

CENTRAL ISLIP SPORTS



HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY

September 8, 2018

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Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 2018

Welcome Tom Black

Breakfast

Induction Ceremony

Inductees into the Central Islip Hall of Fame 2018

Richard Field

Tom Fisher

Ryan Grabowski

Estee Harris

Charles L. Horton, Jr.

Ralph F. Horton II

Gary Jentz Harring

Gene Lemire

Kevin P. Naylor

Richard (Dick) Parisi

Don Pschirer

Leroy Smith

Don Sullins

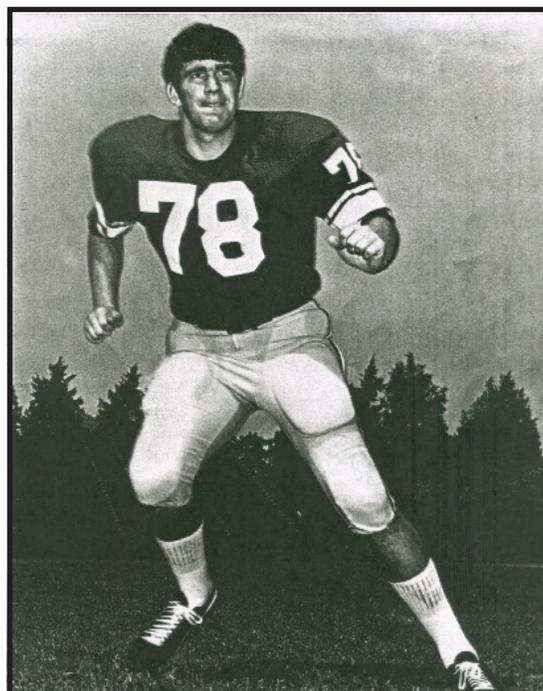
Bruce Wachter

Catherine Vereline

Baseball teams of 1964, 1969, 1973

Closing Remarks

Bruce Wachter 1969



The Class of '69 produced a crop of outstanding athletes whose achievements helped to enrich the history of Central Islip Sports. Many of them have been inducted into the CI Sports Hall of Fame. The next to receive this honor is Bruce Wachter. Bruce moved to CI when he was in the 7th grade and quickly became involved in athletics. In high school, he became a three-letterman starting at the varsity level in football (2 years) as an offensive/defensive tackle winning All-League, All- County and Honorable Mention Sunkist All American in 1968. Bruce was a formidable heavy weight wrestler (2 years) and believe it or not an outstanding miler as a big man, for the track team (2 years). He was a tri-captain of the gridiron squad in his senior year, a most coveted honor in CI.

Upon graduation, Bruce received a full football scholarship to William and Mary, where he played under the legendary Coach Lou Holtz and was a part of the team that won the Southern Conference and appeared in the Tangerine Bowl in 1970. In 1973, he graduated with a BA Degree in Physical Education and started at St. Edward's School in Florida that same year. His outstanding career spanned 45 years. He would rise through the ranks as a teacher, coach, to Athletic Director, then Principal and finally to an Assistant Superintendent; a testimony to his leadership ability, hard work and determination, qualities developed on the playing fields. Bruce retired in June and plans to meet new challenges.

1973 was the year which saw the start of another wonderful journey. Bruce married Joanie, his loving wife and partner of 45 years. Well done both of you! They have two daughters. Carrie, a PhD and Associate Professor of Guidance at UNC, Greensboro, is married to Brandon and they have two children; Brennan - 6 ½ and Laura - 5. Daughter Amy, a Clemson graduate with a BA in Psychology is a business owner and designer with her own label "Taxidermy."

Bruce enjoys golf, deep see fishing, boating and water skiing. He and Joanie live in Vero Beach, Florida and with him now retired they hope to travel and spend more time with their children and grandchildren.

Looking back on his CI experience Bruce states, "I'd like to thank some of the iconic coaches and teachers, in particular Coach Goldstein, Coach Morselli and Coach Wagner, who inspired me to work harder, keep striving and remain focused to achieve goals that at first seem out of reach! That mind-set has helped me."

Catherine Vereline

1971



We are proud and pleased to honor a true daughter of Central Islip. Raised here, she has spent a lifetime as a student, athlete, teacher, coach, administrator in service to better and enrich our community.

Cathy spent her elementary and JHS years at St. John of God and a combination of district schools. She entered Reed High School in 1968 and graduated from the new high school (Wheeler Road) in 1971. During that four years, she earned a varsity letters every year in field hockey, volleyball, basketball and softball. In an era when women's sports were just emerging into the spotlight, she won the coveted Gold Key Award, the highest honor for female athletes in Suffolk County.

On graduation Cathy entered John F. Kennedy College and earned her BA Degree in P.E and English in 1975. She also holds an MA from Stony Brook and a Professional Administrative Degree from LIU/Post and St. John's.

Cathy returned to CI as a PE teacher in 1983 until 1994. During that period, teaching at both the elementary and HS levels, she coached boys' and girls' volleyball, girls' soccer, softball, and girls' basketball all at the varsity status in addition to numerous assignments at the JV tier.

In 1994, Cathy joined the administrative ranks in a remarkable and diverse career which saw her in various roles of Dean of Students JHS, Assistant Principal JHS/HS, Director of Guidance HS, Athletic Director, Elementary Principal (Morrow and Mulvey), and finally High School Principal. She completed her tour as Principal on Special Assignment and retired (almost) in 2015. She still does consulting work for the district. Cathy is also the recipient of the PTA Jenkins Award and the Scope Award for a lifetime of devoted school service. Additionally, Cath established The Vereline Family Scholarship which is awarded each year to a deserving female athlete.

