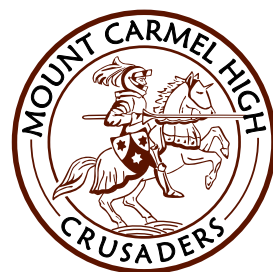


The Crusader

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Pray for us.

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MARLIN AND MIKE McKEEVER

by Judy Cannavo-McKeever

Mount Carmel

Alma Mater

On peaceful shores
'neath western skies our
hymn of praise we sing,

To thee our Alma Mater
dear, now let our voices
ring!

All hail to thee Mount
Carmel High, Crusaders
Sons are we!

We love your ways, your
spirit bold! We pledge
ourselves to thee!

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“Better cut that diaper in half. There’s another baby coming!” Who could have predicted the impact that identical twin boys born on January 1, 1940 in Cheyenne, Wyoming would have on the City of Los Angeles just thirteen years later?

Marlin and Mike McKeever were born to William and Moneta McKeever much to the irritation of their older brother Bill. The twins came from very humble beginnings

and credited their hard-working devoted parents and family members for instilling in them the love of family and faith and the importance of education.

The McKeever family lived in a very small home in the Sawtelle area of Los Angeles. The twins’ parents knew the value of a good education but because of their near-poverty income, Mr. and Mrs. McKeever had to find another way to pay for the Catholic school education they wanted for their sons. Moneta



Mike & Marlin McKeever '57

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The purpose of the Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation is continuing the Carmelite Heritage of commitment to sustaining the spiritual, emotional, and psychological development of students in the nurturing environment of Catholic grammar and high schools through our fundraising, mentoring and college placement assistance for these future role models in the greater Los Angeles community. MCAF publishes The Crusader newsletter and assists in regular event planning for the information and fellowship of Mount Carmel Alumni.

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McKeever was hired as the cook at the nuns' convent at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in West Los Angeles. As a result, Marlin and Mike were able to attend grammar school there. Following graduation from St. Paul's, Marlin and Mike were offered scholarships at various Catholic boys' high schools but chose to attend Mt. Carmel High School in Los Angeles on basketball scholarships. That was fine for their first year when they were 5'5", 135 pounds, however, during the summer following their freshman year, they sprouted to 5' 10", 180 pounds. At the beginning of their sophomore year, they were told by the coaches that they would now play football rather than basketball.

And the rest is history.

As a result of their fierce competitive nature in sports and academics, their love of mischief, and their love of life, Marlin and Mike never passed up a chance to fight with the guys from Loyola, dance with the girls from St. Mary's, pump iron on Muscle Beach in Santa Monica or challenge each other for the better grade. They were blessed with the gift of Irish blarney and somewhere between fact and fiction lies the truth as to whether they really carried a classmate's car to the second floor of Mt. Carmel High School!

In order to avoid spring football practice, the twins decided to participate in track and field sports. They were discus throwers and shot putters and made the varsity track and field team their sophomore, junior and senior years. For some time, Mike held the high school state record for shot putting. They also played baseball. During the summers, they were supermarket box boys, baled hay on a farm in Acton, CA and recycled glass soda bottles.

The twins excelled in the classroom as well as the athletic field. They were on Honor Roll all four years at Mt. Carmel and California Scholastic Federation their junior and senior years. They were also involved in student government (Marlin was Student Body Secretary and Mike was senior class president); were the Sports Editors for "El Conquistador," Mt. Carmel's annual; were members of the Lettermen's Club, the Dance Committee, Prom Committee, and the "7011" Club. They actively practiced their Catholic faith and

were altar boys at St. Paul's Catholic Church. They also did volunteer work in the community.

Because the competition between Marlin and Mike was so fierce, it became their mother's vow never to allow one twin to receive an award that the other did not also receive. But she didn't always get her way. Of course, the twins grumbled to themselves that he, rather than the other twin, should have gotten the award. But Marlin said deep down, the receipt of any award to either of them was a cause for celebration.

Marlin told me the first and only time the twins were ever separated was in high school when Mike was chosen to play with the (baseball) Pony All-Stars. He vividly remembers them saying tearful goodbyes to each other at Union Station when the team left for Pennsylvania. They vowed never to leave each other again. In 1957, Marlin was chosen as the Los Angeles Examiner Scholastic Association Athlete of the Year, All American Lineman of the Year, and made the All Catholic League. Mike, on the other hand, was named C.I.F. player of the Year, made the All C.I.F. League, and was chosen as an All American. Both twins were named Crusader Athletes of the Year and Most Valuable Players.

The McKeever twins loved the City of Los Angeles. They knew everyone and everyone knew them. They were featured in Life Magazine in 1956 and gained national notoriety. At 6' 1", 230 pound high school seniors, they received more than two dozen scholarship offers from Division 1 universities. In fact, Terry Brennan, the football coach from the University of Notre Dame located the twins on that farm in Acton and visited them personally attempting to convince them to attend Notre Dame. After all, where should Irish Catholic twins go to college? But, because of their love for the City of Los Angeles, they chose to attend the University of Southern California, just up the street from the campus that they had called home for four years.

At U.S.C., Marlin and Mike were Academic All-Americans, All-American football players, and track and field stars. They were the first twins ever to receive All-American honors. They both graduated from the University of Southern California as business and

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finance majors.

During their four years at U.S.C., Marlin and Mike continued to work at different jobs but the most notable were their “bit” parts in several movies. If you ever have nothing better to do, rent the blockbuster movie, “The Three Stooges Meet Hercules.” In that film, the twins play 3 different roles: slave rowers, centurion guards and the one-eyed Cyclops!

Following their graduation from U.S.C., Marlin was a first-round draft choice (fourth overall) by the Los Angeles Rams. Although Mike was drafted by the San Diego Chargers, he was unable to pass the NFL physical due to a head injury sustained during college. So Mike worked in the construction industry and trained for a place on the U.S. Olympic track and field team. Marlin and Mike agreed that Marlin would play in the NFL for five years then they would run McKeever’s Trojan Barrel, a bar and restaurant they bought across the street from the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, and live happily ever after. That plan came to a devastating end when Mike was hit head-on by a drunk driver the night of December 3, 1965.

