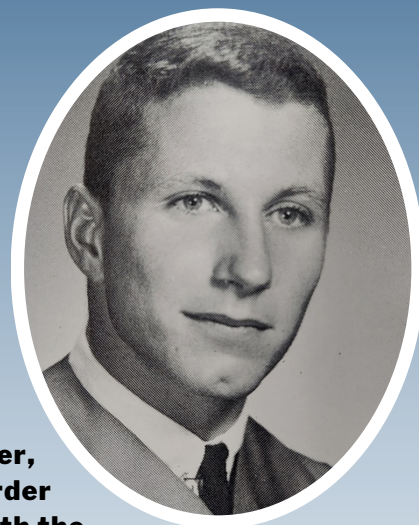


CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



CLARK ALDRICH '62

Clark Aldrich '62 was a three-sport star for the Bishop Armstrong Gaels, a two-year All-City football player, an All-City baseball player, and a starter on the Gael's basketball team. He was a resident boarder at the 21st and Broadway campus and says that his experiences with the Brothers and coaches were instrumental in his upbringing, not only as an athlete, but as a human being. They were able to turn a self-described punk kid into a young man able to make wiser, life-altering decisions.

While at Bishop Armstrong High School, Aldrich was a four sport athlete, playing baseball, basketball, football and track. As a JV football player, Aldrich played on the 1959 undefeated team. He was named team MVP, averaging over 10 yards per carry and rushing for 19 touchdowns. During his junior and senior years, Aldrich was a star, All-City running back for the Falcon football team. As a junior in 1961, he was in the Top 5 in both yards rushing and scoring for a team that finished 7-1-1. This 1961 Falcons football team defeated Sacramento High School for the first time in Brothers history, 13 to 6, with Aldrich scoring both TD's on running plays. As a senior, his All-City selection was all the more remarkable since he was limited to 5 and three-quarters games before suffering a season-ending fracture of the right elbow. He was elected to participate in the Optimist Game in 1962 and was impressive enough during his limited senior season that he earned a full scholarship to Oregon State University.

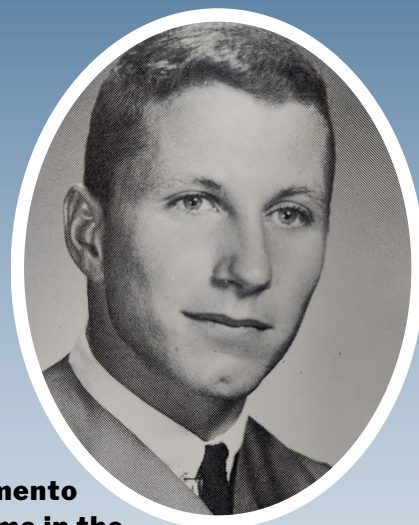
"Anytime the subject of all-time best athletes at CB comes up, my list includes Clark Aldrich. He was an outstanding running back with pure natural instincts. He didn't think while running, just instinctively did the right thing, leaving would be tacklers grabbing air. He had athletic smarts as well. One time in a showdown game at Orland for # 1 in Northern California, he was returning punts and the punt died at about the 30-yard line and everyone walked away before the whistle blew. Aldrich, recognizing it had not been blown dead, rushed in, picked it up and went 70 yards for a TD as a confused Orland punting team was leaving the field. CB went on to claim the mythical title."

—Dick Sperbeck, Hall of Fame Inductee. Sperbeck, who described Aldrich as, "a hard dog to keep under the porch," talked him into going out for baseball his junior year, mainly to keep him out of trouble, and he ended up starting his senior year. Adapted from "Flying High With The '62 Falcons" by Rick Cabral '70:

As a junior, Aldrich decided to assist (Varsity baseball coach) Sperbeck as the team's manager in the '61 season. Aldrich had never played youth baseball, but when Sperbeck encouraged him to grab a bat during practice, he complied. It proved to be a rough adjustment. Locked in a tight ballgame against the always tough Lodi Flames, Sperbeck sent Aldrich in to pinch run. He didn't know the first thing about how to read the pitcher or steal a base, so when Coach gave the steal sign, he just took off for second. Seeing the shortstop standing over the bag waiting with the ball, Aldrich's football instincts took over. He came in spikes high, cleating the infielder in the chest, while dislodging the ball. Aldrich recalled, "To me, that was part of the game. I didn't understand that football and baseball weren't related." He eventually wound up at third and scored. Bishop Armstrong won the contest 2-1 over the future Central California Conference (CCC) champion. In his following senior year, Aldrich would have been a star baseball player on any other prep baseball team. He hit over .400 on the 1962 baseball team which went 22-2, a team considered one of the best Falcon baseball teams ever. Aldrich became a great baseball player in spite of only playing baseball beginning in his junior year. His teammates on the '62 team included Hall of Fame inductees Mike Green

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



CLARK ALDRICH '62

After leaving Oregon State his freshman year, Aldrich returned to Sacramento where he played running back and defensive back for both Sac City and Sacramento State. He also punted for Sacramento State in 1965, averaging 41.15 yards per punt, good for 10th all-time in the Sacramento State record books.

After college, he was a football official for 20 years and was also an avid golfer. Professionally, Aldrich was an employee of United Parcel Service for 30 years, advancing to the position of Division Manager. He and his wife, Claudia, a 1963 Bishop Armstrong graduate, have been married for 50 years. They have two daughters, Kelly and Kristin.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



DAVID COOKE '81

David Cooke '81 was an All-City, 6'8", power forward for Brothers, a 4-year letterman for St. Mary's College, an NBA player for the Sacramento Kings in 1985, and enjoyed a 9-year professional basketball career in Europe.

