

CENTRAL ISLIP SPORTS



HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY

September 17, 2011

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Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2011

Welcome Tom Black

Brunch

Guest Speaker Phil Nolan
Islip Town Supervisor

Guest Speaker Dr. Craig C. Carr
Superintendent, Central Islip Schools

Guest Speaker Dr. Franklin N. Caesar
Principal, Central Islip High School

Inductees into the Central Islip Hall of Fame 2011

Golf Teams '34, '40' '60, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66

Robert Miller

John DiClemente

Gus O'Keefe

Harold Miller

Jack Tice

George O'Leary

Cedrick "Ken" Wood

Vic Pisani

John Abbenante

Dave Ridgeway

Santo "Sandy" Albano

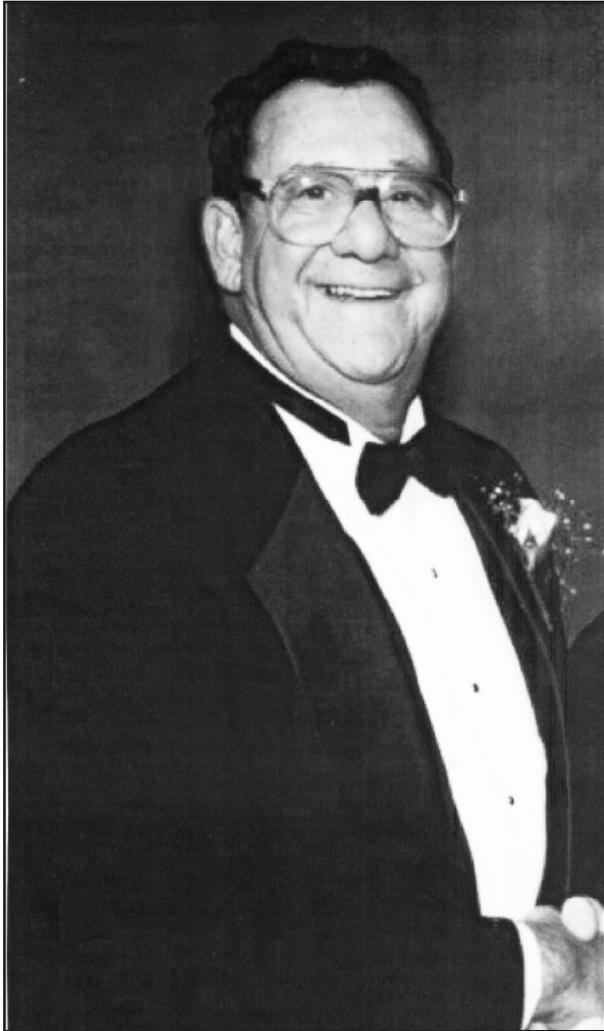
Ken Shaw

Anthony Armata

Richie Specht

James "Buddy" Black

Closing Remarks

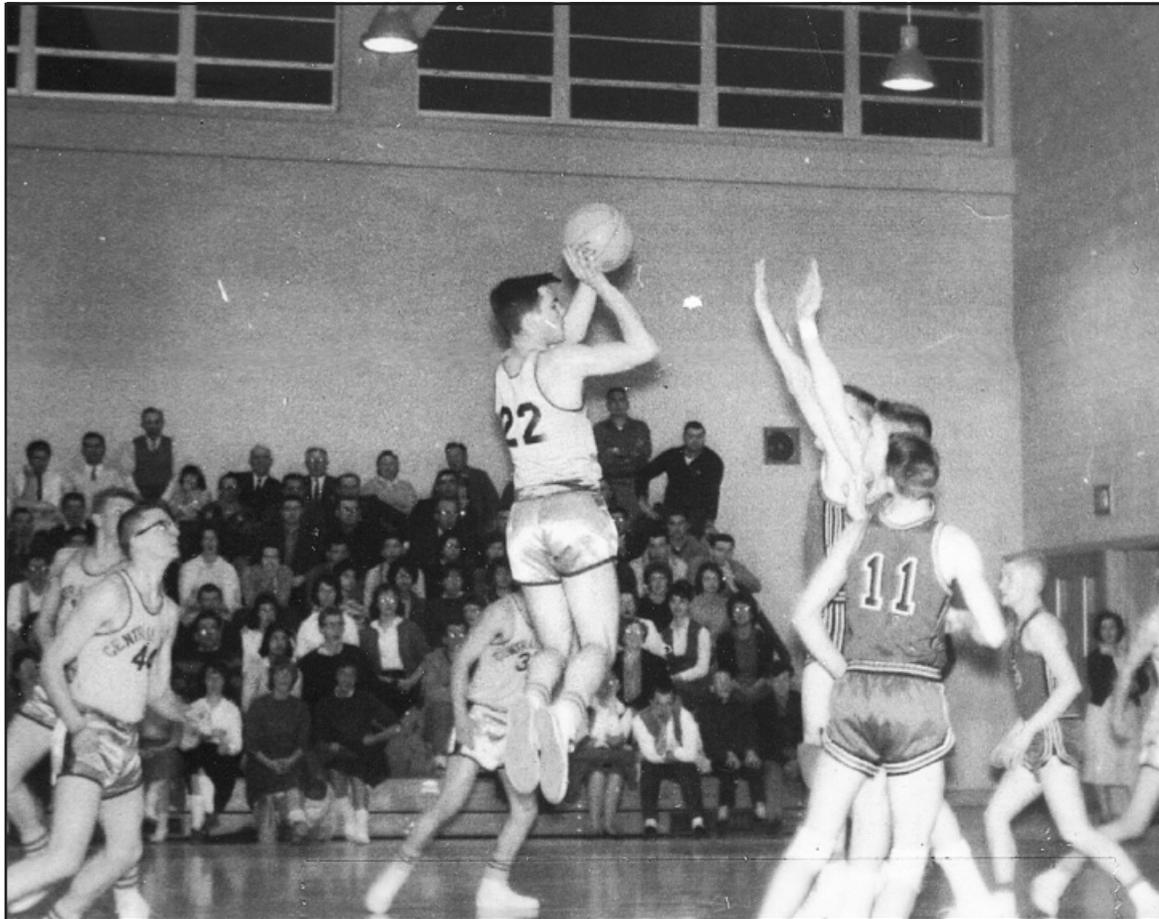


TONY ARMATA

Retired 1989

For Central Islip, Tony was “Mr. Basketball”. He established CI as a perennial basketball power and himself as one of the County’s premier coaches during his tenure. During his years as head basketball coach, his teams either won or were in contention for the County Championship. His teams never missed the playoffs during his twenty-five year tenure. His teams won the Suffolk County Championship in 1964-1965 and 1971-1972 seasons, in addition to numerous League titles. He was named Suffolk Basketball Coach of the Year on several occasions. None

