

# Grid memories in Marblehead

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MARBLEHEAD — Their playing days ended many years ago, but their accomplishments have not been forgotten.

The memories of six former Marblehead High School football greats were relived at the Magicians Gridiron Club's Seventh Annual Hall of Fame Dinner last night at the VFW Post 2005.

It was a nostalgic trip for the 101 people who attended last night's gala induction ceremonies.

"I'm thrilled and honored to be added to this great group of people," said Gardner Hamlen, '49, on his induction. "It's very gratifying to be included among the elite of Marblehead High School football."

Hamlen voiced the sentiments of his fellow inductees who played with a love for the game which, in many cases, is unequalled today.

"I'm proud to be included in this select group," said Dick Dickerman, '48. "All I have are great memories of my playing days at Marblehead. As you get older you realize the tremendous impact the game of football has on you. I feel very lucky to say I played for Marblehead High."

Hamlen and Dickerman were teammates on the '48 team which went 6-2-2 under the legendary Herm Hussey. Hamlen, who was also remembered for signing as a "Bonus Baby" with the Chicago White Sox after his senior year, recalled the Magicians' '48 game against Saugus as his greatest gridiron memory.

"The last minute win over Saugus was the game I remember most during my football playing days," said Hamlen. "We were down 13-6 with less than three minutes to go. We went to a spread offense. It was just me behind the center. I passed to Dave Bartlett up the middle and he went in for the score. Saugus turned the ball over in the last minute and a half and we scored again to win the game. It was the only time I ever saw coach Hussey with tears in his eyes after a game."

For Dick Mezquita, '56, who played all the backfield positions and compiled 106 career points, his induction into the Hall of Fame was deeply appreciated.

"It's a true honor to be inducted," said Mezquita. "Those were the greatest times of my life playing high school football. When I was a kid growing up I couldn't wait to play for the Magicians."

The Magicians. The current nickname was born on December 8, 1934 when a Miami sportswriter tabbed the Marblehead team "magical" after the visitors invaded the south and routed Miami Edison High, 52-12. MHS, under the guidance of the innovative Charlie McGuinness, displayed a motion offense which included the running of John Cudihy, '34.

Cudihy, who was inducted last evening posthumously along with Jack Brady, '42, was one of MHS's most versatile players in that epic showdown scoring a touchdown while also starring on defense. His son Mike and daughter Carol Flynn accepted last night's honor. Cudihy was also remembered as a key member of the Magicians' '34 football, basketball and baseball teams which captured Northeastern Conference Championships. Cudihy met with an untimely death in 1944 at the age of 26 when his B-17 Bomber was shot down.

Tom Manning, '60, who was unable to attend last night's induction because he was on a business trip in Thailand, had what many a Magician follower will remember as a career year. Manning, who was a 130-pound quarterback, threw an incredible 25 touchdown passes during his senior season after throwing one the year before. At the time Manning shattered the previous North Shore TD mark of 19 set by Harry Agganis. Manning's close friend and former teammate Jake Healey — also a member of the Hall of Fame — accepted the award.

The evening concluded with two special awards. The first being the renaming of the club's annual President's Award to the William W. Peabody Award named in memory of the late club historian who researched and compiled the publication '75 Years of Marblehead Football - 1909-1983'. The recipient of the award was well-known town resident and longtime North Shore football official William "Esso" Haines, who has played an integral part in the club's success since its inception in 1983.

Dr. George MacDonald, the club's president since the start, also presented current head coach Bruce Jordan with a plaque for the high school saluting Peabody's outstanding contributions to MHS football.

1989

# Honors piling up for

# Mezquita

A News sports staff report

Dick Mezquita said he was absolutely flabbergasted. What else can you expect from someone who has been named to his SECOND Hall of Fame in a matter of months?

This time it's the Marblehead Magicians Gridiron Club that will be honoring Mezquita, Class of '57, when it inducts six members into its Hall of Fame, Nov. 29, a Wednesday night, at the Marblehead VFW.

Mezquita, 50, current assistant school superintendent in North Conway, N.H., and a key individual when Marblehead won the Northeastern Conference in 1956, will be joined in the Gridiron Club's "Hall" by Tom Manning, Class of '61; Dick Dickerman, Class of '48; Gar "Gugga" Hamlen, Class of '49, and two former stars who are deceased, John Cudihy, Class of '35, and Jack Brady, Class of '43.