David played trombone in the CB Marching Band, played JV baseball, and ran track. However, it wasn't until he tried-out for the freshman basketball team and the JV coach, Mr. Lege' asked him to practice with his team that Cooke realized basketball was his sport. With an average of 16 points and 11.9 rebounds per game his senior year, he received many full scholarships from Division I colleges including Stanford, Oregon State, USC, Gonzaga, Washington State, Colorado State, San Diego State, Kansas, UCLA, Fresno State, University of Pacific, Santa Clara, and University of Nevada, Reno. Cooke earned All City & All Conference honors following his senior season at Brothers. He also received a nomination to the McDonald's High School All-American game and was ranked 24th on the Long Beach Independent Press Telegram's "Best of the West." A career highlight was a game against McClatchy where he had 26 rebounds and 25 points.

Cooke chose to attend Saint Mary's College in Moraga where he was a three year starter, averaging 15.1 points and 9 rebounds in his senior year. He graduated in 1985 with a degree in Communications and his name etched in St. Mary's basketball history. He finished 7th in career blocked shots (83), 13th in career rebounds (545), and 30th all-time scorer (1006). Cooke led the 1984-85 basketball team in scoring (405 points) and was named First Team in the All-West Coast Conference.

As an undrafted free agent, Cooke was invited to the Phoenix Suns Rookie Camp and was offered a contract for the upcoming veteran camp. Two months later, he accepted an invitation to join the Sacramento Kings Rookie Camp. Again, he was offered a contract to join the Kings for their veteran's camp becoming the first born and raised player from Sacramento to play for the Kings. He played with the team in its inaugural season in Sacramento in 1985. He then played in the Continental Basketball Association (CBA) for the Wisconsin Flyers after being drafted in the first round.

The year of 1986 launched Cooke's European career. His first season was in Malaga, Spain where his daughter, Aletta, was born. He spent five seasons playing throughout Spain accompanied by his wife, Deoras and Aletta. In 1991, his team, Club Basquet Liria, won the Spanish Championship. He would also play two seasons in Israel and two seasons in Switzerland where his team, Spirou Basket Club, won the Swiss Championship in 1996. Cooke also played in Argentina, Belgium and France.

Cooke credits his CB basketball coach, Joe Gill as having the most impact in his development as a basketball player in that Coach Gill taught him, "how to play the game mentally." His favorite memories playing sports were seeing his parents in the stands for his college games at St. Mary's and the season opening game with the Kings, the first ever in Sacramento history in 1985.

After retiring from professional basketball in 1998, David, Deoras and Aletta moved to San Diego where he works for Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



LOIS CURTIS

Lois was the legendary Director of the Bishop Manogue/Christian Brothers High School Drill Team from 1974-1994. Her drill teams performed for the LA Rams, San Francisco 49ers, Golden State Warriors, and CB football/basketball games.

Lois J. Curtis graduated from Sacramento High School in 1945. During her high school years, she was an outstanding athlete and participated in several different sports. Lois married Donald Curtis in 1946 and had three children: Charles, Kandie, and Sandie. She also has four grandchildren (all of whom attended Catholic high schools), and three great grandchildren.

Curtis spent 30 years coaching drill teams at Christian Brothers, Bishop Manogue and C. K. McClatchy. In addition to her role as choreographer and coach, she served as a modern dance instructor, cheerleading adviser for CB and established summer cheerleading camps for local Catholic elementary schools. Curtis directed McClatchy's drill team starting in 1970 prior to serving as Bishop Manogue's drill team director from 1974 until the school's closure in 1990. At Bishop Manogue, the drill team typically consisted of about 70 members, almost 20% of the student body. Curtis then moved with many of her students to Christian Brothers to direct their drill team from 1991 until 1995. Manogue and CB drill teams performed at school assemblies, Brothers football and basketball games as well as numerous community events including parades, political and sporting events, the California State Fair, the Pig Bowl, drill and dance competitions. The drill team also appeared in television commercials for Sears.

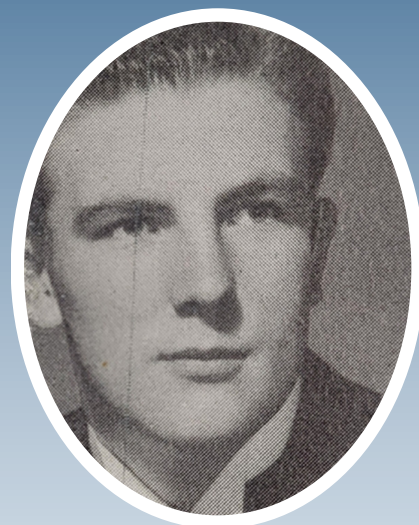
The popularity of Curtis' drill teams was due to the outstanding discipline and hardworking nature instilled in the girls under her charge, along with their very precise, snappy and entertaining performances to popular music. Her drill teams traditionally won first place awards year after year. In 1981, the drill team marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade and was awarded the 'Grand Sweepstakes Trophy' for the best overall entry out of 230 participants. The very next week, the team traveled to Hayward, California, and won first place in the drill team division for Northern California. "Perhaps one of Lois' most notable attributes as a coach was her ability to always demonstrate compassion and concern for the academic and physical well-being of each of her team members," said Lois Curtis' daughter, Sandie Silvestri '78.

In 1998, the La Salle Club inducted Curtis into the Sacramento Area Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame.

In addition to the drill team, Curtis was also involved in many organizations, including the National Association for Uniformed Services, Germany Commission of Girl Scouts, Joaquin Miller Junior High School PTA, Christian Brothers La Salle Club, Cal Poly SLO Grandparents Club, and Loyola Marymount University Presidential Donors Association. She graduated in 1988 with an associate's degree in administrative justice from Sacramento City College at the age of 50.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



DAVE JESMER '54

Dave Jesmer '54 was a 3-year, All-City, football player for Christian Brothers. As a scholarship player for Oregon State, he started at right tackle in the 1957 Rose Bowl.