Cathy lives in Setauket and spends the winters in Del Ray Beach, Florida along with her life partner Cathy. She enjoys an active life of golf (gives Cassidy Strokes), tennis, and pickle ball. She loves to crochet and she and Cathy enjoy traveling and camping.

Of her time in Central Islip, Cathy evokes the old Musketeer motto of "All for one and one for all!" As the spirit which has guided her career and she sees as the trademark of Central Islip.

Charles L. Horton Jr. 1980

Charles L. Horton Jr. stands tall. Today, Charles stands 'tall' in the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame 2018 class! Chuck was a "big" part of the Central Islip basketball team's success, for three seasons, beginning with his 1977-78 sophomore season right through his 1979-80 senior season. Now we will break down what brings Charles L. Horton Jr., ("The Man of the Hour") to the CI Sports Hall of Fame.

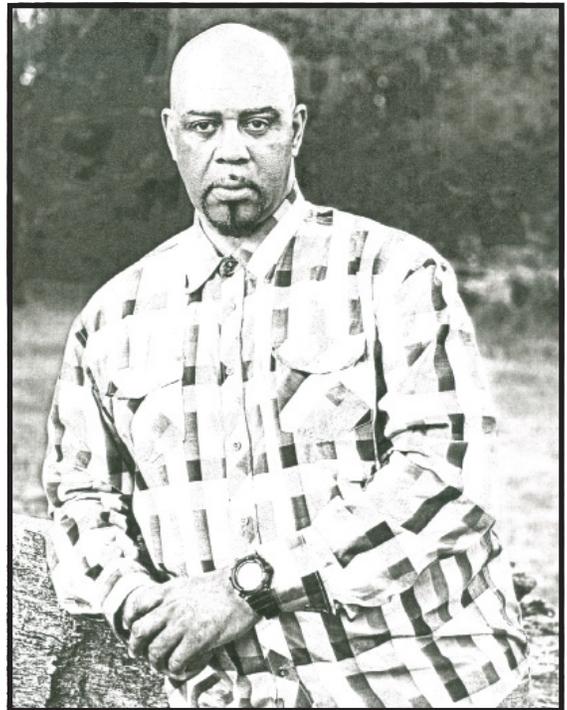
At 6'6" and 240 pounds Charles made a big presence in the Central Islip High School. Noticed by the basketball team, Charles was promoted right to the Junior

Varsity team as a freshman. His humble and gentle hallway persona made him a favorite of students and faculty alike. On the court, Charles was an intense competitor. His three years on the varsity helped produce multiple league championships and one County class AAAA championship.

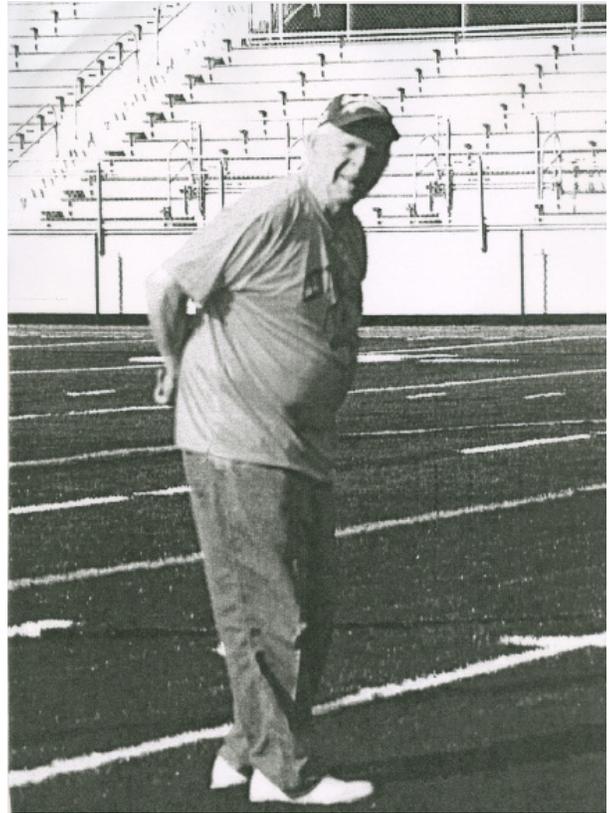
Chuck's coach, Ben Morselli, described him as a very positive player. "Chuck was a dependable, hard-working player. He did the job we needed him to do. He was the same in practices as in the games. That made him a pleasure to coach." Charles gives Coach Morselli a great deal of credit in his own development as a player and as a person. Charles said Coach Morselli "... saw the potential in me and did his best to make me the best player and person that I could be." Along with his team's success, Charles gathered some individual honors. In two of his three varsity seasons, Charles earned both All League and All County honors.

Charles is currently a resident of Charlotte, North Carolina. He is employed by Bizmark Entertainment-Charlotte. Charles is in charge of the logistics department providing armed security and transportation for entertainers, actors, and professional athletes. With his spare time, Charles enjoys working with his hands and fixing things. He proudly mentors young men about making positive choices in life.

The Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame has made an extremely positive choice in electing Charles L. Horton JR. into its halls.



Don Pschirer



Don was the consummate CI Sports Fan! He truly bled Purple and Gold! His first and most enduring love was the Central Islip Football Program. He was an active member of the Central Islip Quarterback Club for over 50 years. When a football fund raising function took place, be it food concessions, car washes, raffle sales or golf outings, Don was always there! When it came to football award dinners, serving the football team breakfasts or lunches, working on the “chain gang” at the football games or just lending vigorous support for our team, Don was always there!

Don was always in the thick of things with his two buddies, Leroy Anderson and Joe Cilio, “The 3 Musketeers!” When the CI Sports Hall of Fame was established in 2010, Don was proud to be a part of an organization that honors our athletes in all sports. Once again, he gave his all, selflessly. Don was always there!