of this is surprising due to the fact that Tony was himself an outstanding high school athlete and earned a scholarship to Bowling Green where he was a four-year basketball starter. Tony retired from Central Islip High School in 1989 after 31 years of service where he was a positive example and inspiration to many students both on and off the court. He passed away in 2011 but his legacy lives on in Central Islip Basketball history.



JAMES “BUDDY” BLACK 1962

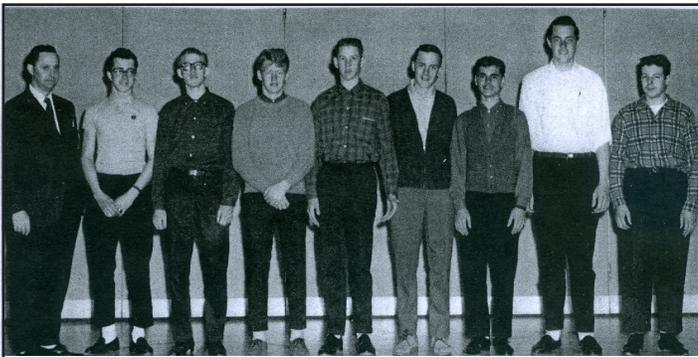
The most prolific scorer in the history of CI basketball, Buddy scored 50 points in one game against Newfield in 1961-1962 season. In that game, CI scored over 100 points for the first time ever as a team. The feat remains a Central Islip record. Buddy was the Suffolk County Basketball scoring champion that year averaging 27 points per game with a total of 484 points for the year. He was an All League, All County selection and the first player in the history of CI sports as an All Long Island selection. Buddy also excelled in football as a receiver. He was selected for the All League and All County team in his senior year. Buddy continued to play basketball in the US Army where he represented the Army throughout Europe in the mid 1960's. There is no doubt that CI will never have another “Black Magic” #22.