He also served our country in the US Army and received the Silver Star for outstanding valor in Vietnam.

Dave began Christian Brothers in 1950 as a resident boarder. In his four years, he distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete and active participant in student government. As a senior, he represented CB on the Inter-School Council with students from Brothers, St. Joseph and St. Francis high schools.

Jesmer played three years of varsity football starting at offensive and defensive tackle, and two years of varsity track and field, throwing the shot put. Highlights of his football career at CB: 1951-1953 Varsity Football (Coach Ray Clemens), 1952-1953 First Team All-City Tackle (Sacramento Bee and Sacramento Union), 1953 All-Inland State Team, 1953 All-San Joaquin Team, 1954 Shrine North-South All-Star Game Starter (Los Angeles, CA), 1954 J.C. All Star Game Most Outstanding Lineman (Lodi, CA).

Jesmer played four years for Oregon State under head coach Tommy Prothro. In 1957, he made the All-Pacific Coast Conference 2nd team and started in the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco. The '57 Rose Bowl featured the #3 Iowa Hawkeyes vs #10 Oregon State Beavers with Jesmer starting at right tackle before 100,000 people in Pasadena and an NBC, national television audience. Jesmer was listed as 6' 2" and 226lbs. After college, Jesmer signed as a free agent with the San Francisco 49ers in 1958. However, he was released just before the season.

In 1961, Jesmer joined the US Army and served over 20 years retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1982. In his military career, Jesmer earned two bronze medals and one Silver Star, the third highest military award, for outstanding valor in the Vietnam War. While in the Army, he continued his football career, playing two years of Service football while stationed with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky where they played other service teams and even a few colleges. He served as a player/coach in 1962.

After retiring from the Army, Jesmer settled in Centreville, Virginia where he works as a self-employed, part-time contractor. He has always been an extremely focused and driven individual dating back to his days at Christian Brothers.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME

JOHN WALTER "DUSTER" MAILS '12

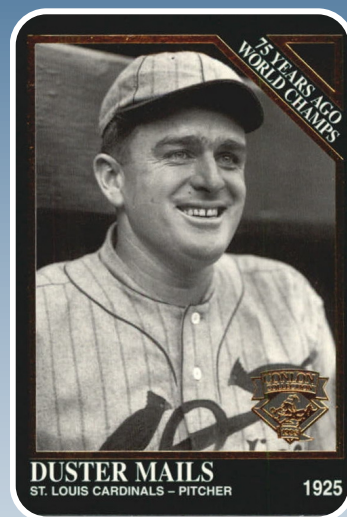
After a standout baseball career at CB, Walter went on to win over 200 games in the minor leagues and won 32 major league games. He pitched a complete game, 3-hit shutout in Game 6 of the 1920 World Series for the champion Cleveland Indians. He also played for the Brooklyn Robins and St. Louis Cardinals. On a beautiful October afternoon in 1920, Walter Mails, a 1912 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, stepped off of his train and into one of the wildest homecomings Sacramento had ever witnessed. The hero of the 1920 World Series was swept up by a delirious crowd of well-wishers who serenaded and toasted their hero in a parade from the train station to a reception at City Hall. Feted by local politicians, and with his every step filmed by motion picture cameras, Walter Mails '12 was indeed Sacramento's first celebrity athlete.

Just three months earlier, Mails was pitching for the Sacramento Solons in the Pacific Coast League. His success captured the attention of the Cleveland Indians, and he was sold for a princely sum of \$50,000. As Cleveland readied themselves for a pennant drive, he calmly and efficiently won 7 straight games for the club before pitching 15 and two-thirds scoreless innings in the World Series. Sports writers all over the country lauded Mails' blazing fastball, his "larger than life" personality and his abundance of nicknames. Mails was known as: "Walter the Great," "Duster," "The Great Imperial Duster," "Old Goose Eggs in the Coffee," and, as he preferred, "The Great Mails." (Duster was a term for pitching inside in order to get the batter's attention.)

Although born in the town of San Quentin, Mails grew up in Sacramento and attended CB, then called Christian Brothers College, at 12th and K Streets. His mentor was a priest named Rev. John Ellis who taught him how to pitch and play handball. Father Ellis got Mails a job with the Sacramento Bee and told him he could strengthen his pitching arm by delivering papers. His father worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad, and his family lived on the corner of 18th and G Streets. Like so many graduates of Christian Brothers, Mails went on to play baseball at St. Mary's College where he caught the attention of the Brooklyn Robins (Dodgers).

He made his major league debut on September 28, 1915. Had he stayed healthy, Mails might have become one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history. He struck-out Babe Ruth 15 times, and, in one memorable game against the Chicago White Sox in 1920, he was summoned from the bullpen with the bases loaded and no outs, and proceeded to strike-out Eddie Collins, Buck Weaver, and 'Shoeless' Joe Jackson. The media loved Mails as did the ladies, and the handsome pitcher made it known that he loved chocolate cakes. Hopeful suitors followed him all over the country, gifting him chocolate cakes and perfume-soaked letters. One day, 38 cakes were delivered to the clubhouse.

After several successful years with the Cleveland Indians, Mails' trusted left arm grew tired, and although he could still get batters out, his fast ball had lost its sizzle. Mails never let his sore arm affect his career. He simply learned how to trust his "off-speed" pitches. For 25 years, the "Great Mails" pitched in professional baseball, 7 years in the majors and 18 in the minors, including many memorable years in the Pacific Coast League. In 1935, as member of the San Francisco Seals, Mails closed-out his storied career with teammates Joe DiMaggio and a young fellow graduate of Christian Brothers named Joe Marty '31. The "Great Mails" retired with a professional baseball record of 258 wins and 235 defeats.