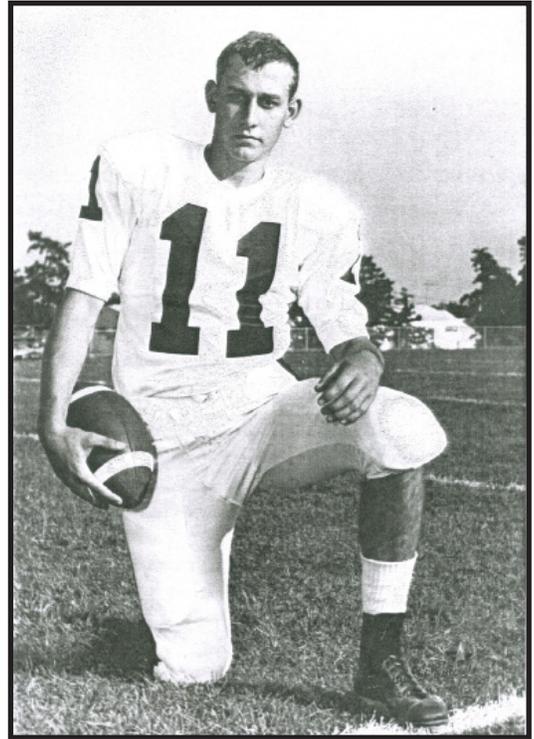
He will surely be missed, but will always be with us in spirit. A true and quiet gentleman who now joins the amazing athletes he always supported. Don will always be here!

Don Sullins

1966

We now turn to another football field general from the glory years on the Musketeer gridiron. Quarterbacks get all the ink! We're talking about Don Sullins, who came to CI in 1956 when his dad, Hall of Fame Coach Walt Sullins joined the Central Islip staff as a math teacher and coach.

Don made his mom and dad proud by excelling academically and athletically. He was a three-letter man: football (3 years including the undefeated teams of 63', 64' & 65'). He was team captain and an All-League selection in his senior year. On the basketball court, he starred for 2 years as a solid playmaking guard on a squad that won the county championship in his junior year and tied for the league title the following season when he was the team captain and All-League selection. On the baseball diamond, Don lettered for 3 years as a fine fielding short stop and 2nd baseman and was captain of the Musketeers his senior year.



Upon graduation, Don received an academic athletic scholarship to the University of New Hampshire, where he played football for 3 years as a defensive back. Don earned a BS Degree in Business at UNH and returned to Long Island to complete his MBS in Finance & Accounting at Adelphi University, about the same time he married a CI girl, Stephanie Wolf, his loving companion for 46 years. They have 2 sons. Dave (38) a banker, who is married to Laura and have three children- Taylor, Brooklyn, and Will. Dan (37) a Sales VP, who is married to Stephanie with three children of their own- Kyleen, Carson, and Leah.

Don had a successful business career which spanned over 41 years, the last 15 with Palomar College in California. He retired in 2015. During that time, he stayed active in sports and coaching as he followed his sons at various levels.

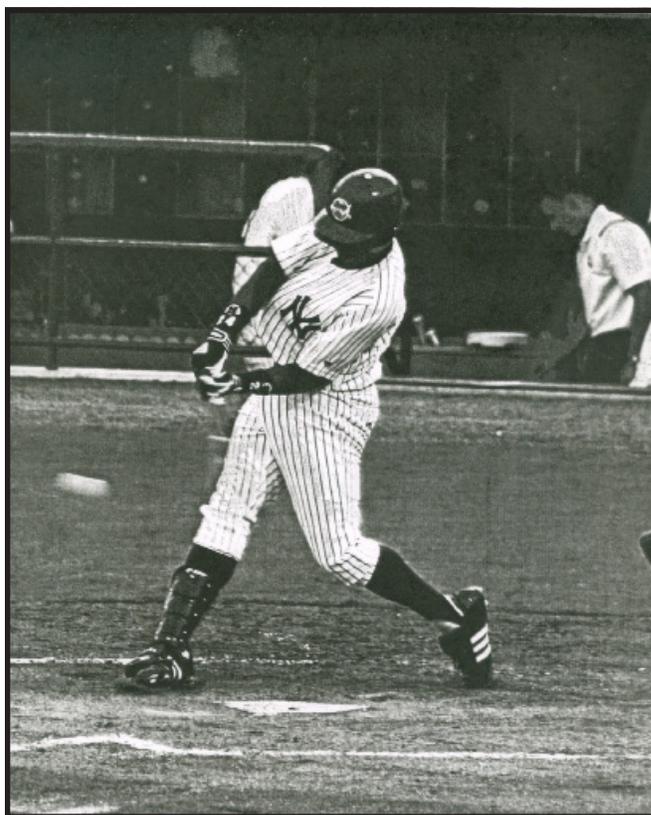
Today, Don and Stephanie, live in sunny San Diego. He played golf and they travel and enjoy their grandchildren.

Of his time in Central Islip, "I am very grateful for 10 wonderful years of youth experience. I was fortunate to be a student during a golden era in Central Islip Sports and will never forget the memories and life lessons learned while laying for the Musketeers."

Estee Harris

2003

Estee graduated from Central Islip High School in 2003 where he was a 4-year starter on Varsity. The numerous awards accumulated throughout that time included 2 All-League Selections, 2003 League II MVP, 2 All-County Selections, 2003 All-Long Island Selection, 2003 Carl Yastrzemski Award (Suffolk County's Most Outstanding Player), 2003 Gatorade New York State Player of the Year, 2003 Rawlings All-Region 1st Team (Northeast Region), 2003 Rawlings All-America 2nd Team, and 2003 Nike All-America 1st Team.



