

John Cudihy
1932-33-34

The late John Cudihy as an end was one of the main cogs of the late Charley McGuinness' great Marblehead High eleven of 1934. That particular team record chalked up 252 points against 47. Eight wins and one loss and one tie. It was the first established year of the Northeast Conference and Marblehead team of 1934 captured it.

Cudihy was versatile in line positions for the Marblehead wizard, McGuinness. Cudihy, as a sophomore played as center and end. As a senior he blossomed into an offensive end and line backer. As a punter he had no equal. His kicks were with his left ^{foot} and to this day he ranks as one of Marblehead's finest kickers.

In one of the many post season games of the time that Coach McGuinness was famous for procuring; for example Miami Edison High of Miami, Florida. Cudihy was responsible in scoring two touchdowns of the 52-12 rout that deluged on the Miami Edison team. Year in and year out, northern high school elevens that ventured into the torrid zones of the southern teams with their oppressive heat and humidity alibied their defeats at the hands of the southern elevens on the climatic conditions played under. Marblehead, evidently was immune to the conditions for Miami, Edison was completely stunned and amazed as they were walloped with a beating that no southern eleven had ever suffered before at the hands of Cudihy and the northern opposition rendered by Marblehead. That whirlwind deceptive attack caused a southern

writer to call this team from the north, the "Marblehead Magicians". From its birth at that game, the "Marblehead Magicians" has held on for over fifty years.

Upon graduation from high school in 1935. Cudihy matriculated at Kiski Academy to prep for Stanford. Cudihy followed in the steps of another great end, All-American, Monk Moscrip . Cudihy was tabbed as his successor.

And an amazing feature in Cudihy's career one would find him on New Year's Day playing varsity end for Stanford, a football powerhouse in the Rose Bowl game against Columbia a team coached by one of the best Lou Little. The football experts of the day panned the choice of Columbia for the Rose Bowl. It was pointed out the Princeton Tigers one of the nation's top teams at the time had taken Columbia 21-0. Nevertheless one of the greatest upsets in football history took place for Columbia beat Stanford 7-0. It was a rare defeat for Cudihy for he was on that Stanford team.

John took leave of Stanford and returned to the east coast. He entered and received a degree from Babson Institute. He married his highschool sweetheart, Madeline Kelleher. From that union produced two children, Michael and Carol. Like father, Michael became a football hero for Salem High, and by coincidence played years later against Miami Edison, Florida as his father did years before.

Grim war clouds were on the horizon and John took leave of civilian life as did so many boys did of those hectic times. John received his commission as a 90 day wonder in the United States Army Air Corps. He became a 2nd Lieutenant. Piloting a B17 bomber, the workhorse of the Army Air Corps at that time.

John was on his fifteenth mission when his plane was shot down July 29, 1944. John was killed in action at the age of 26. Three of the seven man crew were taken prisoners of war, and survived to this day, I believe. John was a fun loving classmate of mine. His future appeared to have been bright. He had the knack and talent to succeed in any walk of life he may have chosen. The grim stage of WWII prematurely snuffed out that life, but this tribute and honor brings the memory of John back to the living, which is as it should be. Posthumously John's name is embedded into the Marblehead Magicians' Football of Fame.

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JOHN JOSEPH "JACK" CUDIHY (1932-1934)

John Cudihy was on the Marblehead High School football squad for three seasons, 1932 through 1934, during which time the football coach was Charlie McGuinness. Cudihy was a lineman in his years of Marblehead football. Marblehead's home field during Cudihy's time was the Joel W. Reynolds Stadium off Green Street.

Elliott Roundy was a teammate of Cudihy's and also was his Marblehead High School 1935 graduation classmate. Roundy sums up Cudihy as follows:

"He was used sometimes as a defensive end and sometimes as a line backer. In Marblehead's 39-0 win over Beverly in 1934, he stood out as a lineman. He was a key part in the rout. John was an end on offense. He was a strong punter. His punting kept the opposition in trouble. His left-footed punts went through the air with a spiral that had a reverse spin. This bothered opposing punt receivers. John was a hard-nosed kid. He was large by 1934 standards. He was a real competitor, a determined player."

Cudihy saw limited action in Marblehead's 4-5-2 season in 1932. He participated in Marblehead's 20-6 loss to Lynn Classical as a second string right end. Two weeks later when Marblehead blanked Gloucester 27-0 Cudihy went in as a second string guard.

