

NEWSLETTER # 75

FEB. 2003

Hi Folks:

I hope you had a pleasant and Happy Christmas and New Year with your respected families. .

In my last Newsletter I asked you folks to send me some experience you had as a student while going to Irvington High. I received some letters but not enough in proportion to the number of request sent out. Come on fellows, we need your support. I received the following letters.

Dear Vito:

You have asked us for information about our time in Irvington. I started my football career under Bill Matthews in 1923. Howard Silsbee was the freshman coach. I wanted to become a tackle, I thought that position was the most interesting because he was the only one on the team that did all the tackling and I wanted the body contact.

Since Irvington had no football field, practice was held at Irvington Park. We had to change in the locker rooms at the park with no heat and had to shower with cold water. It wasn't too bad until the end of November when the perspiration would freeze on the clothes.

Nineteen thirty-three was the best team up to that time.. Bill Matthews was the coach and I was his assistant. We were undefeated and unscarred on in the first six games. Bloomfield was our greatest opponent having a similar record. We were to play them in our seventh game of the season.

Tickets were sold out by Wednesday before the game. Extra stands were placed at the field. More than 12,000 attended with more additional fans watching from the rooftops overlooking the field. Irvington was ahead by 3 points in the last few minutes of the game. It was fourth down on Bloomfield's 20 yard line with 2 minutes to play. Ed Berlinski got back to punt, but instead of punting, he ran around the right end, got into the clear and ran for a touchdown. Another star for Irvington in that game was a halfback named Vito Miele.

Upon graduating from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa. (where I was captain of the football and track teams) I was planning to go to Law school, but on a visit to Irvington, got recruited by Ed Haertter, the principal, to coach football, which was my first love.

That was the beginning of a career in Irvington that lasted until 1973 when I retired as principal of Irvington High School.

If you want further information, just send me some topics to trigger my memory. At this point, I can remember the old times better than what I had for breakfast today!. Keep up the good work Vito, We all enjoy your Newsletters.

Signed

Mickey Weiner

Vito > Mick, I remember that game, not because of the big crowd but because of what had happened that perhaps you were unaware of. My wife Lillian purchased tickets from a player, named Stanley Kowolski, I believe he was a guard on our team; Stanley would always get mixed up in some shady deals to make money. It seem, that all the hoopla about this game, one of the Students, I forget his name, (remember, I am 87 this coming July 4th and Mickey is going to be 95 this Oct.26) had some phony, counterfeit tickets printed up, and Stanley was going to make a big killing on this deal

It so happened that Al Marasco , our Athletic Director at the time got wind of the situation and as Lillian tried to go into the game she was stopped and questioned as to where she got her tickets. Naturally she was not aware of what was going on, she told them where she got her tickets etc. She had to purchase two tickets from Al Marasco , one for her and her girlfriend before he let her into the stadium. What happened to Stanley Knoelingski and his colleague , I do not know.

The reason I am aware of this situation because I married this Lillian Richardson and for 57 years I have heard this story. Lil. Passed away in 1997 and I still miss her. All Irvington girls make good wives to us men.

You may have known Al Marasco as Al Marsh, aside from teaching, he ran an accounting firm to supplement his income. Stanley Knowleski became Stanley Knowles after graduation, in those days it was tough to get a job if you have a vowel at the end of your name. I believe both men are now deceased. If you noticed the name Kowolski is spelt differently each time because I do not know the right way.

How do you remember Mickey Weiner : Vito > I remember Mickey in this fashion,, do you recall , if you were a football player, in early September, before the season started, Mickey would lead all the athletes present in warm up drills. All the athletes would get in a huge circle, with Mickey in the center and lead us in the exercises. It being pre seasonal we would all be in shorts including Mickey. Looking at Mickey, and then at the football players, it was embarrassing, Mickey had muscles all over his body, he was built like a GREEK ADONIS. When he lead us in PUSH UPS, I was lucky if I could do about 10, he could do twenty or more, on one hand. From that day on, we referred to him as the GREEK ADONIS. That is the way I remember Mickey Weiner.

Speaking of deceased people, I got a note from Stan Wnek' 38 that his close friend and football player, Art Lemke '38 passed away. Art was a tackle at Irvington and continue his football activities at Georgetown University.

In the obit column the other day I saw that Stanley Poznan , who was a teacher of Phys, Ed. At our high school. And I believe track coach. Stan passed away on Jan 7th. Of this year.