Estee received a full baseball scholarship to Division I Lamar University for his efforts but ultimately went on to pursue his dream of being a Professional Baseball Player as he was drafted in the 2nd Round by the New York Yankees (64th Overall Pick) in the 2003 MLB Draft. Estee played in the Yankees minor league system from 2003-2007 playing at levels Rookie Ball, Short-Season A, and Low A.

In 2004 Estee was rated by Baseball America as the 9th Best Prospect in the New York Yankee Organization. Estee also played for the Chicago White Sox Organization after a small stint of playing for the Long Island Ducks of the Atlantic League. Estee played at the High A level while with the White Sox, leading the team in homeruns for the 2nd half while helping them secure a playoff berth.

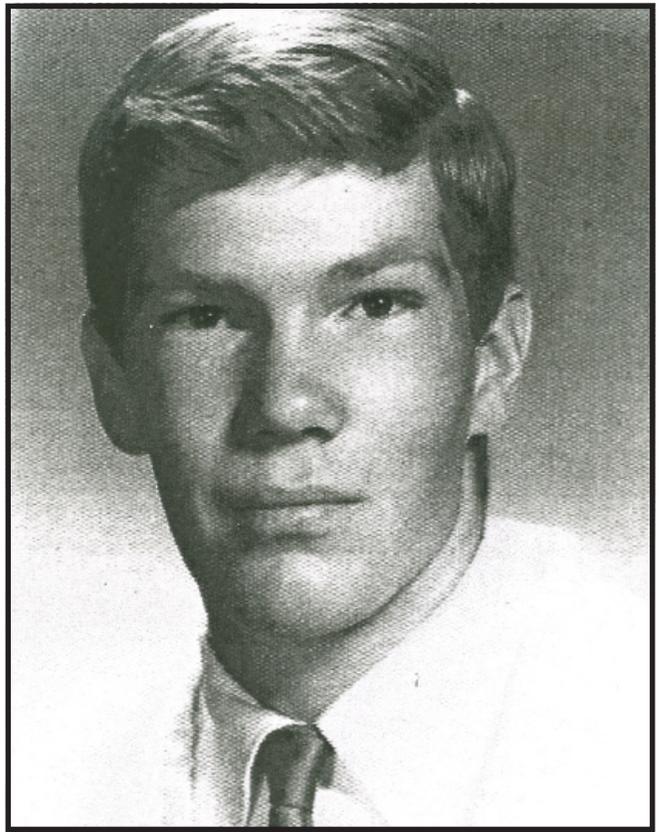
After the White Sox, Estee returned to the Ducks where he was a 2009 Atlantic League All-Star and helped lead the Ducks to a playoff appearance that year playing under the leadership of then manager, Hall of Famer Gary Carter.

Estee also played for the Camden Riversharks of the Atlantic League, and the Evansville Otters & Washington Wild Things of the Frontier League; becoming a 2010 Frontier League All-Star while with the Otters.

Estee had been a hitting instructor for over 10 years where he had imparted his knowledge and wisdom that he acquired from his 9 years of Professional Baseball Experience.

Starting in the summer of 2017 Estee joined the Ironworkers Union (Local 580) where he continues to work to this day. Since 2012 Estee has resided in Middle Island with his wife Lauren, and their two children Ava and Ethan.

Gary Jentz Harring 1969



The Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame proudly welcomes the induction of Gary (Jentz) Harring.

Gary played varsity basketball three consecutive years for Central Islip High School 1967-68-1968-69. His height 6'9" put him in the center position. His skills earned him a full basketball scholarship to Villanova University. Yes that Villanova! He was part of the Villanova team that lost in the NCAA finals to UCLA.

Gary was an All League center while at Central Islip. His easy going manner off the court stayed off the court as he participated in the physical "war in the paint" which true basketball fans know is a tough place. Don't get the impression that Gary was just a 'back to the basket' big man. Gary could shoot the ball very well. If the three point line was around when he played, Gary would have made his fair share. In today's game his skills would make for a 'pick and pop' stretch forward or even as a point forward as Gary was a good passer.

Gary has settled now in Palm Desert, California. And now Gary has also settled into the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame! Well -deserved and congratulations, Gary!

Gene Lemire 1969



The Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame is proud to welcome Gene Lemire into the 2018 induction class. Gene was a gifted athlete who personified the 'three sport star' ideal. In seasonal order, Gene's three sports were football, basketball, and track and field. By the time Gene graduated in 1969, he had left an impressive mark in each of these sports.

Gene's football success started in his junior year on an undefeated JV team. On the varsity team as a senior Gene was a starting safety on defense who led the team in interceptions. His skills at running back earned him All League II honors. Gene's senior year was so impressive that he earned a full football scholarship to Hofstra University. After playing his freshman season his athletic career could not recover from a knee injury sustained as a sophomore.

In basketball, Gene played varsity with fellow Central Islip Sports Hall of Famers Rich Walsh, and (fellow 2018 inductee) Gary (Jentz) Harring. Gene was the starting point guard in his junior and senior seasons. While on the court like any good point guard, he spent a lot of time passing the ball to the two Hall of Famers mentioned above, Gene did break out for 28 points in a County tournament play in victory at Deer Park.

Gene's accomplishments in track and field put his extraordinary athleticism on full display. Gene excelled in the long jump. He was league champion in the event in both his junior and senior years, and runner up in the County meet. Gene also anchored the league 880 relay champions in his junior and senior years. His junior relay team broke the CI school record. As any track fan knows, the anchor leg requires a strong finisher and Gene provided that.

Gene and his wife, Mary (DeVito) his high school girlfriend, reside in Toms River, New Jersey right at the "Jersey Shore." Having retired from a long career in banking, Gene has spent the last 15 years engaged in humanitarian concerns. His work with a company called HIAS, Inc., has dedicated itself to helping refugees around the world.

As you can see, Gene Lemire is a class guy. We're glad to recognize him with induction into our very strong 2018 class!