If Mezquita was overwhelmed, then it's understandable.

He will be among 10 former athletes inducted in the University of New Hampshire 100 Club Hall of Fame, Oct. 27. Mezquita was All-Yankee Conference as a junior and a Little All-America halfback selection as a senior when he captained the Wildcats in '61.

"You begin to wonder, do I really deserve all this?" Mezquita responded when informed of his latest tribute.

Mezquita, Manning and Hamlen, who was best recognized in high school for signing a \$75,000 Chicago White Sox contract, were all quarterbacks, although Mezquita played three different positions in three years.

Manning, now a travel agent tour guide based in Capistrano Beach, Calif., was a cause celebre in 1960 when he shattered some of Harry Agganis' passing records and wound up throwing 27 touchdown passes.

Brady, who went on to Columbia, is considered one of the all-time guards in Magicians' history.

Cudihy was one of the great ends in the famed Charlie McGuinness era and starred on the '34 edition that went 8-1-1 (losing to Salem, 2-0), then went on to beat host Miami, Fla. Edison, 52-12, in the famous game in which the Magicians' nickname was born. The Marblehead team was dubbed "Magicians" by the Miami Herald because Miami Edison had trouble following the ball. McGuinness' wide assortment of plays, including reverses, double reverses, double laterals, and passes with laterals, thoroughly confused Miami Edison.

Cudihy was one of the bigger Marblehead players of the early 30s, an end and linebacker, and a left-footed kicker of note. He attended Stanford, then enlisted in the service and became a bomber pilot. He died in action.

Dickerman, who now resides in Acton, was a well-known center and linebacker in the Dave Morey years in the late

## Ex-UNH captain among six selected to Marblehead 'Hall'



Dick Mezquita, shown here in his days at the University of New Hampshire, will be among six inductees to the Marblehead Gridiron Hall of Fame.

40s and has always been regarded with the premier linebackers produced in Marblehead. Dickerman played at Cornell.

For Mezquita, football didn't end after high school, Brewster Academy and UNH.

He turned to coaching, starting as an assistant under

Nick Morris at New Bedford in '64; was head coach in Milford, N.H. for 12 years, four at Kingswood Regional in Wolfeboro, N.H. and for one season at Franklin, N.H.

Mezquita had the distinction of serving as a captain at four levels, Marblehead Junior High, Marblehead High, Brewster Academy and New Hampshire.

He was the Northeastern Conference scoring leader when the Magicians were the unbeaten 4-0-1 grid titlist in '56.

"This honor on top of UNH, well, it's a little flabbergasting, both in the same year," Mezquita said. "It's very rewarding when things like this happen. It's certainly nice to be remembered. People have come out of the woodwork since the UNH announcement. I can't believe the cards and calls, and yesterday I heard from John Simons, who was the other co-captain my senior year and he's now a judge out in Sacramento, Calif."

Mezquita was a sophomore quarterback in high school, switched to halfback as a junior and Herm Hussey moved him to fullback as a senior.

"I just enjoyed playing. It didn't matter where I played. I loved every minute of it. Growing up in Marblehead," Mezquita said, "it was very important to play football at Marblehead High because of the strong tradition. As a youngster, I lived for the day that I'd wear the Marblehead uniform. To play against Swampscott was a big, big thing."

Mezquita turned down a scholarship offer from Syracuse — on the advice of the late Trim Robarts — to prep at Brewster, then accepted a scholarship offer from UNH.

"The Syracuse offer was predicated on my staying healthy there. I had many discussions with Trim about that."

Herm Hussey, the head coach, and Trim Robarts, one of the assistants and one of the great people produced in Marblehead, were men that Mezquita admired very much.

"Trim was there for everybody. He was just an outstanding person. He and Herm were truly dedicated men. I also think back and remember our principal, Erol Beach, who was a fine, reserved gentleman, who always kept a good perspective on things."

Erol Beach's style may have rubbed off on Mezquita, who is now in his 27th year in education. He has been assistant superintendent in North Conway for two years. He was the principal at Timberlane Regional in Plaistow, N.H. for 13 years, and the vice principal there for two years.

Never, ever forgetting the good times he had playing football in Marblehead.

"Like I said, that's what you lived for. It was important back then, and we didn't do things that might jeopardize playing football, because it was too important. Football helped shape a lot of our futures."