

Gridiron Club to induct five into Hall of Fame

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MARBLEHEAD — The Marblehead Magicians Gridiron Club Hall of Fame will induct five new members tomorrow night during a dinner at the Gerry 5 Club on Beacon Street.

The event will start with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7.

Being inducted tonight are:

CHET MESSERVEY, Class of 1929: A four-year starting center who did not play on a losing team. Messervey went on to play two-way football at Temple University under the legendary Pop Warner and earned an All-American mention in 1936. In 1937, Messervey was a member of an all-star team which played the New York Giants. He later joined Kelly's All-Stars, a semi-pro team, which played a number of National Football League teams.

He coached at Temple for three years and in 1980, was inducted into the Temple Hall of Fame. Messervey was also singled by the Brooklyn Dodgers and played two seasons for their Brooklyn Bushwicks farm team.

Messervey is a retired Philadelphia television and radio executive. He resides in Florida.

THOMAS "TEEK" RHOADES, Class of 1930: A teammate of Chet Messervey's, Rhoades was also a center and two-way lineman. He went on to play a season for a powerful St. John's Prep team which won the state championship, and then played on the famous semi-pro Swampscott town team and other local semi-pro clubs. Rhoades' greatest high school memory was when he blocked a punt against unbeaten, unscored upon Beverly on Nov. 11, 1930, and ran the ball in for the winning touchdown. Pandemonium erupted among the crowd of 10,000 when Marblehead won the game 7-0.

JAMES "SOAPY" WATERS, Class of 1940: Waters was a triple threat halfback and helped Marblehead on the way to an 8-2 season in 1940 and a Northeastern Con-

ference championship. He was one of the best punters in Marblehead history and led the team in scoring his senior year with 53 points on eight touchdowns, three PATs and one safety.

CHARLES "BUD" KELLEY, Class of 1943: Kelley was a valuable player for Marblehead. As an end, he was fine receiver and blocker, and was also a defensive standout. He was a member of Marblehead's second undefeated team (9-0-2) in 1942. He scored four touchdowns and three PATs that year. He was named to the North Shore All Stars in 1942 and 1943.

ROBERT RADCLIFFE, Class of 1960: An end, Radcliffe had a stellar senior year, catching 12 of quarterback Tom Manning's 25 touchdown passes and scoring six PATs. Radcliffe shared team scoring honors (84 points) with Jake Healey.

The Magicians lost only one game in 1960 (8-1-0), a heart-breaking one-point loss to Danvers. Still, the team holds the Marblehead record for most points in a season with 276. Radcliffe caught two touchdown passes on Thanksgiving 1960 to prevent a Swampscott upset. The Magicians won 12-6.

Radcliffe went on to West Point and is now a colonel in the U.S. Army.

Rhoades, still living in Marblehead, said he is looking forward to the induction dinner.

"It was a nice surprise," he said. "Football was a lot different then than it is now. We used to play both ways and there was no free substitution. We had flying blocks and tackles and things like that."

Following graduation from Marblehead, Rhoades played lineman on a St. John's team that won the state championship and beat freshmen teams at Boston College, Holy Cross and Fordham.

"I played a lot of football," he said. "I think I played on just about every semi-pro team in the area."