

M'head inducts first coaches into Hall of Fame

By PHIL STACEY
Sports Correspondent

The Marblehead Magician Gridiron Club has always been a place where the greats of football glory can be remembered.

But until this year, no coaches have ever been inducted into the Hall.

That will change this September when Marblehead legends Charles McGuinness and Herman Hussey will be inducted on September 17 at the Elks Club.

"Certainly, both of them deserve the honor," said longtime Marblehead historian Elliott Roundy, who played for McGuinness in the 1930's. "The gridiron club decided it was time to get a

few coaches in, and we couldn't think of two gentlemen more deserving."

Hussey, who won Northeastern Conference championships in 1948-50 and '56, was elated when informed of the news.

"It's quite an honor. I'm proud to be going in with a lot of great players," said Hussey. "The reunion will be great. I can't wait to see a lot of the old-timers and ex-players."

McGuinness, who passed away in 1985 at the age of 81, was a coach ahead of his time. Having coached Marblehead football, basketball and baseball from 1930-38, he was perhaps most famous for earning the team its

"Magicians" nickname.

"We went down to Miami in 1934 to play Edison High," said Roundy, who was a center and tackle for McGuinness. "We had a real razzle-dazzle attack, really advanced for that time. When we were playing, the sportswriters said they couldn't find the ball. So they dubbed us the Magicians. By the way, we won the game, 52-12."

McGuinness, who rarely granted interviews, brought his team all over the country and beyond. Roundy said in his four years at Marblehead, he traveled over 13,000 miles with him.

"We went up into Canada with the basketball team one year, then drove into New York, down

to Lake Placid to play the high school team," he said. "The next year we played hoops in Chicago. He also brought football teams to Texas, Jacksonville, Florida and New York City. He was a real pioneer."

McGuinness won four conference championships in his nine years, going 4-0-1 in 1934, 4-0 in '35, 5-0 in '36 and 4-0 in '38. His career winning percentage is .624 (58-30-10).

Hussey, who took over the head coaching reins from David Morey in 1948, was another stalwart, posting an impressive 50-42-7 record (.524) during his 11-year tenure.

"I went down to talk to (former

football coach and then athletic director) George Moriarty one day in 1948 and he asked me if I wanted the job," Hussey, 81, said. "I said sure. I never realized what a great period of my life I was about to get into."

The former Lynn English and Fordham football great kept up the fine football tradition at Marblehead, leading his 1950 team to an 8-1-1 mark and the '56 team to a 7-1-1 record.

"I was fortunate to have some great players like Edgar Gilbert, Lou Hettinger, Charlie Gilligan, Jack Robarts, Dick Mezquita and George McDonald," Hussey, who now lives in Nahant, said. "It was a great job that I loved. The kids

were all real good and played hard."

One of Hussey's greatest wins came in his rookie campaign against Beverly, then carrying a 16-game unbeaten streak and coached by the legendary Charlie Walsh. Led by a rock-solid defense, the left arm of quarterback Hettinger, receiver Gilbert and running back McDonald, the Magicians upset the Panthers, 13-0.

"I still have a lot of memories of those days," Hussey said. "Those days are gone, but you can remember them forever."

"That's the whole point. We want people to remember the good times and honor those deserving," Roundy said.