Mike remained in a coma for 22 months and never regained consciousness. In spite of that, Marlin lived in the hospital with Mike during the off-seasons. In August, 1967, while in training camp with the Minnesota Vikings, a hallway dorm phone rang at approximately 2AM. Marlin’s roommate said, “Who could be calling at this hour?” Marlin said, “It’s for me. Mike just died.” Marlin answered the phone and Father Eric Wisniewski, O.Carm., confirmed Marlin’s remark. At that moment, a part of Marlin also died.

Marlin continued his career in the National Football League for 13 seasons playing for the Los Angeles Rams, Minnesota Vikings, Washington Redskins and Philadelphia Eagles. In what turned out to be his final television interview in September 2006, Marlin expressed his love for the Los Angeles Coliseum and remarked that he “spilled blood on the floor of the Coliseum for the better part of three decades.”

In 1987, Mike was posthumously inducted to the National Football Foundation College Hall

of Fame. And both twins were named to the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum University of Southern California’s Golden Anniversary All-Time Football Team, chosen by the Southern California Chapter of the Football Writer’s Association. Their names are memorialized on a bronze plaque at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum reflecting this honor. They are also memorialized on various plaques at the University of Southern California honoring their scholastic and athletic achievements. Marlin and Mike were elected to the U.S.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

Between them, Marlin and Mike had 7 children and 14 grandchildren. In their lifetimes, they were devoted fathers and Marlin was unanimously elected to the “Grandpa Hall of Fame” by his grandkids. Marlin and Mike were devout Catholics and Marlin, in particular, had a special devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Marlin and Mike volunteered their time and talents to a number of charitable organizations. Following Mike’s death, Marlin held a golf tournament in Mike’s name benefitting the City of Hope’s research of traumatic brain injuries. Prior to his death in 2006, Marlin turned his volunteer efforts to fund-raising for the Carmelite priests and promoting and preserving the Mt. Carmel scholastic and athletic legacy at the campus of Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino. Marlin always told me that the men who had the most influence on him in his lifetime were his dad, the priests and brothers who taught him at Mt. Carmel and Vince Lombardi, his coach at the Washington Redskins.

Marlin and Mike McKeever were inducted into the Mt. Carmel Hall of Fame in 2007 and were deemed “Legacies of Carmel” at the Crespi Carmelite Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2008. Marlin and Mike certainly enjoyed all the earthly pleasures of a most enchanted life, however, the spiritual and emotional bond between them was inescapable and virtually unfathomable. That bond transcended physical limitations and existed on a level that was other-worldly. No accolade, award, or honor bestowed on either Marlin or Mike was strong enough to defeat the bond between them or to defeat the love they had for each other.

May they rest in peace.

FALL BEGINS WITH F... AND RHYMES WITH BALL... THAT SPELLS FOOTBALL

By John Martin '65

What better way to pump-up for the ALEXANDER-McKEEVER FIELD dedication than to read a little bit about Mt. Carmel football history.

The Carmelites opened Mount Carmel High School in the 1930's. Carmel was never a big school and in the 1930's it was tiny by anyone's standards. In those early years they even used buildings at St. Raphael's for classrooms as well as most events and ceremonies requiring a church. So it is very fitting that we return to St. Raphael's to begin our celebration with a con-celebrated Carmelite Mass with former members of Mt. Carmel's famous Glee Club performing at 9 AM on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

Opening the doors of a private, all boy college-prep high school, requiring tuition to be paid in order to attend, during The Great Depression, was a decision based on Faith rather than facts and funding. So it is easy to understand that it took a few years to get a little traction. The beautiful school building, gymnasium, and pool, a luxurious feature back then, was finally completed in 1940. Just in time to prepare brave young men to go to war.

Unlike most high school boys today, the first decade of Mt. Carmel Crusaders were a different breed of multi-taskers. Nearly every one held part-time jobs or delivered newspapers to help put food on the table as well as pay tuition. Many excelled academically and several were exceptional athletes. Crusaders began to get their lives back on-track after the war and get on with the business of being teenagers. Some began to focus on their favorite sports, realizing that



John Hock '46



John Helwig '46

there may be a scholarship in it for them down the road. From 1946 to 1976, ten Mount Carmel Crusaders would be invited to play for National Football League teams. That is a very impressive number for any school of any size.

If you were to look up the definition of FIELD in the dictionary it might mention..." an open space for grazing animals or growing crops (or weeds), and another, "a grassy area marked with lines for playing sporting events." Our beloved field was a little of both and was never mistaken for a stadium. There were three exceptional football players in the 1940's: Jerry Hennessey '44, John Helwig '46, and John Hock '46. John Flynn '55 from Hobe Sound, Florida sent us a list of great Crusader athletes; the list confirmed that Jerry Hennessey '44 was the first Crusader football player to have the distinction of being named First Team All-C.I.F. in 1943.

Mount Carmel discovered after the war that they were blessed with not one, but two exceptional athletes in the class of 1946, John Helwig and John Hock. They were both very special shot-putters on the Track & Field team. John Helwig was the National High School champion who continued showcasing his gifts at the University of Notre Dame. John Hock, nearly as good, took his talent north to Santa Clara University. However, their first true love was always football. Helwig was big for a DB in those days at 6 ft. 2 in. and

210 lbs. and was a starter for the legendary Notre Dame Coach, Frank Leahy. Notre Dame's fame and good

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fortune was hitting on all cylinders after the war. After graduating from Notre Dame, John went on to play three or four years for the Chicago Bears. He must have liked life east of the Mississippi. He married, and raised his family in the garden state, New Jersey.