GOLF TEAMS - 1934, 1940, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966

Perhaps no other sport in the long history of Central Islip athletics has dominated the field as the great CI golf teams. The 1934 team won the first county championship with the 1940, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966 teams following. The history is unequalled. Unfortunately, the sport was cut for fiscal reasons in 1970.



Suffolk County Champions 1960



1962 Central Islip High School Golf Team



1963 Central Islip High School Golf Team



1964 Central Islip HS
Golf Team



ROBERT MILLER

1946

A life long resident of Central Islip, Bob was a fine basketball player who could shoot well with one or two hands. However, it was in baseball that Bob made his mark on CI sports history. On May 11, 1946, Bob, the hard throwing right hander pitched a no-hitter (near perfect) against South Huntington High School as CI won 5-0. As typical with Bob, he credited his teammates who included such stars as Warren "Swede" Johnson, Freddie and Bill Zimmerman, Mike O'Mara, Mason Burke and Ray Wurm for a major portion of the achievement. When his playing days were over, Bob continued to serve the community and country. He was a Korean War Veteran and spent over 63 years as a volunteer firefighter at the Central Islip Fire Department. He remains a shining example of all that is good in Central Islip sports and life. Bob passed away in 2008 after a long battle with diabetes.



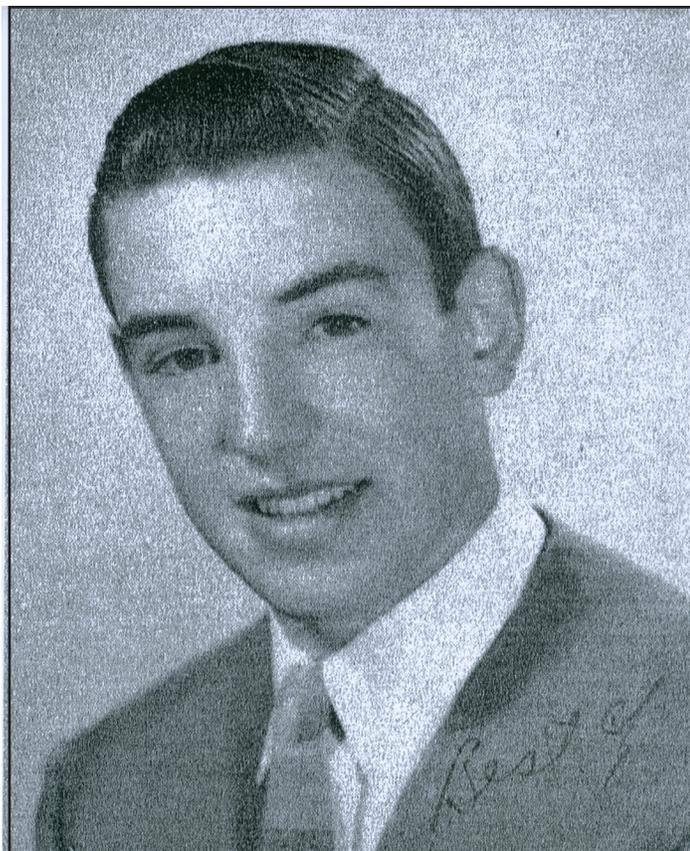
GUS O'KEEFE
1946

One of Central Islip's first sports icons Gus was a three-letter man in soccer, basketball and baseball. It was in basketball however that he made his mark. He was CI's top scorer throughout his high school career and named to the All-County team when there were only five selections. After graduation in 1946, Gus played for various semi-pro teams and was selected as an All Star for the Suffolk County basketball league at the age of 17. Newsday referred to him as the "boy wonder" of the league. Gus continued an active sports life into his forties and became one of the outstanding fast pitch softball players in the area. He led a powerful CI State Hospital team to a number of championships. When football started in CI and sports in general needed a boost, Gus became a founding member and leader of the Quarterback Club.