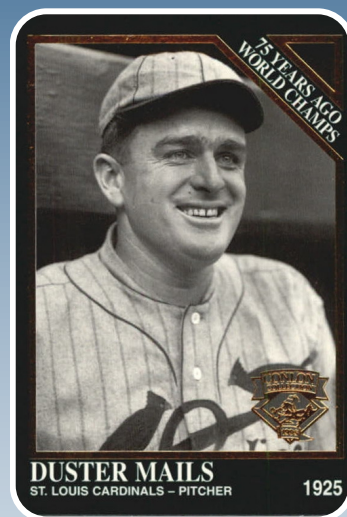


CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME

JOHN WALTER "DUSTER" MAILS '12

Always popular with the media, Walter Mails devoted his post-baseball life to a career in public relations, plying his trade with the San Francisco Seals and later the Giants. He was particularly successful in organizing "Kids Days," and bragged that he was responsible for bringing in millions of youngsters to the ballpark. Beginning in 1953, Mails dutifully returned to Christian Brothers every year for The La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner. He was frequently asked to give the main address, and the audience never tired of his stories. He was inducted into The La Salle Club's Hall of Fame in 1964, giving a memorable speech extolling the virtues of baseball and the love and support he received from the Christian Brothers community. Walter Mails '12 died on July 5, 1974 at the age of 79. If you were fortunate enough to meet Walter Mails '12, he would shake your hand and say, "Congratulations, you just shook the hand of the Great Walter Mails." In an era full of colorful characters and nicknames, he may have been the most colorful of all.



CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME

KEN ORVICK '50

Ken Orvick '50 was a three-sport athlete at Christian Brothers playing football, basketball and baseball. He received a football scholarship from St. Mary's and played minor league baseball in the St. Louis Cardinals organization.

There was something special about the Brothers teams Orvick played on - they tended to win championships. The '49 football team was one of the best defensive teams that took the field for coach Ray Clemons. They gave up only 2 points in their 7 victories, shutting out St. Mary's College High School of Berkeley 30-0, St. Elizabeth 32-0, Marysville 34-0, Jackson 25-0, Live Oak 33-0, McClatchy 21-0, and beating Chico 19-2. However, the always tough Sac High Dragons stomped the tough Gaels 39-0, and Grant also prevailed 39-0. Co-captains of this '49 team were Orvick, Dan Lahey '50, and Pete Vartanian '50. Coach Ray Clemons was hoisted on the shoulders of the team and carried off after the McClatchy victory, fitting for an outstanding season. Orvick would go on to play football at Sacramento City College and at St. Mary's.

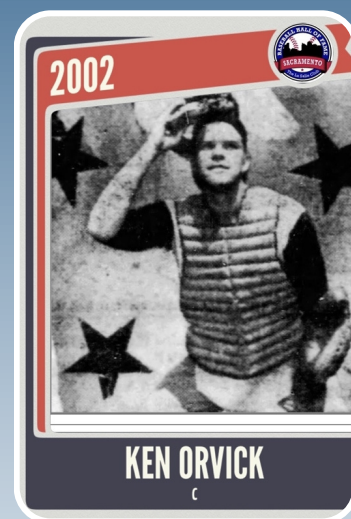
Both of the Brothers basketball teams Orvick played on in '49 and '50 won the City Championship. The city schools which determined the City Championship were Sacramento, McClatchy, Grant, and CB. The '49 team posted a record of 16-9. Orvick started on the '50 team which boasted an 18-2 record and had a winning streak of 14 games under Coach Jack Buick. Also on the team were future CB Hall of Famers, Jim Church '50 and John McNamara '50.

Orvick played on the '49 baseball team that won 16 straight games enroute to the City Championship. The '50 baseball team finished the season with a 15-6 record and placed three members on the Sacramento Union's All City team: pitcher/left fielder Jim Church '50, catcher John McNamara '50 and first baseman Orvick. In 1950, Orvick handled 106 chances at first base without an error while maintaining a batting average of .309. Orvick went on to play professional baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals organization for one year until he "found out what a real curve ball looked like."

Orvick's clutch hit from "Christian Brothers Baseball History, 1930-1959," written by James McNamara, '47 and Joe McNamara, '83: "Brothers began the inter-city portion of their schedule with a March 10th showdown against Sac High. In a very tight contest, Jim Church '50 pitched a strong game, giving up only three runs. Ken Orvick's bases-loaded double provided the offense as Brothers bested a strong Dragon squad 4-3. In a later contest, heavy hitters Pete Vartanian '50, Ken Orvick '50, and Pete Mikacich '52 spoiled Brother Eugene's return to Sacramento as Brothers defeated St. Mary's of Berkeley 9 to 8."