During the same period of time that John Helwig was achieving great success at Notre Dame so were Hock & Hennessey at Santa Clara. Jerry's football career was briefly interrupted by military service at the end of World War II. They both were huge linemen in those days and John received a scholarship to Santa Clara, and Jerry joined him with the help of the G.I. Bill. Santa Clara was a football power in the late 40's and early 50's. They accepted an invitation to play in the 1948 Rose Bowl, and beat a strong Kentucky team 21-13. UK was coached by the famous Bear Bryant. After graduation John had a long NFL career, first being drafted by the Cardinals, where he played in '50, '51 and '52 before being traded to the Rams and coming home to Los Angeles where he played five more years from '53 through '57. Jerry was also drafted by the Cardinals where he played in '50 & '51 before being traded to the Redskins for the '52 and '53 seasons. Later, Jerry Hennessey was an assistant coach at Mt.Carmel during the Alexander/McKeever glory days in the late 50's and was the Crusaders' head coach in '62 and '63.

The first Crusader from the 1950's to play in the NFL was Orlando Ferrante '50. Ferrante played end at Mt. Carmel and was a First Team All-Catholic selection in '48 and '49. He graduated from Carmel in 1950 but did not start playing for USC until 1953. He may have served his country for a couple of years during the Korean War before beginning USC, I am not sure of his history during that period. He received a football scholarship and had a very successful career at USC. He was 2nd Team All Conference in '54 and 1st Team All-Conference in '55. He was chosen to play in the East-West Shrine Game in 1956 and graduated with a BS in Business Administration. He served in the Navy for a couple of years before continuing his football career. He was drafted by the Chargers and played for them in '60 & 61. One of his teammates back then was QB Jack Kemp who would become just as famous for his politics as his ball playing. This big, bad professional football player left a professional ball club to join the Mickey Mouse Club. A seemingly unlikely candidate to become an executive with the Walt Disney Company, but that in

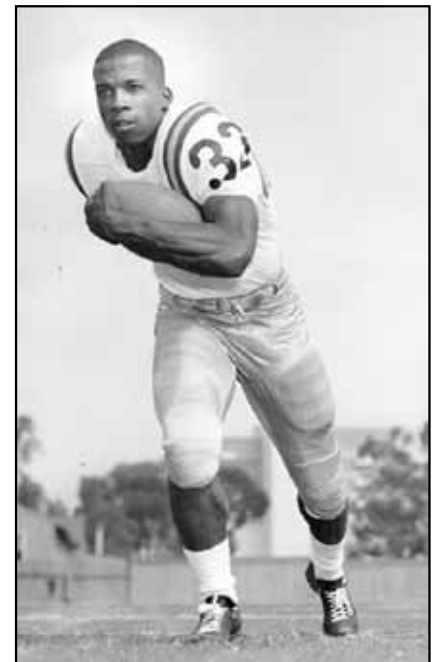
fact is what he did. Orlando was named a Disney Legend in 2002. His first major assignment was over-seeing the creation and installation of the Enchanted Tiki Room. During his 40 year career with Disney, the Imagineering Engineer is also credited with the planning and opening of Euro Disney.

A few years later were our beloved All-Americans Marlin & Mike McKeever '57. Mike's career was ended prematurely by an injury. However, Marlin was drafted by the Rams after graduating with honors from USC. He was named All-Pro and played over a dozen years in the NFL. They were followed by UCLA's Kermit Alexander '59. The former All-American was a first round pick with the San Francisco 49ers. He was also the NCAA Triple-Jump Champion and was headed to the 1964 Olympics before signing with the 49ers. The former Pro-Bowler played 13 seasons in the NFL. Kermit had the highest profile of all Crusader football heroes not only for his life on the field but for his life outside of football as well. Kermit is a terrific public speaker who is in high demand today.

Google..... KERMIT'S SONG

And CLICK on the ESPN SPECIAL about him...to bring you up to speed on his latest activities. Kermit "The Mentor" is also famous for bringing his nephew Russell White to Crespi. Russell would become the most famous and successful athlete in Crespi history and go on to star at Cal, before being drafted by the Rams.

Crusader fans would have to wait until the class of 1969 for another NFL player to come along. Ronnie Lumpkin '69 played DB at Arizona State and was drafted by the Giants where he played for three seasons. David Scott '69 played at San Jose State and enjoyed a cup of coffee one pre-season playing LB for the Rams. Joe



Kermit Alexander '59



Orlando Ferrante '50

Hicks '69 was a truly gifted athlete winning the Ford-sponsored National Punt, Pass and Kick Contest when he was an 8th grader at St. Raphael's. While at Carmel, Joe was named 1st Team All-League in football, basketball, and baseball. Joe played QB, FB, RB, TE, WR and CB while at San Jose State. However, he was most famous for his kicking and punting ability. Stanford and San Jose State were Bay Area rivals and played each other every year for bragging rights. Joe and David's senior year the Stanford QB was Heisman trophy winner Jim Plunkett. His favorite receiver was Randy Vataha who went on to be a star at New England. That year, every time Stanford got the ball they were starting at their own 20 or worse. Joe kicked every ball out of the end zone and stuck every punt in the "Coffin Corner." A San Jose teammate named Dave Chaney played out-of-his-skull and racked up 18 solo tackles at LB. Stanford would go on to win the Rose Bowl that year, but Joe, David and their Spartan teammates beat Stanford 7 - 6. Joe would receive an offer to play for the New York Giants and possibly reunite with his old Crusader buddy Ronnie Lumpkin, as well as the opportunity to become the first African-American punter in the NFL. Ford wanted to give him a brand new Ford if he made the team. However, Joe was beat-up from the feet-up and burned-out on football. Instead he decided on a safer career. Joe would spend the next 30 years with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department where he was only shot once. He is retired now, and spends time

between his homes in Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

The '70's produced Melvin Jackson '73. Mel received a scholarship to play for USC from '73 through '76. After graduation he was drafted in the 12th round by Green Bay. He played for "The Pack" for five years from '76 through '80. Last, but certainly not least was Leo Grey '75. Leo played at UNLV. The Lord does indeed work in mysterious ways. Leo was picked-up by the Oakland Raiders in 1980 as a Free Agent just in time to win a Super Bowl ring. He played DB for the Raiders in '80 and '81 before heading north to Canada. He played in the CFL in '82, '83, '84 and '85. While playing for Montreal he played in the Grey Cup. What football fan would not love to have played in a Super Bowl game as well as a Grey Cup game? It should be noted that the average career for players in the NFL is only two years. Leo lives in Las Vegas today where he is a very successful entrepreneur and motivational speaker. Clearly, there were some very talented athletes that began their football careers on a tiny square of grass and weeds that after October 15, 2011, will forever be known as ALEXANDER - McKEEVER FIELD.