He saw action in every game in Marblehead's 7-3-0 1933 season. He played center at Winthrop where Marblehead won its opening game of the season 12-0. The Messenger stated, "Cudihy at center played a good game and seems to be the hope of the locals when it comes to punting."

Marblehead won its first home game in 1933 with a 20-0 victory over Danvers. For this game Cudihy was shifted to right end and Roundy was assigned to the center position. Cudihy's regular position was right end during the remainder of his football career at Marblehead High. The Messenger referred to Marblehead's first touchdown as being set up by a Danvers fumble which was recovered by Marblehead on the Danvers 10 "following John Cudihy's long punt."

Included in the Salem Evening News account of the Marblehead win over Danvers was a phrase, "...while Carey, Larkin, Cudihy, and Drennan completely halted the attack of Vye's blue-jerseyed club."

The Salem News also said, "John Cudihy, punting for the Red and Black, gave a nifty exhibition placing his boots well down the field."

Similar remarks, probably by the same writer, appeared in the Lynn Item.

Cudihy was again at right end at Reynolds Stadium on Saturday, October 7, 1933, when Marblehead was shut out by Peabody 15-0.

Against Amesbury at Reynolds Stadium on Thursday, October 12, 1933, Columbus Day, Cudihy got off a punt that went 45 yards from scrimmage. Another punt went 40 yards from scrimmage. Both of these punts came in the first half of a game won by Marblehead 7-0.

Cudihy continued at right end when Marblehead went to Gloucester where Norman "Nate" Ross was in his first season as football coach. Marblehead won 19-6.

A week later Marblehead lost to Lynn Classical at Lynn's Municipal Stadium 20-7. The Messenger stated, "The McGuinness clan have a couple of educated toes belonging to Cudihy and Phelan. Both of these lads have another couple of years to play and are getting better all the time. Cudihy's punts are getting higher and longer with every game..."

Also in regard to the 1933 game, the Salem News stated, "Boverini was slightly shaded by Cudihy in the kicking department."

A week later Marblehead was back at Reynolds Stadium where it lost to Newburyport 13-7. Cudihy was at right end.

November 11, 1933, Armistice Day, fell on a Saturday and on that date Marblehead went to Beverly. Charlie McGuinness' team defeated Beverly for the second year in a row. In this game the score was 18-0. The Messenger referred to a couple of pass completions from Dick Wells to Cudihy. Wells completed one of these passes to Cudihy just before the second touchdown. Late in the game Cudihy intercepted a Beverly pass on the Marblehead 16.

The Lynn Item stated Marblehead scored its third touchdown against Beverly after Hawkes blocked a punt and Cudihy recovered the ball on the Beverly 1.

The following week, Marblehead, back on its own field, walloped Saugus 33-2. During a march for one of Marblehead's touchdowns, Brackett passed to Cudihy for nearly 20 yards.

At Reynold's Stadium on Thanksgiving Day, 1933, Marblehead defeated Swampscott 13-6. Cudihy batted down two Swampscott passes in the closing moments of the game.

Marblehead had a great 8-1-1 team in 1934. The McGuinness crew won the championship in the first season of Northeastern Conference football. The charter high schools in the Conference were Marblehead, Swampscott, Saugus, Danvers, Newburyport, and Amesbury.

Marblehead's only loss in 1934 was an opening game 2-0 defeat at Salem. A pass from center went over Cudihy's head into the Marblehead end zone. Cudihy fell on the ball. He was downed by a Salem player. Statistically, Marblehead had a definite edge in the game.

A game scheduled for Marblehead at Peabody for two weeks later was postponed from Saturday, October 6, to Tuesday, October 16. Therefore the Red and Black's second game was on Friday, October 12, 1933, Columbus Day, nearly three weeks after the Salem game.

The long layoff didn't seem to bother Marblehead as it won 35-0 at Amesbury on a cold, cloudy afternoon. In fact, by the following morning the Amesbury field was covered with snow, and it was only October 13. On one of Marblehead's touchdowns, Glover scored after taking a lateral from Cudihy who had caught a pass from Wells.

Against Marblehead, Amesbury completed only two of 15 passes. The Salem News stated, "Cudihy and Day were outstanding in Marblehead's win, breaking through the enemy frontier repeatedly to halt the Carriage Towners' passing attack." A similar statement appeared in the Lynn Item.