Kevin P. Naylor



While not attending Central Islip High School, longtime CI resident, Kevin P. Naylor, has an impressive resume of athletic achievements that makes his induction into our Hall of Fame a 'home run'. Kevin's proudest moments on the sports stage followed his graduation from college on the softball field.

Kevin attended St. John of God elementary school and then attended St. Anthony's High School. Like so many other good Central Islip athletes, the Central Islip Little League was where Kevin learned baseball. Following his graduation from high school, while attending college, Kevin got bitten by the softball "bug". While he did earn a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and an MBA in Business Management and Administration, Kevin's college years also saw a great degree of success in the softball business!

In 1973, Kevin became a Suffolk County police officer and Officer Naylor proudly served the citizens of Suffolk County until 2010. Yes, that's 37 ½ years! And one other thing ... the Suffolk County Police Department had a softball team. Kevin played softball. .. and he played softball very well!

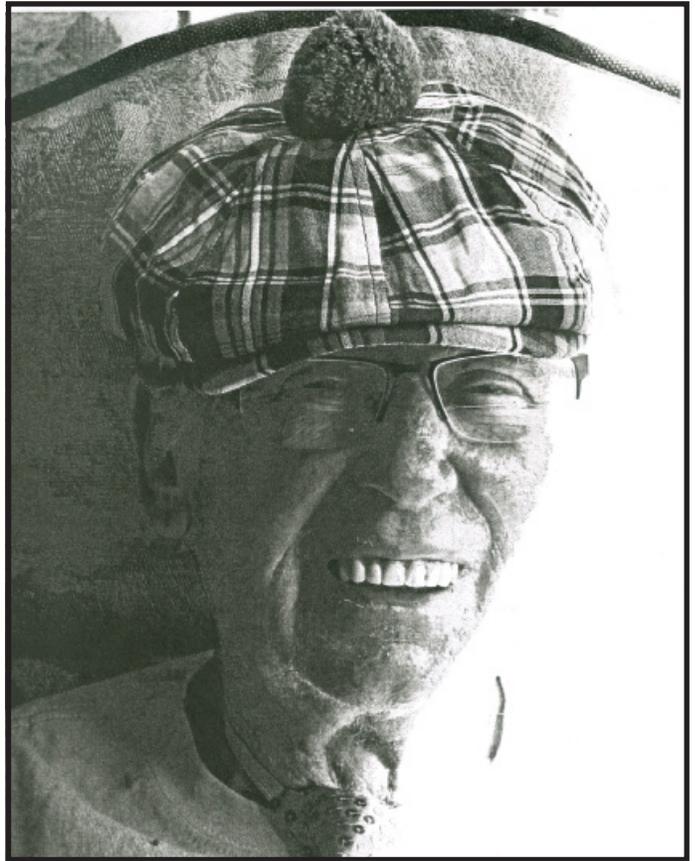
Just some of his major accomplishments in softball include: Eight (8) MVP selections plus seven (7) All Tournament selections. Thirty-One (yes 31!) National Championships and in 2003, Kevin was recognized as the National Police Softball Player of the Year.

Kevin's crowning career achievement came in 2007. That was the year of Kevin's induction into the National Police Softball Hall of Fame!

While most of his career was spent with the Suffolk County PD team in the Open and 40+ and 50+ Masters Divisions, Kevin hasn't gotten softball out of his system. He's still hitting that softball with the New Jersey Hitmen, the 60 & 65 Major Plus team from Red Bank, New Jersey.

Keep hitting those line drives, Kevin, and welcome to the Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.

Leroy Smith 1961



Our next honoree has the distinction of being the first in a long line of fine quarterbacks to play for Coach Dave Goldstein. Number 14 introduced the famed Wing T Offense as a junior in 1959. Leroy was a versatile all-around athlete who played three varsity sports for the Musketeers; football (4 years), baseball (3 years Catcher and All League selection), and basketball. An outstanding leader and field general. He was selected as the CI Athlete of the Year in 1961.

Upon graduation Lee joined the United States Army and served for 3 years in Korea with the Medical Corp. Returning to civilian life, he continued his service to the community by joining the Suffolk County Police Department in 1970 for a notable career that would span 35 years including 12 years as a detective. He was named Detective of the Year in 1990 and received the prestigious Gold Shield Award in 1985, along with the PBA Silver Award. He has also been honored by Proclamations from the Towns of Babylon, Huntington, Islip, and the Suffolk County's DA's Office for outstanding work.

Along the way, Lee found the time and energy to complete his BA degree in Behavioral Science from N.Y. Tech., marry his wife of 50 years, Carlene, a North Babylon girl. Congratulations! They have two children. Thomas lives in Florida and Carlee who resides in Portland, Oregon.

Lee and Charlene retired and live in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. Lee is an avid golfer and maintains a solid 9 handicap. He is also a starter at the Rosedale Golf Club. They travel often, including a recent trip to South America. The couple also socialize on a regular basis with his old teammate John DiClemente and his wife Valerie. Definitely a winning CI combination!

Lee would like to thank all of his old coaches and teammates for making this day possible. The TEAM no matter what the sport was always first at CI. Special thanks to Tom Black, Tom Reilly, John D and Jack Cassidy for remembering an "Old QB!"

Ralph F. Horton II

2001



Ralph F. Horton II, attended Central Islip Senior High School from 1997-2001.

“Baby Strahan” (coined after the famous New York Giant Defensive End, because that was his football Idol growing up), started playing football for the PAL (Police Athletic League) at a very young age in Central Islip which was run by Tom Riley. Mr. Riley was Instrumental in Ralph playing football at an early age, and should be recognized. Ralph’s football career at the High School level spanned 4 years with one year on JV, and three years on Varsity earning All League honors twice. His senior year he also played in the Long Island All Star Game. Because of his size and speed for a “Big Man”, Ralph played on both sides of the football. Coach Tom Black once commented about Ralph by saying “in all of my years of coaching, Ralph’s got the fastest foot speed that I have ever seen on a big man”.