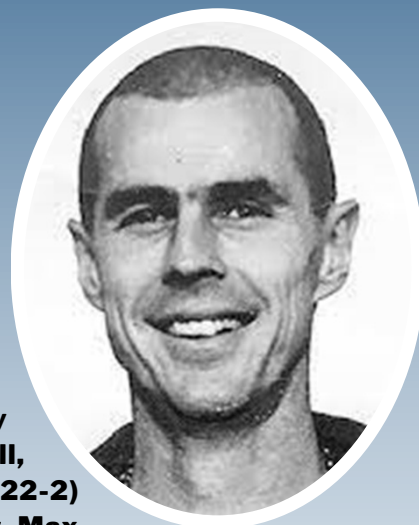
Ken Orvick's working career included stints as a longshoreman, teamster, and handyman, eventually retiring as a teacher and vice principal in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District after 33 years. Ken continued to foster his athletic ability by playing golf throughout his retirement years resulting in three hole-in-ones. He passed away in 2013 and is survived by his wife, Patricia, children Matthew, Kimberli (Swineford), Ken, and Wayne, step-children Craig and Guy Martin, 11 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

"There were many things I could have or should have done differently, but it was a great run with magnificent people." - Ken Orvick '50 (1933-2013)



CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



DICK SPERBECK

Dick Sperbeck is the winningest football coach in Brother's history with a record of 91-53-6 and with 4 Metro League titles. In baseball, he was the 1962 State Coach of the Year. His 1962 baseball team (22-2) was the State Team of the Year and had six players named All-City. Max Preps ranks the 1962 team as the 15th all-time best team in state history.

Coach Dick Sperbeck is a graduate of Marysville High School, Yuba College and St. Mary's College. A distinguished athlete, he earned an impressive nine block letters in college. Sperbeck served as CB's athletic director for 18 years, football coach for 15 years, baseball coach for 7 years (108-39), and basketball coach for 3 years (48-30). He also taught English and Literature at the school.

When Sperbeck became head coach of the varsity football team in 1962, Bishop Armstrong played an independent schedule. The California Interscholastic Federation excluded private schools from being assigned to conferences. In 1964, as the AD, Sperbeck and the CB administration successfully worked with the CIF to change the rules. Armstrong thus was assigned to play in the Metro League. That first year, 1964, the Falcons suffered their only winless season in varsity football history. But going forward Sperbeck built the Bishop Armstrong/Christian Brothers varsity football program into a Metro League powerhouse, winning 4 Metro League championships (a school record) from 1964 to 1976.

His 1970 squad was his best team as they posted an 8-1-1 record and were ranked #2 in Northern California. The only loss that year came against rival Jesuit who also won their league title. CB won the Metro League title by posting a 6-0-1 record with the only blemish being an 8-8 tie with McClatchy. This team featured many outstanding players, including Hall of Famer John Blanchard '71, the team MVP who went on to stardom at Stanford, Hall of Famer Dan Carmazzi '71, future head coach of CB varsity football, Hall of Famer and All-American Jim Sarti '71 who played for Santa Clara along with fellow tackle Stan Olsufka '71, and Tom O'Neil '71 who was voted Most Inspirational and went on to St. Mary's.

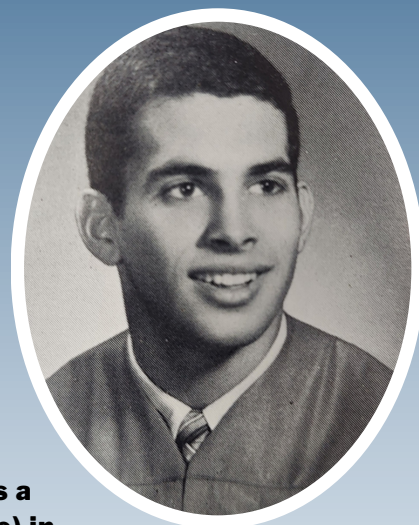
Other notable football players coached by Sperbeck include Brothers Hall of Famers Clark Aldrich '62, John Cartwright '73, Dan Farrell '75, Steve Scully '66, and Jeff Tisdell '74 (UNR), as well as Bob Bingham '74 (USC), Pat Blocker '71, Bill Boughton '74 who led the area in tackles in 1973, QB Rick Cabral '70, Peter Campbell '62 (UCLA), the Clemons brothers (Mike '63, Pat '67, and Tim '69) who all went to CSU Sacramento, Chris Gandy '74, Joe Greco '75, tackle Dale Jablonsky '77 (UNR), All-American Brica Ragster '74, NFL receiver Eason Ramson '74, Mark Russell '72 who was MVP of the Metro League in 1971, Jay Steiner '63, and many others.

Sperbeck felt his greatest legacy was influencing the careers of 14 successful, area, head coaches who either served under him as assistants or played for him: Dan Carmazzi '71, Mike Clemons '63, Steve DaPrato '67, Dave Driffel, John Fletcher '67, Mel Fontes, Larry Ghilardi, Dave Hoskins, Dave Page '69, San Popovich, Jim Sarti '71, Marshall Sperbeck (son), Jeff Tisdell '74 and Ralph Villanueva. Amongst this group are 8 section championship football banners.

Sperbeck was married to his wife Helen for 57 years. They had four children (Marshall, Stacey, Jeff, Jennifer) and 12 grandchildren. Dick was surrounded by family when he passed away peacefully on August 31, 2017. A celebration of his life was held on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at Christian

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



JOHN STASSI '59

John Stassi '59 was an All-City baseball and football player for the Bishop Armstrong Gaels. He played football for Cal in 1961 and for UC Davis in 1962- 1963. Born and raised in Sacramento, Stassi was a two-sport athlete at Christian Brothers School (9th and 10th grade) in both football and baseball. He was voted the MVP of the 1956 CB junior varsity football team. Stassi attended Bishop Armstrong High School (11th and 12th grade) where he continued to be a two-sport star. His favorite high school athletic memory happened in his first football game for Bishop Armstrong in 1957 when he intercepted a pass and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown. Bishop Armstrong went on win that game against Yuba City (27-6) and continued their victories to earn a California Interscholastic Federation co-championship.

During that '57 football season, Stassi played with a few other Hall of Fame inductees including his brother Sam Stassi '58, and the "M&M wrecking crew" of Dick Mooney '58 and Jim Mikacich '58. His football coaches at Bishop Armstrong were John Stremple and Dick Sperbeck, both of whom he considered great mentors. In the ensuing 1958 season, Stassi was named All-City and All-Northern Interstate Conference both as offensive guard and linebacker.

