**

On page 6 there are three pictures of our old friend Max Deutsch and some of the youngsters. Do you recognize any of the youngsters. We also have a picture of Harriet Weber, and her child in front of the entrance of Olympic Park.

We wish to thank all of you who have responded and sent in cards, checks and letters to help this program. We wish you to remember, we cannot carry out this program without your cooperation, so please write us and tell us of your experiences.

I read where our new Mayor Wayne Smith of Irvington has nominated a Ronald Venturi as a Municipal Judge for the Township. I am wondering if this could be the Son of former Business Administrator and Head of the Housing Authority, John Venturi who also was a member of the Varsity Club. Of course you must know that John is now deceased but it is good to know that Ronald, one of his two sons is a successful Lawyer and a Municipal Judge in our beloved Town

**WE WISH TO THANK ALL YOU FOLKS WHO HAVE SENT IN OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, LETTERS, EMAILS, BIRTHDAY CARDS ETC. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MENTION YOU ALL, BUT I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND YOU KNOW WHO SENT IT. IT IS APPRECIATED AND IT HELPS PREPARE THIS NEWSLETTER. KEEP THE LETTERS COMING.**

**VITO**