Melvin Jackson '73

A Journey from Alexander/McKeever Field to the House That Ruth Built

On Saturday, October 15, 2011 the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks in conjunction with the Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation will dedicate the sports activity field at Mt. Carmel Recreation Center in honor of three Mount Carmel High School Legends, Kermit Alexander, Marlin McKeever, and Mike McKeever. The field that is currently used for sports activities provided to thousands of neighborhood inner city youngsters participating in the Park's programming, is the same field used by Alexander and the McKeever Twins to hone their skills before moving to the next level that included distinguished collegiate and professional football careers.

As a Mt. Carmel graduate (1967) and Crusader athlete, I witnessed first hand the Alexander/McKeever mystique as it provided pride and respect for that grand old school on 71st Street and Hoover.

On September 3, 1971, I realized a childhood dream to play professional sports at the highest level when the Detroit Tigers purchased my contract from the Montgomery Rebels, their AA minor league affiliate, and I joined the team in New York. I will never forget the excitement of boarding the team bus with the likes of Gates Brown, Bill Freehan, Willie Horton, Mickey Lolich, Mickey Stanley, and future Hall of Famer Al Kaline. As my career path and flashback began I recalled watching these men defeat the St. Louis Cardinals in the 1968 World Series on the lounge television at my Chapman College dormitory. The joy and anticipation of traveling to Yankee Stadium, the greatest sports facility in America, was indescribable. Having grown up in southern California, I often visited amusement parks like Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, Pacific Ocean Park, and Long Beach's The Pike. However, the ride from the Roosevelt Hotel to Yankee Stadium observing the real life characters on the streets of

New York was equally entertaining. As my mind drifted into recalling the journey that put me on the Tigers' team bus, it all came back to Mt. Carmel High School and the encouragement, nurturing, support, and exposure I received. The baseball odyssey began on the field that is soon to be named Alexander/McKeever. I entered Mt. Carmel in 1963 with aspirations of following in the footsteps of Crusader All Catholic League Basketball Players Roscoe Proctor and Steve Yost, and hopefully earn a college scholarship. My freshman and sophomore years I ran Track and had no thoughts of playing baseball. Destiny struck my junior year during a gym class on the future Alexander/McKeever Field. We were playing softball on this day. Mt. Carmel's "Mr. Baseball" and Varsity Captain, Chuck Stone (1967), was also in the class. Chuck's enthusiasm and confidence in my future convinced me to try our National Pastime. Although I played, Little League (coached and driven to the games by Mr. Adams, the father of Bobby Adams who attended Carmel in 1963-64), I soon discovered the difficulties of taking a six-year hiatus from a skilled sport like baseball. The Catholic League was an extremely competitive baseball conference. During the period from 1963-68 future major leaguers Dave Nelson (Serra), Ken Rudolph (Cathedral), Greg Goosen and Tim Foli (Notre Dame) competed in the Catholic League.

Also, John Phillip Meyer (Pius X) was the First Round Selection of the Philadelphia Phillies in the 1967 June Free Agent Draft, while in 1964, Mike Small (St. Anthony) was one of the last "Bonus Babies" before Major League Baseball instituted the draft in 1965.

As the 1966 Varsity Baseball season began, I struck out my first six times at bat. The dejection and embarrassment seemed insurmountable and I wanted to quit. Had it not been for Stone pumping me with confidence, Knute Rockne never did it

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better, and tossing me hours of batting practice; Harry Swintek, a better first basemen at the time, graciously moving to third base; and the confidence displayed by coaches Ted Neal and Dick Larsen, my baseball career would have ended in 1966 at Manchester Park. My god-given skills, parlayed with an outstanding Crusader support system, and the exposure provided by the Catholic League, resulted in me being drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 27th Round of the 1967 June Free Agent Draft. Although I thought the five hundred dollars the Reds offered as a signing bonus was a generous offer, my father had the good sense to know the value of the basketball scholarship offered by Washington State University. With my ultimate goal being to play professional sports and after witnessing my Crusader basketball teammate Larry Collins (1966) for three seasons, I was able to recognize the "Real Deal" and it wasn't me. Consequently, baseball seemed obviously the better vehicle to take towards my dream. Unfortunately, in spite of twenty seven offers to play college basketball, as of June 1967 not one baseball opportunity was available to me. Destiny II appeared when the Captain of the Chapman College (University today) Baseball Team, a Division II powerhouse, lobbied for his head coach to take a chance on a raw recruit with only two years high school baseball experience. It was an extremely tough sale given the limited number of baseball scholarships allowed by the NCAA and the high competitive level and expectation of the Chapman program. The Chapman Captain remained aggressive and persistent and Coach Deese finally offered me a scholarship to play baseball for the Chapman Panthers. Attending Chapman was the best decision I made which jump started my career. And as a result of attending

Chapman, 18 months after being selected in the 27th Round in 1967, I signed to play professional baseball after being drafted in the 1st Round by the Detroit Tigers. I will be eternally grateful for the Chapman Baseball Captain who made this all possible. The Captain is none other than Bob Zamora, Mt. Carmel 1964. For the record, led by three former Crusaders, Chuck Stone, myself, and Bob Zamora, Chapman won the 1968 NCAA Division II National Baseball Championship. I enjoyed a 43 year run in major league baseball as a player, scout, executive, and founder of Major League Baseball's number one Community Outreach Initiative, Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI). And it all started on the Mount Carmel High School Sports Activity Field.