After graduating High School, Ralph went on to Morrisville State college where he started at Defensive End for the Mustangs from 2001-2003 where he earned 2nd team Defensive Player of the year.

In 2003-2005, he transferred to University at Stony Brook to start at Defensive End for the Stony Brook Sea Wolves where he started and lettered as a Defensive Lineman at Stony Brook University. 2004-2005 Ralph split the year first signing with the NY Dragons Arena Football team in Hempstead NY, and then signing with the Albany Conquest Arena Football Team in Albany NY. In 2007 he entered the New York State Golden gloves tournament. Although this was his first time ever boxing, he made it all the way to the quarter finals.

In 2008 Ralph represented the Suffolk County Police Department and the 3rd Precinct in a for charity event that matched the New York City Firemen against the Suffolk County Police Department at Suffolk Community College’s (Brentwood Campus). Ralph fought at super heavyweight against a super heavyweight NYC Fireman, in which Ralph won the bout and bragging rights for 3-House (the 3rd Precinct in Bay Shore NY).

In 2010 Ralph took the written exam for the Baltimore City Police Department, and entered Baltimore City Police Academy in January 2011. To date Ralph still is a Baltimore City Police Officer, who recently passed the Sergeants exam and has been promoted to the title of Instructor at the City of Baltimore Police Academy.

Richard (Dick) Parisi 1957

Richard, or as his friends would call him “Dick” started his education at St. John of God Catholic School through 8th grade. He graduated from Central Islip High School in 1957. While at CIHS, he excelled in sports including soccer, basketball, and baseball.

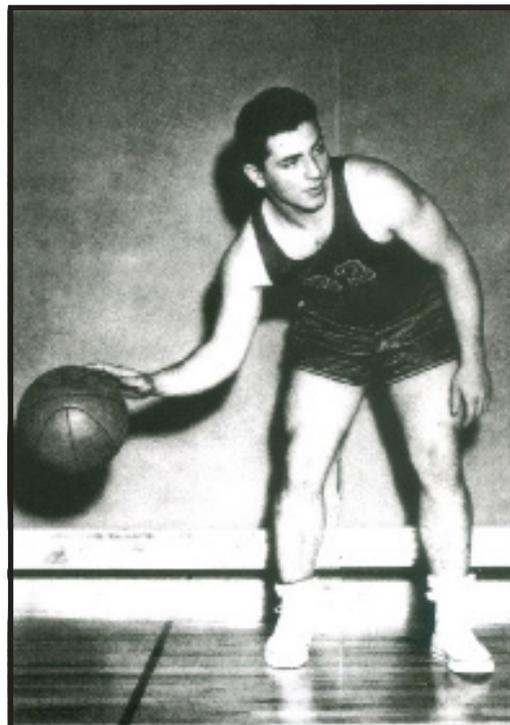
Dick made the Varsity soccer team his freshman year and was a four-year starter. His freshman year he started as right half-back but quickly moved to a more dominate role playing center half-back his sophomore to senior year. The team was very competitive all four years, but it was his senior year that was most impressive; CI bolstered an 11-1 record, losing only to the undefeated Brentwood team 1-0 on a fluke goal. In Dick’s senior year he was made 2nd Team All- League for Long Island. Dick played and started on the Varsity baseball team for all 4 years of high school. The team was a very competitive team always finishing in 2nd place. Dick was a starting pitcher and 3rd baseman.

His basketball career was a very accomplished one as well, even at 5’8. In his freshman year, he played for Coach Tom Bertino on the JV team. In his sophomore year, he followed Coach Bertino up to Varsity where they had a 15-1 record and captured the Class B Championship. In Dick’s junior year, Coach Bertino was replaced by Coach Tony Armata and the team struggled with the new system but responded amazingly the following year doing 14-2 only losing to East Islip and Kings Park.

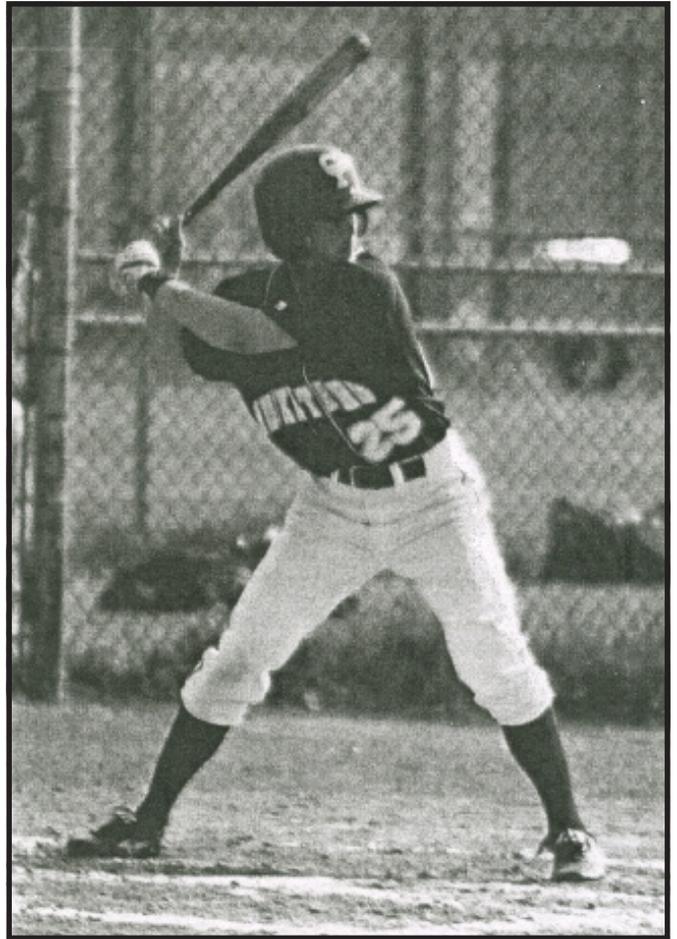
Upon graduating from CIHS, Dick joined the United States Navy and proudly served his country for 4 years. Once home, Dick would continue his sports career playing 10 years of semi-pro soccer in the Lindenhurst league. He also enjoyed playing fast pitch softball in the Brentwood league.