How many of you folks had Dr. Harry Donovan as your Principal in the Irvington schools well his wife Georgia passed away Jan 12th? I believe Harry is retired now, The last I had heard of Harry was when he became principal of Chancellor Ave school I believe that Harry knew many of you students because he was principal of many of the schools in town with the exception of the High school and the Supt. Office. May Georgia rest in peace?

This is the only part of my Newsletter I hate.. The Obituary

My Daughter Beverlee , one of the twins, was in for Christmas from California, and we went to the cemetery to place a wreath on Lillian's grave. Of course on the way back we went through Irvington to show her what has happened to our Town, mine you she is also an Irvington graduate. She was astonished and aghast as to what has happened to our Town. From the cemetery we drove along Grove St. She was amazed with the plight of the Pabst building and the surrounding area. We past a site where a friend of hers GEORGIA had previously lived, on Grove St., which she could and did not recognize. We road to Springfield Ave. It was asked

within our car, how many white people did you see. Up to that time, we had seen none. We passed the Terminal and the comment was “is this where Georgia had to come to get her bus. The answer was yes” We rode through Irvington center rather slowly as we fortunate hit some lights. She tried to connect the names of the stores that were present when she lived in Irvington. We got to the area of what was MIELE’S SPORTING GOODS, but the store was unrecognizable. We continued going west and past the Post office, the Veterans building, the Irvington Board of Education, and finally the corner of Stuyvesant and Springfield Ave where she commented that she used go to the Dentist, Dr. Craco , on the second floor, over what was once a Bakery. We then turned left; over Stuyvesant Ave to Prospect Ave, turned right and on the corner of Durand was our house, and the house she had lived in. She asked me to stop, which I did and she got out. I feared she was going to go in the House, but she didn’t. After a few moments she got back into the car and asked if she could see the garage and Grammas house. She wanted to see the Garage because while she was driving she many times almost went trough the rear of the garage, making sure she had the car all the way in.

We then went around the block to 38th street to see Grammas house. It looked the same; it looked like the same owners were still there. We then went to 40th st turned left, headed for Union. At Chancellor Ave Bev. Said “didn’t the Scharfs live here” I pointed out the house. Susan Scharfe went to school with Bev. and Bobbi. And Dick Scharf was my best friend. They lived across from Olympic Park, which you know is none existent. On the left we could see the 40th St. playground, all fenced in, the playground that we built for the kids in that area. We got the money to build and fence that playground by selling the land the Town owned on Lindsley Pl. Land that we never could build a playground on as it was on a hill. I as Commissioner of the Dept. of Parks and Public works sold the land on Lindsley Pl. and used the money to fence, build a shelter and ball fields, at no expense to the Taxpayer We traveled a little further and I pointed out where the Wigwam used to be, there are now apartments there, from there we went to the Hollywood Cemetery where Grandma and Grandpa are buried. We paid our respects and went to Union Center where we had Dinner at Cioffi’s restaurant.

Perhaps I forgot to tell you following us and meeting us at the Cemetery was my other wonderful granddaughter Jenniffer, who took an extended lunch break from her job so she could be with us. After lunch, Jenniffer went back to work and we got on the Parkway in Union for good old Lavallette.

I got a EMAIL from FATHER WAYNE ’69

Hello Vito:

How are things in the east? I understand you have water to drink now – we are dealing with your drought out here in the plains of Nebraska. It actually is getting pretty bad--- no snow yet this winter.

A lot is happening on the UNL scene. The worst football season in 40 years, Coach Solich needs to go. The people of the great State of Nebraska have given him a reprieve—but if he doesn’t produce next year – he will be gone. There has been a pretty big over haul down here in Lincoln. I saw one game this year, I saw the McNeese State game, I was in the South Stadium at Tom Osborne Field. It was a great day and a great crowd. It is always a good feeling to see a game down here.

I’m ready for spring training, 30 days and counting. I hope that my Cubs will improve over last year. I believe that Dusty Baker will make a difference. Well I guess I must get back to planning my classes for tomorrow.

