

He's the ultimate team manager

Time out is called at a Marblehead High football game and he's on the field in a flash, pumping water for the Magicians.

A foul ball sails over the grandstand at Seaside Park during a Header baseball game and he's off with the crack of the bat in search of it.

Five tired, sweaty and thirsty Headers come to the sidelines during a timeout at a basketball game and he's there to greet them with the two things they most want — towels and water.

The tedium of the sidelines may seem like small things to most fans, but to the MHS athletes and coaches, they're nothing short of major contributions to the team effort.

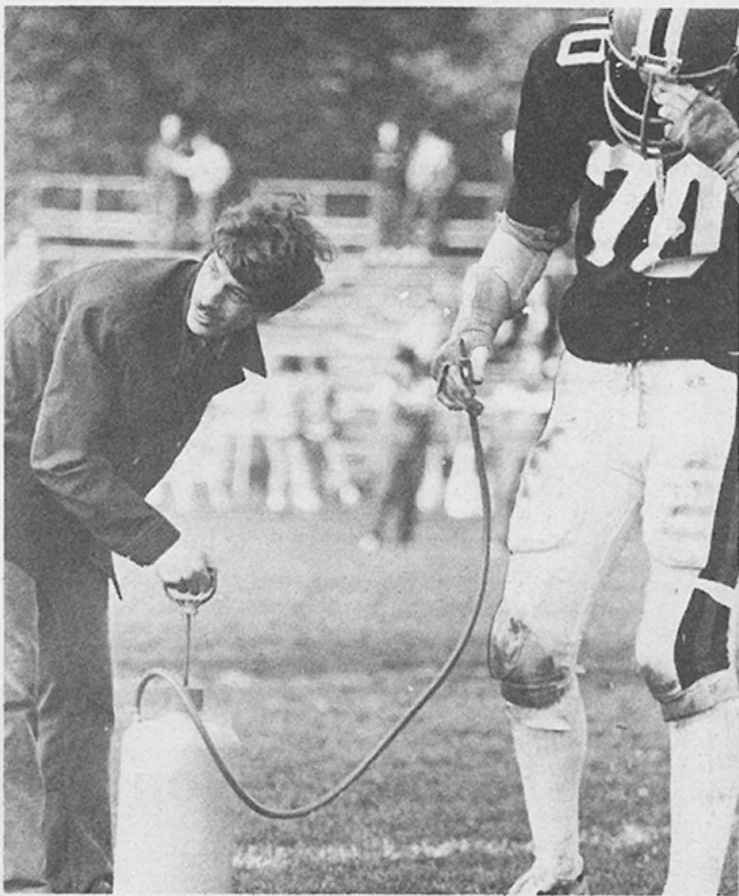
The man behind those tasks, as well as countless others he performs for the three MHS varsity teams, is the hard-working number one fan of MHS athletics — Thomas "Sully" Sullivan.

Sully began his team managerial chores during his senior year (1977-78) at MHS. He didn't play sports while he was in school and found himself "looking for something to do for a hobby." He signed on as manager of the 1977 football team and has since become the ultimate manager as well as number one fan of Marblehead teams.

His interests in sports don't end in town. He is a big Boston Bruins fan and often takes the train into the Boston Garden to see the Bruins play. The Celtics are number two with Sully among local professional teams while the Patriots are third and the Red Sox a distant fourth. He also follows Salem State hockey and is a Boston College and Oklahoma Sooners football fan.

His interest in sports runs deep. His favorite sport is hockey and he would like nothing better than to serve his favorite team — the Bruins — in some capacity like he now does the Marblehead teams.

A lifelong town resident, Sully has worked in the kitchen at the Elks for the last four years. After finishing high school, Sully took a training course in custodial work through the Mass. Rehabilitation Goodwill Program. A job he was promised after the training never materialized, so he works at the Elks and keeps in touch with his program coordinator. He would love to land a job of some sort in town so he could stay close to friends



PUMPING WATER for thirsty Marblehead High football players is just one of Tom Sullivan's duties as manager of the football, basketball and baseball teams. Here Magician Mike Pearson gulps water while Sully looks around for others in need of his services. (Photo by Kenneth G. Hughes)

and family and of course, his favorite teams.

Another of his goals is to improve his reading ability by going back to school. Someday, he would like to attend North Shore Community College.

His best friend, John Newhall, works with him in football and baseball and also works with the Header hockey team, a team Sully cannot give time to because of the winter conflict with basketball. "John is a good friend and I appreciate all the help he gives me," said Sully.

During the winter Sully finds time to ride shotgun with drivers out plowing snow at night.

Sully probably has more MHS letter jackets than any athlete who ever

attended the school. He has earned each of them with his hard work and dedication and wears them with pride during the appropriate season.

He says he can find a baseball anywhere at Seaside Park, including the woods. Roger Tuveson's baseball budget is certainly in much better shape because of him. No task is below him, provided he is helping out an MHS athletic team.

His devotion and hard work is accepted and appreciated, sometimes without any recognition and sometimes with his fair share. He is definitely the most recognizable character in Marblehead High sports. If there's a job to be done the MHS coaches know they can count on Sully to get it done. They're lucky to have him.