

Marblehead honors its gridiron greats

By LARRY ROSOFF
Sports Correspondent

MARBLEHEAD - Robert Eldridge Blood, III, one of six new inductees in the Marblehead Magicians Gridiron Club Hall of Fame, compared his honor with that expected to be bestowed upon University of Miami quarterback Vinny Testaverde this coming weekend.

At last night's Fourth Annual Awards Nite induction ceremonies, held just prior to this year's team awards at the Marblehead Elks Club, Bob Blood said, "All I could think about is the award ceremonies in New York this weekend for the college players. This is my Heismann Trophy."

Blood, who starred at quarterback, halfback and defensive back for the Magicians from 1965-67, is the youngest of the now 17 Hall of Fame members.

The other five new members include the late Harry "Heaphy" Martin (1920-22); Wallace F. "Red" Snow (1922-25); Ernest Raymond "Mondo" Woodfin (1922-25); Emerson Stacey Clark (1936-37); and Louis "Lou" Hettinger (1948-50).

"We're really happy with this because it is another facet of what we do as a Gridiron Club," Assistant Treasurer and Marblehead legend Elliott Roundy said, regarding the Hall of Fame and its new inductees. "And tonight I've heard so many favorable comments on this event, and we had people from all over the country here. Red Snow was here from Bradenton, Florida with his daughter from Charlotte, North Carolina. Most of these fellows in the '20s I just heard about because of my dad, who was a real rabid Marblehead fan. I'm just proud to be a part of Marblehead football, and we will do all we can to keep Marblehead football on the up."

"Heaphy" Martin, whose brother, James, accepted the occasion's commemorative plaque honoring him posthumously, was described as a diminutive, chunky, erudite 140-

pound center, who captained Marblehead's 1922 unbeaten and unscored-upon team. He went on to play college ball at Dartmouth.

Snow, a hard-driving, high-scoring fullback and punter, was looked upon as the high school version of University of Illinois great Red Grange, commonly known as the "Galloping Ghost." He accumulated 19 touchdowns and 114 scoring points in high career at Marblehead.

Playing in the same era as Snow, halfback Mondo Woodfin had 10 touchdowns for Marblehead and passed for six more. He later went on to play at Lafayette College, before going on to play pro ball with the Frankfurt (KY) Yellow Jackets, now known as the Philadelphia Eagles.

Halfback/defensive back/punter Stacey Clark accounted for 13 touchdowns and six points-after. Despite weighing a mere 125 pounds, Clark was also noted for being a hitter in the defensive backfield. He went on to excel for the University of New Hampshire.

Lefthander Lou Hettinger threw 14 touchdown passes and ran for 11 himself in leading Marblehead to a 15-2-1, two-year record. He went on to become a star two-way back and captain at Holy Cross.

Blood, whose 173 scoring points over a three-year career ties him for second in Marblehead history with fellow Hall of Famer Joe Tansey (inducted 1984), also threw 10 touchdown passes. In college he starred at Amherst.

Tremaine "Trim" Robarts (Class of 1927), who passed away recently, was the first official inductee in 1983. Four others were enshrined the following year, and six more last year.

"It's a special occasion; I'm real proud of him," said Margaret Crocker, daughter of Red Snow. "I wanted to be here. My sister wanted to be here, too, but she couldn't make it from Naples, Florida. I always knew that he was very active in sports and proud of Marblehead."