JACK TICE
1951

Jack was a solid basketball player and outstanding track and field star. He gave Central Islip one of its individual championships when he set the small school league record for the high jump in 1951. After graduation, Jack joined the US Navy for a tour and then returned to Central Islip where he was active in local sports. He played many years at first base and the outfield for several Central Islip State Hospital championship softball teams. When football first arrived at CI, Jack became a founding father and driving force behind the Central Islip Quarterback Club. It was his hard work and dedication that provided the support and guidance to many young athletes to go on to further education and achievements in life. He was a friend and inspiration to all who knew him. He was indeed one of the few good men who nurtured generations in Central Islip.



CEDRICK “KEN” WOOD
1952

A fine all around athlete who lettered in varsity soccer, basketball and baseball for three years each. In an era before All Star teams, Ken was an all-star catcher with a rifle arm and terrific defensive skills. He was voted the team’s MVP in his senior year. Upon graduation, Ken was signed by the New York Giants baseball team and played for the franchise for three years from 1952 - 1954 at class D and C league levels (Rookie and AA today) in Oklahoma. In 1955, Ken joined the US Army and played several years of service ball. Ken later returned home to play for the CI State Hospital team when the institution fielded a very strong and competitive semi-pro team. Ken is currently enjoying retirement and living in New Hampshire.



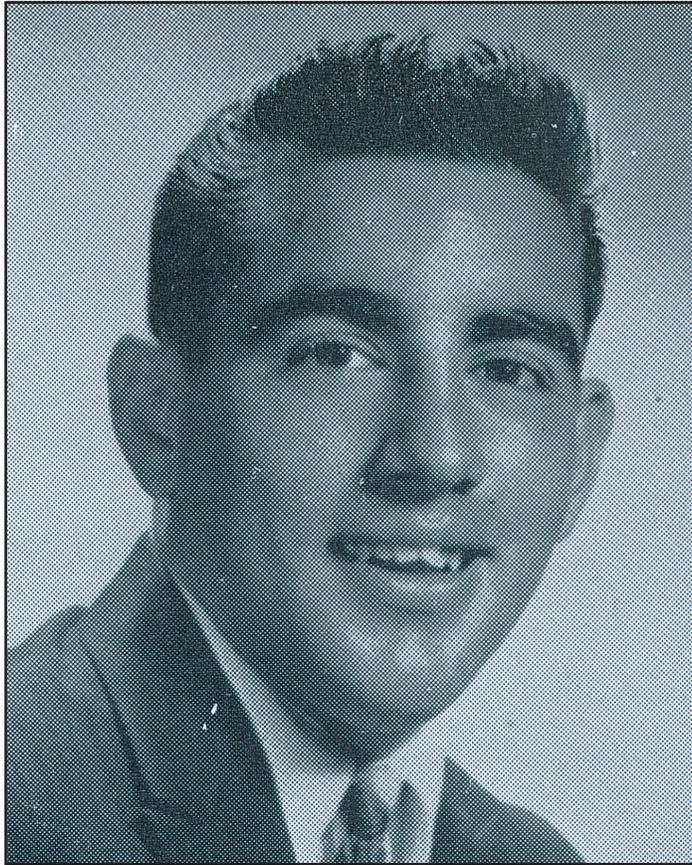
JOHN ABBENANTE
Retired 1969

One of the founding fathers of the golden era of Central Islip sports. Coach John Abbenante was a revered, respected and beloved figure at Central Islip. John coached for 36 of his 40 years in education between Mission, Texas and Central Islip. While in Mission, he served as an assistant football coach, head basketball coach and freshman baseball coach for ten years prior to relocating to Central Islip. He led Mission to its first triple A Basketball Championship in 1957. At Central Islip, he was the defensive coordinator for one of the most successful programs on Long Island. In 1963, there were no points scored against the defense. The only points the team allowed in 1963 were on a fumble in the team's own end zone. In the late 1950's, Coach volunteered at St. John of God in Central Islip and for years coached the freshman team at Central Islip where he helped produce many fine players for the varsity team. He was also the head basketball coach for many years where he also had a great deal of success. Coach always pushed his players to be better than they even thought they could be.