John Young '67

Back in my day.....

By John Martin '65

There were several fine football players at Carmel during the 1960's. Class of 1960 lineman Mike Brown and fullback Frank Pozsgai were All-Catholic/ All-C.I.F. and QB Mike Arnone would go on to have a very successful career at Cal Poly Pomona. An interesting thing happened during the football season of '62. In those days Los Angeles had three major daily newspapers. The Los Angeles Times was always a morning paper and The Herald Examiner and The Mirror were evening papers. I believe it may have been the Herald that featured the Professional, University and College Player of the Week. One week during that football season the featured professional player was Marlin McKeever '57 for the Rams; Kermit Alexander '59 was the university player from UCLA; and Mike Arnone '60 the college player honored from Cal Poly Pomona.....all three CRUSADERS SONS from a little field of weeds that fifty years later would become known as ALEXANDER-McKEEVER FIELD.

The class of 1961's John Fashing received a scholarship to UCLA to play on their offensive line. Roscoe Proctor '62 was a 6 ft. 5 in. 220 lbs. WR. Roscoe was a First Team All-Catholic selection in football, basketball and baseball. He signed with the Angels right after graduation. Class of '62 also featured All-Catholic RB Dennis Loehr and OG John Iacano.

The 1963 class featured All-Catholic center Jerry Kelly, who would go on to play center on Notre Dame's 1966 National Championship Team. The 1964 class had All-Catholic Vince Janowitz who received a scholarship to play DE for the University of Washington. He also was a three sport varsity letterman playing baseball and basketball, as well as football. Tom Fallo '64 was All-Catholic at FS and another super student. He played briefly at UC Santa Barbara before transferring to UCLA to finish his first degree. Today he is Dr. Thomas Fallo, president of El Camino College. Another All-Catholic DB was Bob Zamora who only played football his senior year because he was really a baseball player. Today Bob is in the Chapman University Hall of Fame. His senior year at Chapman they won the Division II National Championship before he signed with the Padres. Bob is still coaching high school baseball in Orange County at Capistrano Valley HS. The only head coach in the

program's 36 year history, his boys have won six Large-School C.I.F. titles. His son Pete played 10 years for the Angels organization. The CVHS field's name? What else, Bob Zamora Field. Dennis Murray was a two way starter and a true warrior. He was also our Student Body President. He was tough enough at center and linebacker but really too small for a college career. Instead he would become the Student Body President at Long Beach State, run for congress twice before he was 30 and today is Dr. Dennis J. Murray, president of Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. The most successful college football player in the Class of '64 was Tom Williams. Tom also earned varsity letters in football, basketball, and baseball. He was a 6 ft. 2 in. 215 lbs. ambidextrous lefty QB that was just as accurate with his right. Running backs loved him because on pitchout plays he would always lay the first wicked block. Tom played second string behind a sophomore. It was some kind of a re-building thing. He would not start, but once in, he would lead us right down the field and score. Then he would be taken out again. That year we went 0-8-1. My father was a huge football fan. He said to me after another frustrating loss, not to worry about Tom Williams, that he would be a pro some day. I thought he was nuts; the coaches had Tom playing behind a sophomore on a winless team. Tom went to Cal State L.A. his first year out of Carmel but did not play football. Feeling he still had a little football left in him he transferred to L.A. Harbor JC where he took over at QB for Don Horn who had just lead Harbor to an undefeated season. Tom Williams quarterbacked Harbor to two more undefeated seasons then followed Horn to San Diego State University. Horn had just lead SDSU to the National Division II title before being drafted by Green Bay. Tom was the ultimate copy-cat and lead SDSU to another National title. His senior year he shared time with another QB whose name escapes me, but also ended up in the NFL. There have been many fine QB's at SDSU since, however Tom Williams '64 still holds the single-game touchdown pass record with six.

The class of 1965 was unique because we also had a pair of football playing twins named Wayne and Ron Kobzeff. They arrived on campus in the fall of '61 and decided to go out for the freshman football team.

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I am pretty sure neither of them had ever heard of the McKeever's. They were quiet and almost shy and had never played football before. We freshman stumbled around our little corner of the field with no games scheduled, no coach, and raggedy ass hand-me-down uniforms. One day a varsity assistant coach came over and had us begin to do one-on-one tackling drills to kill a little time. The Kobzeff twins squared off against each other like two rams in runt. The collisions were so loud and violent the varsity coach stopped practice and came over to watch the show. The twins may not have known much about football then, but clearly they were fearless and could really hit. They never were as big or as fast as the McKeever's. However, they were naturally ripped like Tarzan with freaky triceps from paddling. When it came to pound for pound reckless abandon, I am sure that our twins were close. In the early 60's surfing became a phenomenon that would permeate teen culture and enchant many Southern California youth. Music by the Beach Boys and the smell of the Pacific proved overwhelming for the Kobzeffs. When Colorado State University contacted Wayne about playing for them, to get rid of them, he said he could not come without his brother. CSU said fine, bring him too. It was just a ruse. The twins were addicted, and had ears full of sand. Colorado had no surf. Today, Wayne & Ron at 64 still surf, and live in Hermosa Beach. Another fine player was Greg Williams at RB. Greg was named First Team All-Catholic and like the McKeever's was an outstanding student as well as our ASB President. He too received a scholarship to USC and played RB as a freshman. The star RB that year was the Heisman Trophy winner, Mike Garrett. Greg red-shirted the next year to get bigger and stronger for his junior year. USC transferred in a new RB who would win another Heisman Trophy, O.J. Simpson. Greg decided to give up hitting heads and stick to hitting books and graduated with honors in 1969.

