

# Magicians to honor Reebenacker

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MARBLEHEAD — Noel Reebenacker left coaching over 20 years ago, but his 11 years as skipper of the Marblehead High School football team have not been forgotten.

Reebenacker, who compiled a 55-38-6 record with Northeastern Conference championships in 1960 and 1962 and seven winning seasons, will take his place in the Marblehead Magicians Gridiron Club Hall of Fame. Reebenacker, along with coaches Charlie McGuinness and Herrn Hussey, will be inducted during a dinner Friday at The Gerry.

Reebenacker, 62, is semi-retired from his apartment management and investment business. Although a resident of Marblehead for 30 years, he and his wife, Doris, sold their home last year and moved to a townhouse in Salem. They live part of the year in Florida.

"It was a great experience for me," Reebenacker said of his years coaching in Marblehead. "I have many fond memories and made many lasting friendships."

Reebenacker said he is looking forward to seeing some old friends and former players, some whom he hasn't seen in 25 years, at the banquet.

Reebenacker, who earned Little All-American honors as a quarterback at the University of Massachusetts, coached from 1969 until 1969. He spent a little time as an assistant to Roy Nordon at Beverly High School after he left Marblehead, but his life ultimately led him away from the sidelines.

"My life, like many others, seems to have many chapters," Reebenacker said.

Although as a coach he was known for running a wide open, aggressive offense, his boldest move didn't come on the field. It occurred at the end of his 11th season when, at the age of 37, he gave up his coaching job and his teaching position at Marblehead High School in order to go into business on his own.

"It was a bold step because when I took it I had four sons, none of them out of high school yet," Reebenacker said. "I guess you could call it a midlife change."

Although it took a few years for business to take off and there were some anxious moments, Reebenacker never regretted the move.

"It was a very nervous time, but in those days it seems if you really plugged away and worked hard, you could make it. I think it was the boldest thing I ever did. It was the best thing I ever did."

The career move paid off and as a result, Reebenacker said he and his wife have been able to do things, like a lot of traveling, that they probably couldn't have if he had stayed in teaching.

"We've been very fortunate," Reebenacker said.

Reebenacker said he and his wife enjoy golfing, playing tennis and skiing in their leisure time. A month ago, they became grandparents for the fifth time. After four granddaughters, they now have a grandson. The Reebenackers have four sons, Steven, Eric, Karl and Keith.

Reebenacker was quick to praise the work of the Gridiron Club.

"It's quite a serve to kids that this Gridiron Club is performing," he said. "They really support the program. With declining funds from the public through, these men have really stepped forward and filled the void."

Reebenacker, McGuinness and Hussey will join 47 others in the Hall of Fame.