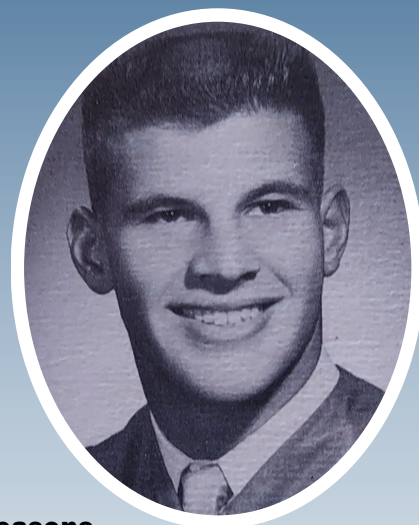
In baseball, Stassi was the Bishop Armstrong MVP in 1959 as catcher for the Northern Interstate Championship team. He was coached by Jack Witry who Stassi considered one of his great coaching mentors. Under the direction of Witry, the 1958 and 1959 teams finished with a 31-5 record and two Northern Interstate Championships. In those two years, John Stassi played alongside his brother Sam Stassi '58, Dick Mooney '58, Jim Mikacich '58, and pitcher Tom Zanze '59.

After Bishop Armstrong, Stassi attended Sacramento City College for the 1959-60 school year where he again played baseball and football. His football coach was Ray Clemons, former coach at Brothers. The next year, Stassi joined his brother Sam on the offensive line at University of California, Berkeley where his coaches included future NFL greats Marv Levy, Bill Walsh and Mike White. At Cal, Stassi was 5'10 and 190 lbs., considered small for Division 1 football. After two seasons at Cal, Stassi transferred to UC Davis where he again played both baseball and football. He was recognized as a 2nd team All Far West Conference selection at linebacker in 1963, helping the Aggies win a co-championship. Stassi's contribution to the 1963 football team (the team often credited for creating "Aggie Pride") earned him a spot on UCD's 1960's All Decade Team. His coaches at UC Davis included former Cal football players from the "Pappy's Boys" era in 1949 to 1954; Will Lotter and Herb Schmalenberger. Stassi's most memorable college play occurred in 1963 when he intercepted a 4th quarter Gauchos pass after Santa Barbara had reached the Aggie 13-yard line. He returned the interception to the 30-yard line, preserving a 7-0 victory for the Aggies.

Stassi '59 attributed all of his success in sports, business and life to lessons learned from his parents, in the classroom, and on the field throughout his elementary and high school careers. John Stassi '59 passed away in 2009 at the age of 67 and is survived by his wife of 42 years, Karen, four children, and 13 grandchildren.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



SAM STASSI '58

Sam Stassi '58 was an All-City baseball and football player for the Bishop Armstrong Gaels and football player for Cal. A Sacramento native, Sam played four years of high school football and baseball.

He was named an All-City offensive guard in both the '56 and '57 seasons, and, as a testament to his talent, he was also voted the Most Valuable Lineman in the years that Bishop Armstrong won the conference championships in the North Section. On the diamond, Stassi '58 was also an amazing baseball talent. In his junior season, the Armstrong baseball team finished undefeated against Sacramento area teams and won the city title under Coach Bob Rodness with a 16-2-1 record. In his senior year, Stassi was an All-City selection at first base and finished the season errorless with a .425 batting average. He was also undefeated as a pitcher, 7-0, with an ERA of 2.86 in 36 innings. Stassi was named MVP of the '58 Bishop Armstrong baseball team which finished 9-2 in Hall of Fame coach Jack Witry's first season.

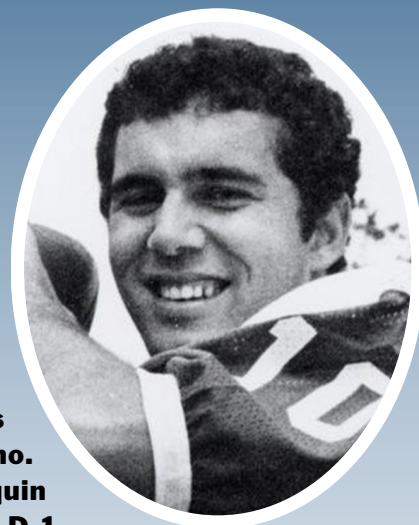
Upon graduation, as a co-captain, Stassi played football for the Sacramento City College Panthers in '58 and '59 under former CB coach, Ray Clemons and played first base for the baseball team in '59. While at SCC, Stassi also participated in the Block S Society boxing show. He was featured in the heavyweight bout and won by unanimous decision.

Stassi then moved on to play football at UC, Berkeley in 1960 and 1961. He played offensive guard and defensive end. He was coached by Marv Levy, Bill Walsh, and Mike White, all of whom became great NFL head coaches. In spite of the great coaching talent, Stassi's Cal football team finished 1-8-1 in its 1961 season with its only victory at home being against Washington with Cal as a big underdog. The final score was 21-14 in Memorial Stadium in front of 43,000 spectators. Washington had won the College Football National Championship in 1960 and their loss to Cal would be the Huskies only loss in conference and prevented Washington from playing in the Rose Bowl after the 1961 season. This game was Stassi's favorite athletic memory. Another favorite memory for Stassi was the Cal football game at Penn State in 1961 where he recovered two fumbles.