Dick met his wife Isabella at a soccer game and married her on September 3, 1961. They bought their own home in Central Islip where they would spend the rest of their lives. They had 3 children, Annemarie (Class of 80) Office Administrator at St. Augustine’s Church, Richard (Class of 84) Director of Sales at Lois Vuitton, and Roderick (Class of 86) retired NYPD/PE teacher at Our Lady of Providence. Dick was also a proud grandfather of 5.

Dick would turn his playing career into a coaching career with Central Islip on his mind. Dick started the Central Islip CYO soccer program where he coached for ten years. He was also involved with CYO baseball. Dick also enjoyed coaching hockey at St. John of God. In all 3 programs, Dick coached his two sons Richard and Roderick and instilled in them the completion and life lessons of sports.



Ryan Grabowski 2003



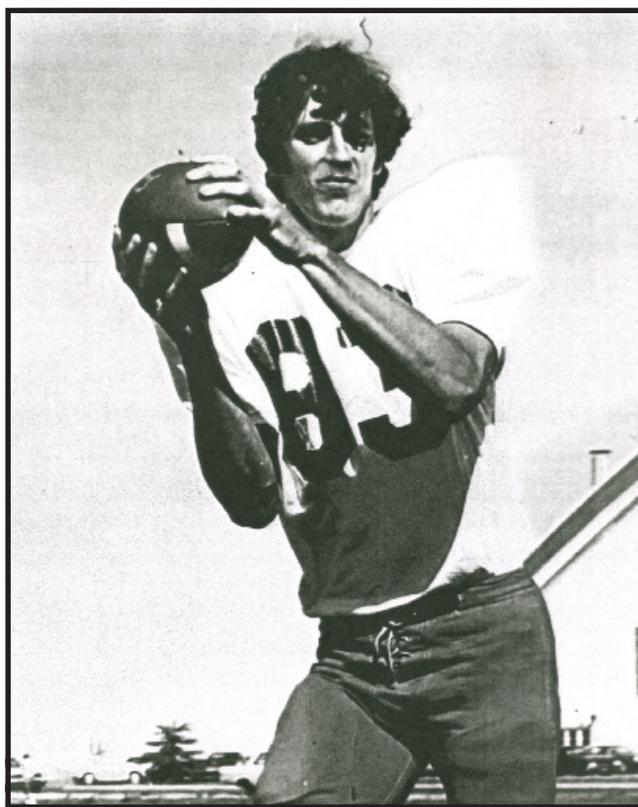
A constancy in the proud history of our sports world in Central Islip is that there were certain players who breathed in the hard-work oxygen. Ryan Grabowski filled his baseball lungs mightily. A four-year varsity pitcher and shortstop, our newest inductee simplifies that work ethic this way: "I tried to be the hardest-working player around and wanted to lead by example." Yes, leadership. There is no over-stating its significance to any team. Ryan's high school teammate Fred O'Neil praises Ryan as, "an old soul who played the game right. His drive and determination was unparalleled. If he went 12 for 17 in a series, he would drag me on the field for swings as if he just went 4 for 17. Baseball was not just a game to him."

An All-League selection all four years, Ryan was twice named team MVP and won an athletic scholarship to Dowling College. At Dowling, Ryan was the college's four-year starting second baseman as the team twice made it to the regionals. His senior year he was named team MVP and was selected to the all-conference team. Dowling's coach Chris Celano, now head coach at University of New Haven, states enthusiastically that, "Ryan was an outstanding athlete who outworked everyone on the field on a daily basis." Coach Celano further notes that Ryan stood out, "because of his desire to compete and get better every day. I wish I had 30 Ryan Grabowski's every year." High praise indeed.

Ryan presently has been in law enforcement for nearly four years and makes his home in Middle Island, New York. He and his wife Lindsay are proud parents of son, Brayden and daughter, Briarlyn. Great congratulations are in order to you, Ryan. You've hustled your way into The Central Islip Sports Hall of Fame.

Tom Fisher

1969



Here is another standout from the Class of 1969. A three-sport star for the Musketeers who follows in the footsteps of his brother Donny. We welcome Tom Fisher to the CI Sports Hall of Fame. Tom states that the element which most impressed him growing up in Central Islip and watching games was the grit and toughness displayed by some legendary players.

His first recollection of this “toughness” came his freshman year playing JV football. Every Monday afternoon he remembers they had the privilege of scrimmaging the varsity. One particular afternoon he was playing defensive back when an end sweep was coming his way and as he came up to make the tackle he was met with a swarm of blockers. After he was laying there in extreme pain and a broken ankle, he remembers Coach Goldstein asking Coach Sullins if he was able to move. Coach Sullins

replied, “No,” and Coach Goldstein said, “Ok, leave him there we’ll practice over here!” Welcome to CI football!

He started three years as a defensive back and two years as a tight end for the Purple and Gold. His senior year he led the team in reception, touchdowns, and interceptions. He was a tri-captain and received All-League, All-County and Long Island honors.

The mind-set of toughness continued in CI basketball as a power forward. He was one of the top rebounders and defensive players. Diving on the floor for a loose ball or ending up four rows deep in the stands trying to save a ball was second nature at CI. Coach Armata not only taught this attitude, he expected it.