Four days later Marblehead blanked Peabody 19-0 at Peabody. In the first period Jermyn passed to Cudihy who tossed a lateral to Messinger on a play good for 53 yards to the Peabody 34. This did not directly result in a Marblehead score.

Cudihy was at his usual right end position four days after the Peabody game when, on Saturday, October 20, 1934, Marblehead overcame a 20-6 deficit to defeat Gloucester 24-20 at Reynolds Stadium. This game still ranks as a classic among Marblehead gridiron encounters over the years.

Gloucester's big lead had been narrowed to 20-18 by late in the fourth period. At this point, Glover took a lateral on the end of a Wells-to-Cudihy pass and reached the Gloucester 1 where he was stopped by the Fishermen's great player, Teddy Williams. The play was good for 29 yards. Glover then scored through right tackle on fourth down to provide the final score in Marblehead's memorable 24-20 come-from-behind victory.

Marblehead won its fourth game in a row with a 26-0 win over Danvers in another game at Reynolds Stadium. Marblehead's third touchdown came after Cudihy made a pass interception run-back of nearly 70 yards to the Danvers 6 where the Salem News said he was "put out of action by one of his own forwards." Cudihy helped set up Marblehead's fourth and final touchdown when he blocked a Danvers punt with Day recovering on the Danvers 38.

In reference to the victory over Danvers, the Lynn Item included a phrase, "...the victory being due to the sensational gains of Wells, Cudihy, and Messinger rather than to smooth teamwork."

Newburyport had only two wins in 1934 but the Porters, in a major upset, tied Marblehead 0-0. Newburyport's coach, Del Borah, was never defeated by a team coached by Charlie McGuinness. Cudihy was at right end.

Marblehead rebounded nine days later on Monday, November 12, 1934, observed as Armistice Day, with a resounding 39-0 upset of a Beverly team that came to Reynolds Stadium undefeated. Cudihy helped set up the third touchdown by recovering a Beverly fumble at the Beverly 30. The Messenger stated, "El Roundy, Webby Day, Jack Cudihy, and Pete Stone played a great line game..."

The Salem News and Lynn Item stories about Marblehead's big 1934 win over Beverly were apparently written by the same reporter. These papers said, "The great aerial attack featuring Jermyn and Cudihy puzzled the Black and Orange."

These two newspapers also said of the Beverly game, "Marblehead's line as well as the backfield worked as a unit, Elliott Roundy, Jack Cudihy, Webby Day, and Pete Stone being quite at home among the Orange and Black ball carriers."

Marblehead went on to defeat Saugus 19-6. If the newspaper reporting was correct, this game was an exception as Cudihy was listed at left end. In the first period a Jermyn-to-Cudihy pass gained 15 yards to the Saugus 40. This did not lead to a score. Early in the second period Cudihy intercepted a Saugus pass at the Saugus 40. The interception led to Marblehead's first touchdown. Saugus had passed from its own 28. Cudihy's interception was run back 25 yards to the Saugus 15.

On the last play of the first half, with Marblehead at its own 39, Cudihy, back apparently to punt, passed to Larkin for 17 yards to advance the ball to the Saugus 44.

At Swampscott's Jackson Park, Marblehead romped over the Blue and White 38-7 on Thanksgiving Day in 1934. During Marblehead's first touchdown march a feature play was a pass from Wells to Cudihy good for 30 yards. On the kickoff following Marblehead's second touchdown, the ball was fumbled by Swampscott at its own 35 with Cudihy recovering. Marblehead then marched to its third touchdown. On second down, Jermyn passed to Cudihy for 11 yards to the Swampscott 22. After Marblehead's sixth and final touchdown, Cudihy, on an end around, took the ball and passed to Messinger for the conversion to bring the final score to Marblehead 38 Swampscott 7.

The Salem News in its writeup of the 1934 Swampscott game stated, "Fred Jermyn loomed as a big factor in Marblehead's overhead attack, the big fullback teaming with his companion, Jack Cudihy, to completely befuddle the Sculpins."

On Saturday, December 8, 1934, Marblehead High School defeated Edison High School, of Miami, Fla., at Moore Park, Miami, 52-12. Marblehead's first touchdown was on a long pass from Cudihy to Hazell who was standing in the end zone. Marblehead's second touchdown was on a 15-yard pass from Jermyn to Cudihy.

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In the fourth period, a pass from Jermyn to Cudihy followed by a lateral to Messinger produced 17 yards to the Miami 45.

This game brought to a close the high school football career of a sterling player on both offense and defense.