Stassi '58 earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Physiology from UC, Berkeley in 1962. He graduated from Loyola University School of Dentistry in Chicago in 1967 and later finished with a specialty degree in orthodontics. He returned to Sacramento where he has been in practice for 46 years. Stassi married his wife, Joanne, on June 4, 1966. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



JEFF TISDEL '74

Jeff Tisdel '74 was an All-American Prep Quarterback for Brothers and went on to an All-American career at University of Nevada-Reno. He was the head football coach for Brother's second, D-1, Sac-Joaquin Section title team in 1983 and was an assistant coach for the first, D-1, Sac-Joaquin Section title team in 1981.

Tisdel played varsity baseball, basketball and football at Christian Brothers from 1970 to 1974. As the Falcons quarterback, Tisdel earned All-Metro honors in '72 and '73 under the direction of fellow inductee, Coach Dick Sperbeck, and was recognized as an All-American high school quarterback in 1973. CB varsity football finished 6-3 in '72 and 9-2-1 in '73 with a Metro League title in '73.

Under Hall of Fame Coach Jack Witry, Tisdel was an All-Metro basketball selection in '73 along with one of his basketball teammates and fellow inductee, Rod Zanze '75.

At the University of Nevada-Reno, Tisdel was a Division II, All-American quarterback as a junior in 1976 and again as a senior in 1977. Tisdel set numerous school records for offense and remains in the UNR record books. These records include 10th in yards passing (6,098), 7th in touchdown passes (59), 10th in completions (394), 9th in attempts (776), and 10th total offense (6,050). In 1977, Tisdel was selected to play in the East-West Shrine game where he threw a touchdown pass. He was the only Division II player selected that year and the first UNR player to participate in three decades.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Health, Tisdel began his coaching career. In 1980, he returned to Christian Brothers as an assistant football coach for head coach Craig Rundle, assistant baseball coach with Hall of Fame coach Ron Limeberger '53 and as a PE teacher. With Rundle, the 1981 Falcons football team won 10 straight games including three wins over number-one ranked teams, to claim the school's first ever Division I Sac-Joaquin Section title. In 1983, now as head coach, Tisdel led Brothers to its second Division I Sac Joaquin Section title with Hall of Fame running back Vince Delgado '84. In 1986, Tisdel left Christian Brothers to begin his college coaching career as an assistant, again teaming-up with head coach Craig Rundle at St. Mary's College for the 1986 and 1987 football seasons.

"I had the privilege of working with Jeff Tisdel on two occasions at Christian Brothers and St. Mary's College. Jeff has a great football mind and is an outstanding teacher of the game. He has a tremendous passion for the game and is a relentless competitor. Jeff played a big role in the success we enjoyed at Christian Brothers and at St. Mary's," Craig Rundle, Head Football Coach, Albion College.

From 1988 to 1989, Tisdel returned to UNR as the running backs coach. He left to serve as head coach of the Sacramento City College football program from 1989 to 1993, leading the Panthers to a 38-12-1 record and winning three Northern California Athletic League Championships before returning again to coach at UNR in 1994.

From 1996 to 1999, Tisdel was the head coach at Nevada, winning the 1996 Las Vegas Bowl and two Big West Conference Championships. His overall record as head coach for UNR was 23-22.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



JEFF TISDEL '74

Coach Tisdel's greatest success as a college football coach came while serving as head coach at Sierra College, where his record was 84-37. Tisdel guided Sierra College to six conference championships and participated in eight bowl games during his decade-long tenure. From 2002 to 2005, Sierra College completed a 37 game winning streak, the second longest in California state history. He retired at Sierra College as an instructor in Kinesiology.

Jeff Tisdel '74 lives in Arizona with his wife Dorothy and their daughter, Jennifer.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



JACK WITRY

Jack Witry has been a mainstay at Christian Brothers for over 60 years, serving the students in a variety of ways: vice principal, dean of students, math teacher, basketball and baseball coach, mentor, friend, and more. CB's inaugural Athletic Hall of Fame dinner in 2014 included a special announcement that the school's field house would henceforth be named the Jack Witry Field House to honor the legendary Witry. In August, the building's new lettering was installed forever commemorating this illustrious gentleman.

Witry grew up in Chicago where he attended St. Rita High School and graduated in 1953. His love of basketball brought him to St. Mary's College in Moraga on a scholarship. But, after graduating in 1957, it was his desire to teach math and coach that ultimately brought Witry to Christian Brothers.

Witry was the Bishop Armstrong varsity basketball coach in 1958 and 1959. During those years, the team was led by Jim De Roos '60, Ed Dudycha '58, Duke McAlpine '59, Hall of Famer Jim Mikacich '58 and Art Sanchez '58. Witry also coached the Bishop Armstrong baseball team in 1958 and 1959. In these seasons, his teams won two Northern Interstate Conference Championships with a two-season record of 31-5. Notable players on these teams include Mike Barnhart '58, Rick Cable '58, pitcher Tom Zanze '59 and Hall of Famers Jim Mikacich '58, Dick Mooney '58, John '59 and Sam '58 Stassi.

Witry left Bishop Armstrong in 1960 but returned in 1963 as a teacher and basketball coach. During his time as the basketball coach, Witry had only three losing seasons. Notable players Witry coached include Mike Evans '74, who went on to play for Santa Barbara, Joe Gill '63 who went on the play for USF, Joe Gutierrez '70 who earned a scholarship to San Jose State, Pat McAuliffe '70, Tom Parilo '68 who earned a scholarship to Gonzaga University, four-year starter Rich Raimondi '70, Manny Tequida '65, Mike Wetklow '75 (who Bill Cartwright said was the toughest defensive player and rebounder he played against in high school even though he was only 6' 2" tall), and four-year starter and CB Hall of Famer Rod Zanze '75.

Fellow Hall of Fame inductee Rod Zanze '75 had this to say: "Coach Witry is one of the greatest gentleman I've ever had the pleasure of meeting, best coach I ever played under, incredible family man, always treats everyone with respect...truly a man of class and dignity!"