Football is a team sport, and it takes 11 guys playing well together to win. There were about 50 players on every team. Please excuse me for only mentioning a few. True Crusader fans loved you all. The 1966 class had a couple I want to mention. Tommy "Butch" Williams was named First Team All-Catholic at WR. Butch was also a four-year varsity letterman and named All-Catholic in baseball. Butch was a very good student and passed-up a professional baseball contract and instead accepted a scholarship to attend Santa Clara University to play football and baseball. Raul Sosa, another fine student,

was named First Team All-Catholic at FB and LB. He received a scholarship Loyola Marymount University. He retired his football cleats to concentrate on becoming an attorney.

I may get things mixed up a little for the classes of 1967 and 1968. I only caught a few games during that time. Uncle Sam had me working out of town. I do want to brag about a few players. 1967 had a fine RB named James Nash. James had many talents. He was a super student and a great singer who sang all over the world with the Mitchell Boys Choir before coming to Mt. Carmel; he played musical instruments just as well as he played football at Whittier College. Today James holds multiple degrees, speaks several languages, is married to a woman with movie-star good looks, has two brilliant accomplished children and is the director of CBS News, Los Angeles. The years run together in an old man's memory. I want to mention a few more football players from those years. Woodrow Shirley is built like a rock, and looks like he could still play today if he wanted. He has a son in the NFL and another playing D1. Apples never fall far from the tree. Harry Swintek was another life-long baseball player that Coach Larson forced to play football. Harry gave up his first base spot to future major leaguer John Young. God rewarded Harry by converting him into an All-League DB, a Junior College All-American DB at East Los Angeles College, and a NAIA All-American DB at Loyola Marymount University. Mt. Carmel had an offensive guard in those days that only weighed 165 lbs. His name was Jim Edge. Jim would also become a starter at guard over at East L.A. He was truly a junk yard dog. Jim was so tough the only thing for him to do was to become a cop. I loved seeing younger brothers attend Carmel when there were so many other schools closer to home. Larry Bicklemier '63 and Harry Bicklemier '69 were classic high school football warriors. The only way for opponents to stop them was to shoot them. Shooting was illegal then, and still is today at some high schools. When I was a sophomore I thought that RB Lenard Talmo '63 was all that and a bag of chips. Then QB Rich Talmo '69 arrived and Lenard had to share the bag. You already know about Lumpkin, Hicks & Scott from '69. My day is done....and my memory is fading fast. I hope to see you at the ALEXANDER-McKEEVER FIELD DEDICATION on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

WHAT IS A MENTOR?

By John Martin '65

The dictionary says a mentor is a wise, loyal friend, teacher, coach, and advisor.

Johnnie Raines '64 pointed out to me the need and significance of mentors in South-Central several years ago. Because of Johnnie's influence, I have been an inner-city student advocate and mentor for nearly seven years now. Don McCammack '61 & John Fashing '61 have created a team of mentors for students at St. Raphael's just up the street from Mount Carmel RC.

I have learned that the key to success for many inner-city students is a good mentor, often even more important than money. You can be given a scholarship, but without a mentor the chance to maximize that opportunity may be wasted. Some students have no one to talk to about college and career paths. Some come from good families with two parents, but never having any experience with what college is like, or what it takes to be successful in college, their parents are unable to advise their sons and daughters.

Sometimes the most powerful and lasting way for a mentor to influence their mentees is leading by example. I feel this was the case for me and my grammar school classmates. The most influential mentor in our lives from 5th grade through 8th grade was Joseph Nelson Hicks, our coach for every sport in every season. Mr. Hicks was a perfect role-model in every way. He was so knowledgeable in every sport that we were the perennial league champions in everything. But more important than winning, he taught us how to act at all times and what it meant to be true sportsman. He never lost his temper when we made mistakes. He would calmly explain what we did wrong and tell us to go back and try again. He was also a wonderful husband and

father who, even with seven children of his own, he found time for us. His kids were always at the park with us until they were old enough to play. His wife was as beautiful as he was handsome. They dressed impeccably and made a striking couple. All their children looked perfect on every occasion. Again, by example, everyone knew the Hicks family was very special. All seven children graduated from college; Joe and Anna were married for over 65 years until Anna's death in 2010. Once Joe shared with me as an adult, that in the late 1930's he had been offered a college scholarship after graduating from a Catholic high school in the East, but that the offer was rescinded when it was discovered that he was African-American. There was no bitterness in the statement; he was simply stating a fact. Joe became a very successful entrepreneur but often worked three jobs to provide for his young family. We grew very close; he was a pallbearer at my father's funeral. I continue to call him and sometimes visit him seeking his wise counsel to this day. Two of Joe's sons were Crusaders, Roland '68 and Joe Jr. '69.

I met a very special Crusader a couple of years ago, Donnie Stevenson '73. Donnie went to Stanford after Carmel and played DB. He then went to USC Medical School. Today Dr. Donald Stevenson, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon in Inglewood. Dr. Don grew up in Compton and took a circuitous route to Carmel. Due to neighborhood politics involving the Piru street gang he passed on Compton Centennial High School and went to visit Washington High School. No one there seemed too eager to help him and he got tired of waiting around. The Lord works in mysterious ways as Donnie and his friend decided to go check out Mt. Carmel.

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Donnie was not a Catholic but said he loved the warm reception he received and everything felt right, so he decided to attend the all-boy high school on 70th & Hoover. I began telling the good doctor about another Crusader orthopedic surgeon friend of mine named Vince Carter '53. Doctor Carter was a partner in the world famous orthopedic sports medicine group Kerlan, Jobe & Carter. Donnie grinned and stopped me mid-sentence telling me that Dr. Carter was the team Doc when Donnie played for Mt. Carmel. He shared that Dr. Carter was HIS mentor, and the reason he is an orthopedic surgeon today. Donnie told me that he broke his collar bone during football season his junior year and Dr. Carter performed the operation that made him as good as new. Dr. Stevenson told me that exactly 10 football seasons later, he found himself assisting Dr. Carter in surgery, operating on another high school football player with the exact same injury. That is pretty good mentoring.