In track Tom threw the shot and discus. He set the school discus record in 1969. Coach Ben Morselli believes that his record still stands.

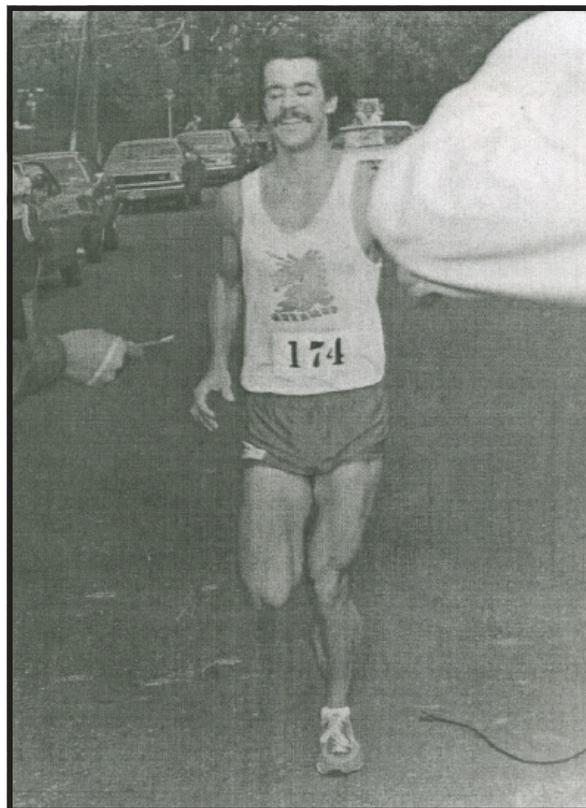
On graduating, Tom received a full scholarship to Idaho State University. At ISU in his senior year he led the team in receptions, was selected All Conference, and received letters from the Cowboys and several Canadian football teams. Before he graduated he did have the opportunity at ISU to welcome incoming CI alumnus, Joe Moreino, to ISU football.

Returning to Long Island after college, Tom started teaching in the Rocky Point School District. While at RP he coached basketball, volleyball, and track. After 12 years at RP, he moved to Richmond, VA where he continued his teaching career. In 1990, he started his own commercial building maintenance company. After growing the company to sixty-five employees, he sold the company in 2010 and moved to Florida to retire. Quickly realizing he was not one to sit around, he restarted his teaching career and was recently honored by the state of Florida as one of Florida’s High Impact teachers.

He married his soul mate, Joann Kelley (1969 CI graduate) in 1972. They have three sons and a daughter. Following in their father’s footsteps all children where athletes. Jeremy and Jonas played college lacrosse for The Merchant Marine Academy and Colgate University, respectively, while son Luke lettered in soccer at George Washington University. Daughter, Rebecca played basketball at Columbia. While two of their children live in California, another in Virginia, and lastly in Paris, France, Tom and Joann love traveling to visit their 8 grandchildren and playing golf.

In reflecting on his playing in CI Tom states, “I started playing football in 7th grade at Mulligan Junior HS. I played for two reasons: 1. I loved football 2. I wanted to follow in my brother Don’s footsteps along with all those he played with, including, John DiClemente, George O’Leary, Tommy Black, and Bennie King (just to name a few). The stories I heard of CI’s physical and mental toughness, the talent I watched, and the games I saw greatly influenced me. I tried to carry that spirit throughout my life. Central Islip was special!

Richard Field 1973



There are these times in life when it presents us perfect symmetry. Our Richard “Track” and FIELD provides us exactly that. Our champion distance runner, partially hidden in a high school focused upon football, basketball, and baseball, shall not go unnoticed this year.

That “hidden” nature of his sport, Rich suggests, “If I can speak for my teammates, we wouldn’t have wanted it another way.” He and his brethren instinctively knew that they had to work harder than some of their perennially top competitors. CI Pride, indeed.

Rich’s memory of our school’s athletic department presenting him with a pair of Adidas track spikes for his initial varsity meet is embedded in him. “It was like getting a pair of rocket ships”, he fondly recalls. And, earning 1,000 AND 2,000 Mile, embossed and embroidered, purple and gold shirts, provided our school splendid advertising. “I was able to wear them at races as a reminder to my rivals that we don’t kid around at C I.”

Rich credits his coaches Ben Morselli and Ed Walters for their guidance and wisdom. Coach Walters instituted that unprecedented 1,000 Mile Club, which his track team used as training and motivation for cross country season for the upcoming autumn. Upon that conclusion, the team would continue that tradition in winter through freezing rain and snow. Rich remembers being slightly upset when family matters might impede the team logging in mileage for the day. Wow.

And so, Rich’s junior year found him recording a personal best 4:26 in the mile as his our team became League III Cross Country Champions. His senior year was even a more sterling one for our alum. Rich became the Suffolk County Champion in the 2 Mile run, “logging” in at 9:21:00. He made the All-County Cross Country Team and placed third in The N.Y.P.H.S.A.A. Section II State meet in Buffalo, N.Y. There, he finished the 2 Mile Run at 9:21:00.

Your diligence and pride in your beloved sport, and Central Islip, offers us the privilege to induct you into our Sports Hall of Fame, Rich. Welcome.

Central Islip Baseball Teams of 1964, 1969, & 1973

A special recognition this year goes to the dedicated athletes of the 1964, 1969 and 1973 varsity baseball teams. All three were crowned league champs their respective years. Unfortunately we were unable to secure a photo of the 1969 team but wish to congratulate all the young man who participated on those three teams.

And a special thank you to team manager of the 1973 team Debbie Magnoli. Welcome to Central Islip sports Hall of Fame.



1964



1969



1973