SANTO "SANDY" ALBANO
1962

Sandy was an outstanding athlete in three sports having earned eleven varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball over a span of four years. Sandy hit over .300 in baseball every year and was a sophomore starter on the basketball team, which was a contender for the league championship in 1962. As a senior he was named as high school football All American and was awarded the first Suffolk County Scholar Athlete Award. Sandy received a four-year scholarship at the University of Delaware where he played both football and baseball until injuries shortened his career in his junior year. Sandy graduated and later went on to earn his doctorate in psychology and has had a long and respected career at Stony Brook University.



JOHN DiCLEMENTE

1963

John has had a truly remarkable career in sports over a span of nearly three generations as a player, coach, official and administrator. In football, he captained CI's first undefeated League Championship squad in 1962. A finalist for the Hansen Award, he was the first CI player to be chosen for the All Long Island Team. After college, John returned to CI to teach and coach. After several successful years at CI, John was a head coach at Com-mack and Half Hollow Hills East

High School where he won league championships. Returning to coach football in CI in 1986, he guided the Musketeers to two league championships, two conference titles and a Long Island Championship over a span of seven years. He was football Coach of the year in 1988-1989. John had an illustrious career as a basketball official for a period of 50 years. As one of the best and most respected referees, he officiated games at the League, County and State playoff levels. John ranked number one 10 times as the County's top referee, he has been the recipient of the Spike Mugs Award, a symbol of the highest award in officiating. He is still going strong working games both here and at his winter home in Florida. On the baseball diamond, John has coached teams of every level from PAL to high school, winning a League Championship at Half Hollow Hills East and guiding PAL teams to local, county, and State, including a national championship in 1990. John served as the baseball chairman for Section XI for nearly a decade and was also Vice President of the baseball committee for New York State during that time. John retired from Central Islip high school as assistant principal in 2002 after a long and successful teaching career. This son of Central Islip has been a true leader on and off the playing field.



HAROLD MILLER

Retired 1983

Suffolk County Golf Champions 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966 - When you talk golf and Central Islip High School, naturally Coach Harold Miller's name comes to mind. Over a memorable decade of the 1960's, this quiet, unassuming, ardent lover of the grand old game guided the Musketeers to an incredible string of six County Championships. Harold restarted the golf program in 1957. Prior to that, he had been the track and cross-country coach at the high school. This Army vet-

eran of World War II and former POW brought a determination, patience and inner strength to all of his teams at every match. His ability to recruit, organize, guide, support and challenge his players led to County crowns in 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966 - an achievement that will most likely never be equaled. He unfailingly fought for his sport and continually found ways to expose his players to the best courses and competitions available. The results were undeniable. His overall team record was an outstanding 343 wins, 26 losses and 4 ties. Possessed of a dry wit and keen intelligence, he instinctively knew where to match up his players and keep things "loose". Harold taught for over thirty years as a Chemistry, Physics and Biology instructor and later served as chairman of the Science Department. He also served as a golf chairman for Section XI and the New York State Athletic Association. After retirement in 1983, he continued to work with talented youngsters as head of the New York State Science Olympiad Program. He is still going strong and hitting them