For teenage boys, a strong male mentor is very powerful and important. My grammar school classmates and I were given a new teacher for the second semester of the 7th grade. We went from a deaf senior-citizen nun who was used to teaching college students, not smelly junior-high boys, high on testosterone, to a giant of a man, named Tony Perna '52. Mr. Perna freely handed out corporal punishment like Halloween candy. And we loved him for it too. What can I say; boys are weird at that age I guess. The girls liked him too, even though they never experienced a swat or two with his hard-wood pointer. For us boys it was the best semester ever. He demanded our full attention and perhaps that was the reason math was no longer so mysterious for my ADD brain. All of the boys and girls missed him when he left St. Raphael's to teach at Mt. Carmel. Tony went back, to give back a little at Mt. Carmel before attending Med School. God had

other plans for him. Life got in the way when he married, started a family, and taught biology at Carmel for the next dozen years.

Parents, teachers, and coaches are often the primary mentors. However for me the most powerful mentor was a peer and fellow student at Mt. Carmel named Chuck Hurd '63. Chuck was a true Renaissance man, although I did not know what that meant at the time. He was most things I was not. He was a superior student, an avid reader, could sing and play a musical instrument, and appreciated poetry and jazz. He was a fearless and very tough football player. Even laden with books, he had a slight swagger; he was blessed with size and confidence that translated to on-lookers that he was all business. He was from St. Columbkille parish that was East of Hoover. The neighborhood around Carmel was pretty hoodie, even in the early 60's. However, as far as I know, Chuck was never bothered by the neighborhood thugs. Chuck encouraged me to begin reading books. Can you imagine that, reading books just for fun? He encouraged me to work-out in preparation for the coming football season. Can you imagine that, thinking and worrying about something that was 10 months away? He planned on becoming an attorney when he left Carmel. He received a scholarship to USC and is practicing law in Hawaii today. I did eventually end up with a degree in English, but I still don't know what I want to do when I grow-up. Peculiar as he was, he was the perfect big brother/mentor for me.

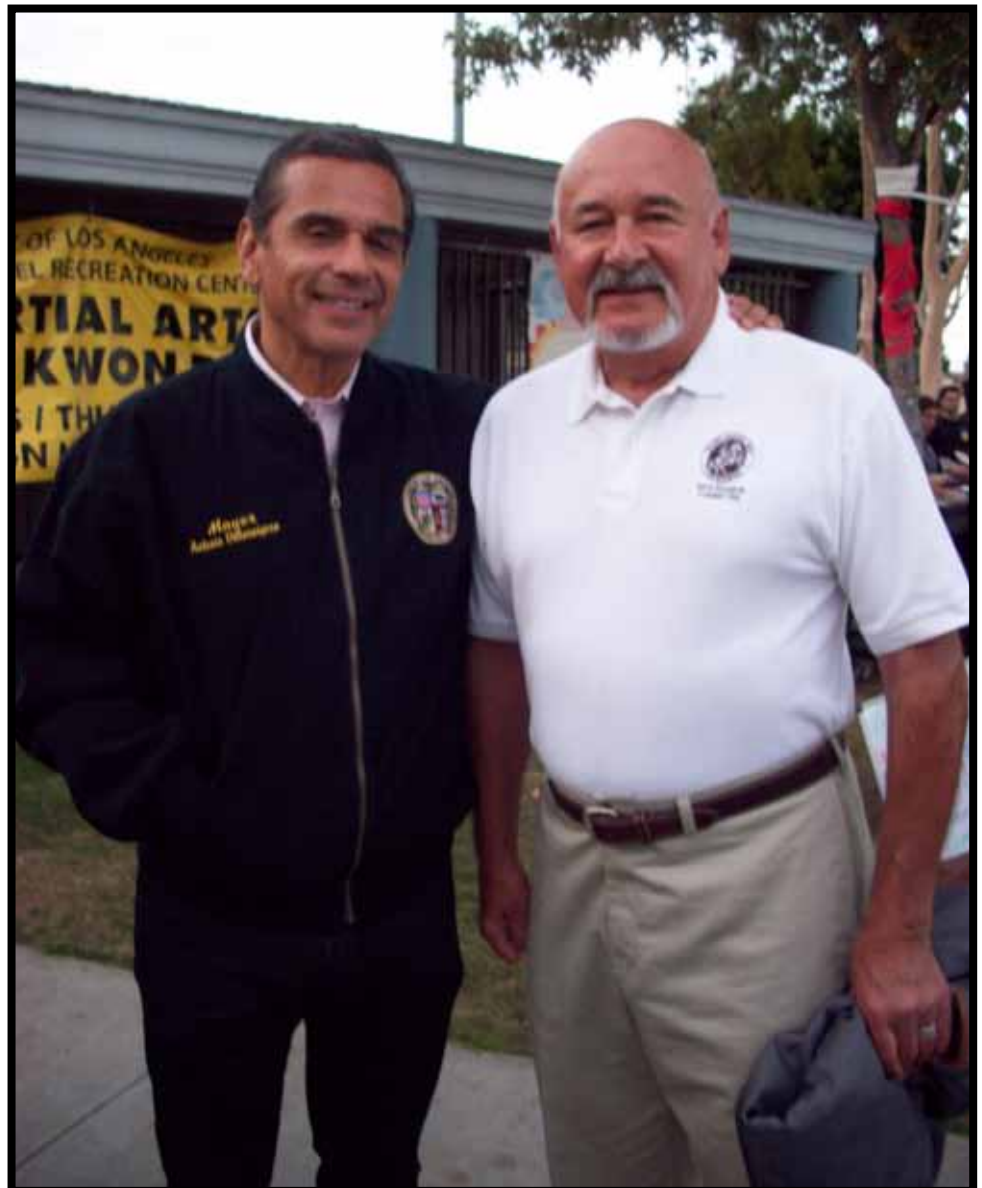
Another Crusader mentor who I greatly admire today is Greg Williams '65. He was our ASB President in '65. Greg was a fine athlete, who was named All-Catholic in both football and baseball. He was also a super student that received a scholarship to USC. He can play piano, guitar, banjo and drums as well as create amazing wire sculptures. Greg is a very special mentor. He shares all of the blessings he received