From 1976 until 1992, Witry worked full-time as controller and credit manager for Tony's Fine Foods while still teaching three math classes at CB. He then returned to CB full-time until his retirement in 1999. In 1994, Witry was honored as "Lasallian Educator of the Year" by Christian Brothers High School, an award given annually to recognize one faculty or staff member who has demonstrated what it means to be a model Lasallian Catholic educator.

After retiring from teaching, Witry wrote "The History of Christian Brothers Basketball," as a member of the school's History Committee. This text documents Christian Brothers basketball teams and players beginning in 1909 when Brother Baldwin, FSC decided Christian Brothers should have a basketball team and persuaded the YMCA to allow CB to use its gym. This history of CB basketball covers the time period from 1909 to 2010.

Witry has been married to his wife Mona '60 for 51 years. They have 2 children; Nick '87 and Kathy, as well as four grandchildren: Madison '11, Lily '20, Jack '26 and Delaney '26.

CBHS

2016 HALL OF FAME



RODNEY ZANZE '75

Rod Zanze '75 was a 4-year basketball and baseball varsity starter at CB. Coach Jack Witry called him, “the best pure shooter” he had ever coached. In baseball, Rod was an All-City infielder and maintained a .300+ batting average in baseball over 4 years at Brothers. He also was a assistant coach on the 2017 CB varsity baseball California State Championship Team.

Rodney Zanze had the unique distinction of playing four years as a starter on both the Brothers varsity basketball and baseball teams. He credits his older brothers with helping him develop his athletic skills in both sports. He had the opportunity to spend a week with his brother Randy at USF and work-out with many future NBA players including Phil Smith, Kevin Restoni, Mike Quick, and Pete Cross.

Zanze increased his basketball scoring average each year. He averaged 11.0 points a game as a freshman, 15.0 as a sophomore, 17.0 as a junior and 23.9 points as a senior earning First Team All-Metro honors. He was also considered a great ball handler, averaging five assists and two steals a game. He had an impressive, career, free throw percentage of 92 percent.

“While on the subject of child prodigies, the name Rodney Zanze '75 should not be overlooked. The Christian Brothers starter is only a frosh but is averaging 12.5 points per game in the tough Metro League with 50 tallies in the first four contests including 19 against Sacramento High. He hit on eight of nine floor attempts in the Dragon tilt and all but one were in the 20 foot range. Besides being a shooter, he feeds the ball well to Steve Perich and runs the ball club like a veteran.” - Terrance O'Brien (aka Dick Sperbeck), The Catholic Herald, January 27, 1972.

Coach Witry had this to say about Rodney in 1974, “Rod is an excellent passer and ball handler. He surprises me every game. Yes we expected him to score, but not this much (30 points per game). He’s always working against high odds. Our opponents gear their defense to him. We’ve never had a real big man to go to and for Rod to work with. So it’s pretty tough for a boy 5’10” to compete against these odds each and every game and come through as he has.”

Zanze believes his greatest opponent was Bill Cartwright who went on to win several NBA Championships with Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. His favorite athletic memory is playing in the 1975 basketball game against Elk Grove with Bill Cartwright in front of an overflow crowd and live radio broadcast.

In baseball, Zanze was a two-time All-Metro League infielder, compiling a four-year fielding average of .970 and a batting average over .300. As a senior he had a .333 batting average, hit five triples and was never thrown out attempting to steal. Zanze attended Chico State from 1975 to 1977 where he played both basketball as a shooting guard and baseball as a shortstop.

In 1978, he played baseball for Sacramento City College as a third baseman. That year he hit .395, earned All-League honors and helped Sacramento City College win a league championship. Rod also played baseball for Chapman College in 1979. He went on to play baseball in the Sacramento area semi-pro league for 21 years.

In later years, Rod enjoyed coaching baseball at CB. He is married to wife, Linda, and has two

CBHS

2014 HALL OF FAME

THE 1946 BASEBALL TEAM



A Collapse and a Win!

An overflow crowd packed William Land Park's Diamond #1 on April 24th for the showdown against Sacramento High School. The crowds were so large that temporary grandstands had to be elected to accommodate the fans. Tragedy nearly struck before the first pitch when an entire section of the crowded grandstands collapsed. Miraculously, no one was injured, although one elderly gentleman's cane was snapped in two pieces. Once the grandstand drama quelled, the spectators were treated to a thrilling game that saw Brothers win 4 to 3. Clever Mel Knezovich garnered his fifth victory of the year, giving up 5 hits and striking out 14. Timely hits by Ronnie King, Gil Urbano, and Vince Vallerino paced the offense.

After beating Elk Grove High for the second time, Brothers took on El Dorado High School and continued their winning ways behind Don Knezovich with a 9 to 3 victory. Gil Urbano had a productive day with a single, double, and home run, while Ronnie King contributed a double and a triple. Brothers closed out the year with two dominant victories over Roseville High School. Mel Knezovich won the first game of the series 13 to 1, striking out 13 and tallying 3 hits. Two days later, brother Don shut out the Roseville boys on just 3 hits. Gil Urbano and Ronnie King each had three hits to spark the offense.

With the Roseville series in the books, Brothers finished the year undefeated, with a 14 and 0 record. Third Baseman Gil Urbano hit .625 for the season and was chosen as the Sacramento Union's most outstanding player in 1946. He was also named the captain of the All City Team. Ronnie King was also named to the squad.

In lauding King's season, The Union wrote: Catcher Ronnie King earned his lost without a dissenting vote. If the team merits a co-captain, the star backstop could easily be raised to a spot besides his third base mate. Pitcher Mel Knezovich was the third representative from Brothers to make the coveted team.