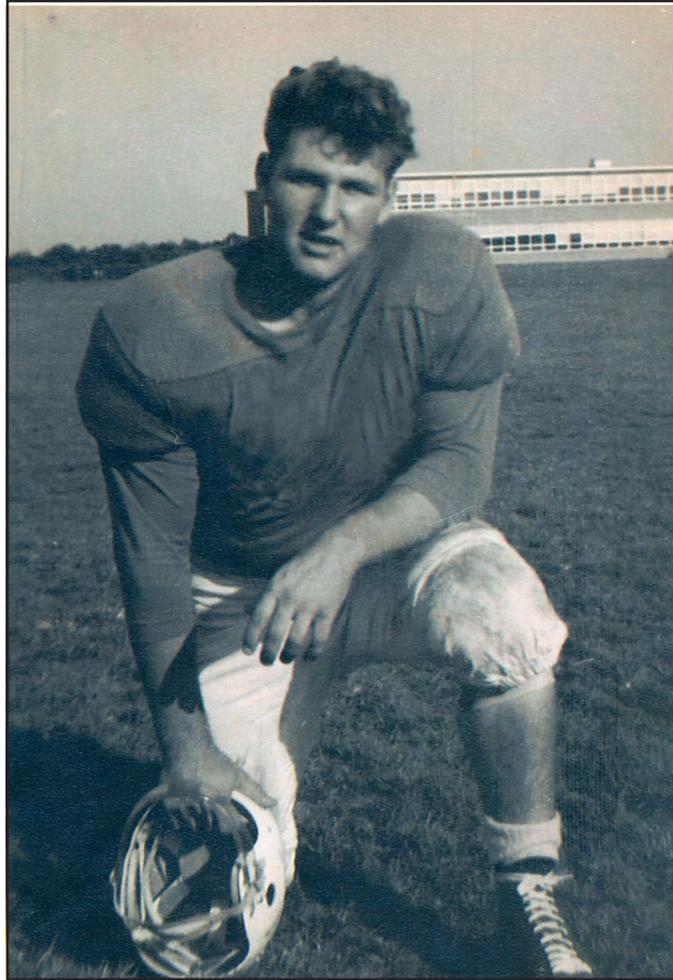


GEORGE O'LEARY

1964

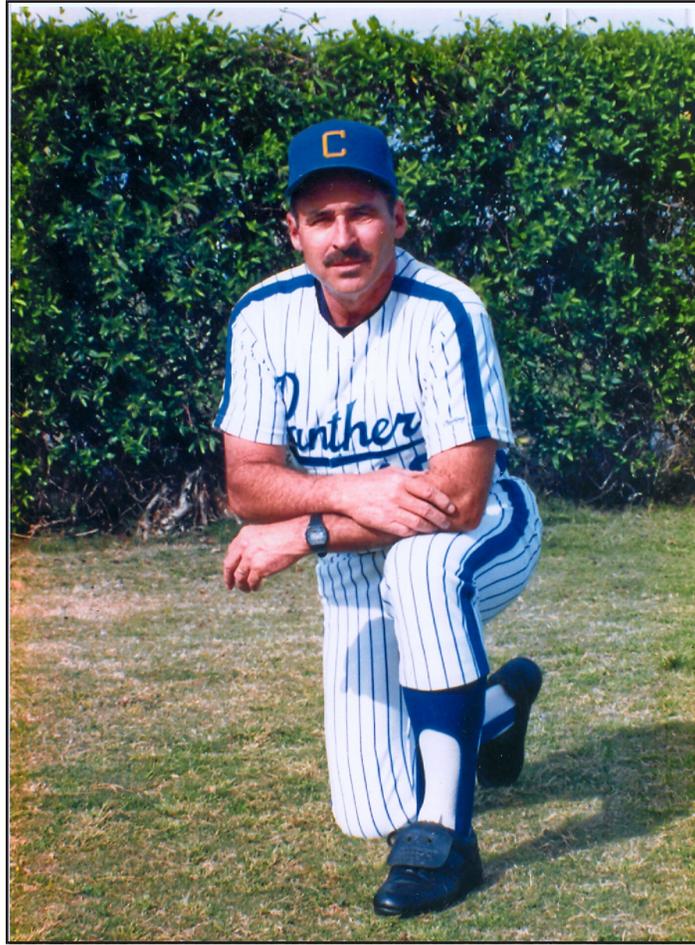
Probably the most notable in the long line of CI football coaches and disciples of Dave Goldstein, George rose to national prominence as the head football coach of Georgia Tech University and currently the nationally ranked University of Central Florida Knights. He started as both a football and baseball player at CI. At quarterback, he captained the 1963 team and was an All League and All County selection. In basketball, he was All-League and captain in 1963-1964. Returning to Central