Father Wayne

In case you folks do not know Father Wayne, His last name is Pavela and I believe his brother is still living in Irvington. Now as a Catholic Priest he is teaching in the catholic schools of Nebraska. There are only two gentleman from our Irvington schools, that I know of, who have entered the Ministry. The other Gentleman is Rev. Fred Klittich ’60 . Now located in So. Weymouth, Mass. Both these gentlemen are giving a service and respect to their communities. By the way Fred was an All

State Soccer player. Are there any more classmates who have entered the Ministry from Irvington? I would appreciate hearing from you, if you know of any.

From my list of members we have many Retired Officers from our Armed Forces. Gentlemen, I would enjoy hearing from you regarding the impending War that our President Bush is talking about. If you do not wish to voice an official opinion, we do have the privilege of not printing your name, and keeping everything you say, confidential.

I must tell you, I received a new Gateway Computer for Christmas from my Grand daughter Jennifer and her boyfriend Mike, they set it up, with the Computer came a new Black Key Board which has a few more things on it, than my old key board. I am telling you this because I have received some email, that I cannot locate it on this Computer. When I received my last Computer it took me weeks, months, years to get familiar with it, now with your patience I now have developed Arthritic fingers on both hands , on my left hand , my pinky, and on my right hand my ring finger, I cannot straighten them out. So if you can be patient with me I now use the one finger peck system rather than the regular finger system, what else am I going to do. I never was a speed typist any way.

I got a Christmas Card and note from JOE URBAN '38 who writes: “ Golf here in Arizona couldn't be better – playing three times a week just trying to keep my handicap at a respectable 10!!!

RUTH BONNER '44 with her Holiday greeting writes; “It's so nice to here news of former classmates and friends—really appreciate your dedication to a tremendous task”.

MYRTLE HODAPP with her Christmas greetings writes; “I wish you all good things and hope you feel better. I love your Newsletter”.

HARRY AND JANET HILL '48 with their Christmas card write “ The best of health and peace to you in the coming year” Both these wonderful folks have a son Tom Hill, who officiates in the National Football League. Tom was fortunate to officiate the Wild Card game between Green Bay Packers and the Atlantic Falcons. I also believe I saw him on the Giants or Jets game earlier in the year. I constantly keep looking for him, on all the NFL games that I watch, he wears a big 97 on his back.

JOE AND DONNA MAURRILLO '54 Sent me a wonderful Christmas card with a note hoping I have a great Holiday. On the card they have a note, “ We live in Paradise- Naples Fl- on the Beach. Good how long are you going to stay in Paradise. You didn't give me a new address. I'll send the Newsletter to your old address in Atlanta, and hope the letter is forwarded to you. Vito .

ELSIE PENNELL AND LORRETA YOUNG, two of the finish women who have existed on this earth.(next to my beloved wife) Ta few years ago. Both gentlemen were Charta members of the Varsity Club and both men were Varsity Letter winners on Sports Teams at Irvington High School. These women are old friends and Lorreta who is older and smarter. This is an inside joke, folks.

PETE AND JACKIE ZWINGIL'57 sent a card and a note which said: “ Thanks for all your correspondence. Stay young and Healthy”.

LINDA & RICHIE HALPERIN'51 write Dear Vito:: Seasons Greeting, We wish you a Jolly Holiday and a very happy New Year/

JOAN & MONYY SANTORIELLO '50, Thank you for your lovely card and for all the hard work you are doing in your Florida Irvington High School NEWSLETTER . Thank you. Question. Is it cold in that Paradise, Naples Fl. It sure is cold here.

I wish to thank all for sending me good wishes. I know I missed some folks, especially those who sent email, please accept my apology.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ED LIEBE 4/5/30

BILL CARBONE 4/29/39

GEORGE ADDONIZIO 4/24/33

BOB KNOTH 4/28/20

LEE WALSKY 4/08

LOUIS NICOLOPOULOS 4/4/30

TERENCE KING 4/6/55

SOL LIPKIN 5/26/06

CHARLIE REBER 5/2/33

GORDON SEARCH 5/25/33

VIC PETRIELLO 5/17/41

Charles Kratt 5/21/38

Pete Granata 5/22/28

Mike Bortnicker 6/15/23

Ralph Bayard 6/21/24

Al Murray 6/13/29

William Miele 6/28/47

Marty Klena 6/11/29

Sol Schwartz 5/3/27

Ron Carolan 5/1/32

Bill Cregar 5/2/25

As I mentioned in previous newsletters, in due time **WOMEN WILL RULE THE WORLD.** It seems that Fran Wood has the same idea. I am enclosing a copy of her article.