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as a high school student from his two wonderful parents, who have been married for over 65 years, and still live in Greg's childhood home on East 135th Street. Like his parents, Greg has been married to his high school sweetheart, Elaina Holmes-Williams, St. Michael's HS '65, for 42 years. Their two near perfect babies grew up to be Cal Bear grads. Greg has planned well and worked hard his whole life. When he hung-up his football cleats at USC he began to study the Martial Art of Tae Kwon Do for the next 40 plus years, and in 2008 he was enshrined into the Martial Arts Hall of Fame as a sixth degree grand master on the same night as Randy Couture. The Nickerson Gardens housing projects are only a mile or two but a world away from Greg's childhood home. A few years ago he became a mentor to Marcus Scroggins, a third generation resident of Nickerson Gardens, the eldest of three with three different fathers who were all in prison. Marcus graduated with honors from Verbum Dei High School but still the challenges for all concerned were great. Marcus ended up at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York under the benevolent eye of President Dr. Dennis Murray '64. During Marcus' sophomore year, his 37 year old mother suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage and remains in a coma today. For the next two and half years Marcus' grandparents tried to get him to quit school and return home to raise his younger brother. Greg, the master coach and mentor, was able to get the grandparents to see the bigger picture, and convinced Marcus to stay and finish college. He graduated in 2009 and today lives in Rancho Cucamonga and is in a managerial development program at Southern California Edison.

A mentor is a wise, loyal friend, teacher, coach and advisor. The MCAF needs more mentors. Would you like to become a mentor?



Mayor Antonio Villarigosa & 1963 MCHS ASB President George Guzman discuss Alexander/McKeever Field dedication during site inspection at Mt.Carmel RC

MCAF FIELD DEDICATION HUGE SUCCESS

Approximately 300 guests showed up on Saturday, October 15, 2011 for the dedication of the Alexander-McKeever Field located on the site of the once famous Mt. Carmel High School. The day's activities began with a 9 AM Mass at adjacent St. Raphael's Church. The main celebrant was Fr. Gus Carter, O'Carm. '41 who was also a former principal at Mt. Carmel High School and Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino. Assisting Fr. Gus with the con-celebration were Monsignor Al Koppes, O'Carm., Fr. Tracy O'Sullivan, O'Carm., St. Raphael's pastor, Fr. William Muller, S.J., President of Verbum Dei High School and Fr. Paul Henson, O'Carm. Principal of Crespi Carmelite High School.

Several members of the Mount Carmel Glee Club reunited to perform during Mass and at the dedication ceremony. The Crusaders' first Glee Club director was world famous Roger Wagner.

The bar was always set high and fearless Lance Williams, PhD '65, stepped to the front to direct members that had not sung together in nearly 50 years. Those in attendance were amazed by their ability to still harmonize so beautifully. There were a few tears observed during the singing of the Alma Mater.

The Field today is part of the Mount Carmel Recreation Center at 70th and Hoover St. in South-Central. The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks' Superintendent of the Pacific Region, Mark Mariscal, was the dedication's Master of Ceremony. Mariscal said it was an easy decision to allow the field to be named in honor of the three former Mt. Carmel teammates. Kermit Alexander '59 and Mike & Marlin McKeever '57 were later named All-Americans at UCLA & USC. The LADRP felt that the three men would

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L to R: Marlin's son David McKeever, Mike's son Barry McKeever, John Young '67, Marlin McKeever Jr., Kermit Alexander '59



L to R: Ross Valderain '59, Billy Watson '58, Charles Pech '59, Tom Fitzgerald '59, Kermit Alexander '59, Head Coach Walt Ambord, Greg Johnson '58, and Rich DeRosa '59

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serve as perpetual positive role-models for young athletes in the old neighborhood, demonstrating that they too can achieve great things with hard work and a good education.

Bernard Parks, Los Angeles City Council member from the Eighth District, a St. John Vianany High School graduate, talked about the positive impact Catholic school graduates from inner-city Catholic schools have had on the growth and development of the city of Los Angeles. The Mount Carmel name survives and the field will serve as an historical landmark and reminder of the Carmelite legacy in the community. Event Chairman John Young '67 made naming the field possible.

When the former Detroit Tiger played his first big league game it was in Yankee Stadium, the founder of MLB/RBI (Reviving Baseball in the Inner-city) shared that he recalled on that day

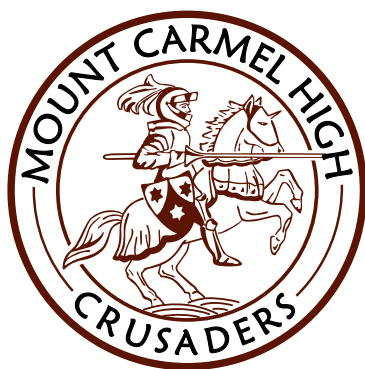
where it all started for him. During a gym class on that little field his classmate Chuck Stone '67 watched him hit a softball over the fence and encouraged him to try out for the baseball team. Young, Stone and Bob Zamora '64 would win a national championship together at Chapman University in 1968. The three Crusaders would eventually sign professional baseball contracts.

John has spent the last 25 years coaching, mentoring and counseling young athletes in RBI. He is also a board member of the Mount Carmel Alumni Foundation, the education based 501c3 that supports inner-city Catholic schools and their students in a variety of ways.

The MCAF co-sponsored the event with the LADRP and during his speech Young proclaimed that from this day forward The Alexander-McKeever Field is hallowed ground.

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