Islip after college, he coached for ten years in the football program and was head coach for two years with a record of 16-1-1 coaching CI's first Hansen Award winner, quarterback Mike Tice. The team was also a league co-champion in 1977. George started the first varsity lacrosse team at CI and had two high school All Americans in Billy Carpluk and Mike Ahern. George left CI in 1978 to coach football at Liverpool High School in upstate New York and subsequently at Syracuse University. From Syracuse, George went on to Georgia Tech as an assistant and later head football coach of the Engineers. George left the college ranks to become the defensive coordinator of the Minnesota Vikings. After several years, he returned to college football as head coach of a newly energized football power at the University of Central Florida. George has led the Knights to a top twenty national ranking and seven bowl appearances.



VIC PISANI
1959

“Captain Vic” was CI’s first on the field football leader. A bulldog fullback, he barreled his way to CI’s first touchdown and its first victory in its first ever varsity football game. In his three years of play, he scored six touchdowns and amassed 37 points in an era when points were tough to come by. His longest run to pay dirt was 65 yards. He also anchored a strong defense at middle linebacker and was named the teams MVP player in 1958. In baseball, Vic was a skilled lefty pitcher and outfielder and led the team in hitting in 1958 and 1959. Vic was named most athletic player in his senior year and went on to play football at Franklin College after graduation. As the years roll by, the image of #24 rumbling over the gridiron is still vivid in the minds of those who were there for the first varsity football game.



DAVE RIDGEWAY
1962

A three-letter winner in both football and baseball, Dave excelled as a right-handed power pitcher. In 1961, Dave was Captain of the CI baseball team. He threw four shut outs with an ERA of 0.60 and a record of 30 scoreless innings which remains an all time school record. He was selected to the League A III All Star Team in 1961 and repeated another outstanding season in 1962. Dave attended New Mexico Highlands University on a baseball scholarship and had a career batting average of .310. Dave went on to teach and coach at the high school level in football and baseball. In 18 years as the Varsity baseball coach at Corcoran High School, he compiled an overall record of 150-70 with numerous playoff appearances and a history making 20-8 season. He is currently the assistant baseball coach at the College of the Sequoias in California.



KEN SHAW

1959

Throughout high school, Ken Shaw was an outstanding athlete participating in four sports until the district entered League 3A. At that point, he played basketball, soccer and track achieving excellence in all three. In 1958, the Suffolk County Coaches Association selected him for the All Suffolk County Basketball Team with an average of 17.7 points per game. In that same year, Central Islip High School also won the League 3A Championship. Ken was CI's MVP that year. As a member of the 1958 soccer team, he led the team to a league championship. The team went on to the county finals and lost in overtime 2-1. As a member of the track team, he was a member of the 880 relays with a record time of 1:37 with Ken running the last leg in record time at the Suffolk County track meet. Ken was named the MVP for track and the most athletic senior in 1958. Ken returned to CI in 1966 to become a teacher and coach for 31 years. He coached football at the junior high from 1969-1997, basketball in the junior high from 1969 -1972, track from 1969-1997 and girl's high school basketball from 1973-1997.



RICHIE SPECHT

1964

One of the great linemen in the history of Central Islip football, Richie was able to strike terror into the heart of any opposing offense. He led the team in total tackles, sacks, fumble recoveries, blocked passes and punts in the 1962 and 1963 seasons. He was chosen to the All-League and All-County teams in 1962. He repeated the feat again in 1963 and added an All-Long Island selection at defensive tackle to his outstanding career resume. Richie was also a member and co-captain of the League Championship teams in 1962 and 1963. The 1963 team had the distinction of holding opposing offenses scoreless for the entire season. Richie was also a fine heavyweight wrestler. However, his wrestling career was cut short by a serious leg injury. After graduation, Richie received a full football scholarship to Iowa University. Later, returning to Suffolk County, Richie became a member of the Suffolk County Police Department and retired from the Department after many years of distinguished service. Richie recently passed away.

Golf Outing Winners

We would like to thank all of the golfers, the hole sponsors, and all the people who donated money and time to make this golf outing a success.



The O'Leary Family