

# Many Sports Figures Enrolled At CBS

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ceased, played for the Sacramento Solons for two years; Kettle played in the majors for 20 years.

## Runs Paid Off

Brother Edmund, who was athletic director then, used to pay a \$1 for every home-run; Wirts collected \$18 one summer he recalls.

The portly Brother used to keep a scrap book of every detail of the game in those days, but the volume has been misplaced.

The nature of the sports at Christian Brothers changed when the College became a School in 1925, moving to its second site at 21st and Broadway.

The Sacramento, CBS magazine of 1925, relates: "Fairly well organized teams continued to represent the school in the leading sport, but they had to act on their own initiative without a coach or athletic moderator.

"As soon as the new school opened its doors, steps were immediately taken to meet these needs.

## Sought Coach

"Brother Nicholas, Prefect of Discipline, was appointed to the post. He began to organize the various teams and the students readily responded by trying out for them; he succeeded in supplying them with uniforms and the necessary equipment.

"Only one thing was now lacking, an efficient coach."

Paul O'Neil, a UC 1923 grad, and All-American in basketball and baseball, took the coaching chores. In the first football game of the year, Joe Rooney scored three of four CBS TDs and

pass for a 40 yard TD in beating Nevada City, 26-12.

Sacramento High was already an old rival in 1925, being the only other local high school. In the inter-city game that year, Sac High whitewashed CBS, 34-0. The CBS team was hampered by injuries to Hester, Louis Lagormarsino and Harold Bunker.

## Two-Sport Men

The names in basketball and baseball were about the same as in football in those days with few exceptions. There were no cars, no TV or other amusements so that a ball, a bat or maybe a hoop were the prime sources of recreation.

Perhaps that's why some remarkable nines were produced in that era. Sacramento Junior College and the semi-pro team of Spartan A.C. were drubbed that year, although CBS couldn't break the jinx over Sacramento High.

Joe Rooney and Clarence Hamilton were the top pitchers with Hester and Bunker defensive starts.

In 1928, Joe Marty got his start in baseball as a CBS player having made the varsity as a freshman. He later played for the San Francisco Seals in the Pacific Coast League and then for Chicago.

Clem "Boo" Coyle was a classmate who went into semi-pro action before finishing with the Solons; Andy House attended St. Mary's College before signing with the Pittsburgh Pirates; Joe Noonan followed the same path to SMC and to the PCL, and is now a deputy district attorney here.

an outstanding three-letter man, probably one of the finest catchers of his time; all-round athletes abounded such as Pat Wamsley and Jimmy Flynn, Bud Soost and Jim "Beans" Bartosh.

In a post-season game with Sacramento in 1927, CBS was clobbered 83-0 before the slaughter ended; Bordes had been injured, two broken ribs to be exact; Joe Tatti was the coach and Jim Flynn, a soph at the time, was sent in to sub for Bordes.

Another great who starred in baseball and basketball was Henry "Bud" Hanna, an SMC grad also, who came back to coach at CBS as did Flynn, playing for the Solons later. Others were Pat Bennett, presently chief of the traffic bureau, Leo Vintainer, Tony and Mark Saporovich;

## Brothers-Four

And the Knezovich brothers, Paul, Al, Mel and Don "Ducky", all of whom made the baseball varsity in their freshman year; Mel later went to San Diego and then Cleveland.

Under Flynn, CBS blanked Sacramento High, 6-0, in 1935, the first such occurrence in the school's history and then repeated the feat in '36, as CBS recorded its first undefeated season in football.

Bud Hanna coached in the second semester of '37 as Flynn returned to college studies; in the fall of '38, a second coach, Les Groux was hired as football mentor to begin the era of specialization at CBS.

On the '35 team were George Gillette, Peter Arch-

Bill Palm, center in '35 and '36;

## 1936 Greats

In 1936, Ralph Gillette distinguished himself as a QB in the old single wing formation where the QB was blocking back; Gillette would "knock them in the air before he knocked them down"; Charles Schanz who pitched his first game at CBS, was a tackle and center on the gridiron, but went on to the majors as a hurler, retiring in 1954 with the Solons; and Ted Gardner.

In the basketball mid-30s, Bob Neely, Babe Pinaglia and Bill Francis were inseparables, the "unholy three" as Flynn tagged them; in the first practice session of the '35 season, the trio was caught chewing tobacco during drills.

They were kept dribbling in an extra workout until all they could do was swallow— Flynn recalls that was the end of tobacco chewing, at least on the court.

The roundball game was defense-dominated in the 30s with the two-hand set the main weapon but scores were high if they reached the 20s.

## Became Rivals

Two ace gridders in '35, Dave Simmons, a guard who went to Santa Clara, and Victor Martinelli, guard and end, who attended St. Mary's, were captains at the flip of the coin in the 1940 big game between the two college rivals.

three TDs against St. Mary's High of Berkeley that year, all on 50-yard plus runs; Russ Crocco set a long-standing ground gaining mark.

The baseball team led by Knezovich brothers' pitching, with Jack Packard also on the mound, and John McNamara behind the plate lost only four games in three years under Curry.

Other notables were Dick Markham who went on to play with the Detroit chain as an outfielder as did Ronnie King and Vince Vallerino, with the Dodger chain; King is now a scout for the Phillies locally;

Not to forget Joe Kirrene who was one of the first local baseballers to sign a bonus contract; the Chicago White Sox reportedly signed him for about \$35,000 in '43;

## Blanked Sac'to

Al Anicich, later with the Solons, Bill Zanze and Joe Lutz, now Brother Bruce, F.S.C., two years all-city at second base.

A memorable victory was CBS's 1-0 blanking of Sacramento with Al Knezovich in a pitchers' duel with George

Stanich, who later starred for UCLA.

There was the time in 1946 when Pete Vartanian took a short screen pass from Harold Matthews with 30 seconds to go and ran for 70 yards to beat St. Vincent's High and Latola scored two TDs to beat McClatchy's all-time great team.

## Final Fling

1954 was CBS' final fling as a four-year high to rack up some greats; that year's football squad dumped McClatchy, 29-27, behind Dave Jesmer who later played in the '57 Rose Bowl for Oregon State;


Charles Chatfield, a college coach now; Bob Leonard, then an all-city defensive halfback now in the sheriff's department; Jerry Cook, who went to Marquette and Frank Spiering, athletic manager who's a New York playwright — that crew helped make CBS all-city champs in 1954.

Those were the eras and just some of the names that made Christian Brothers synonymous with never-say-die competition in the true sense of the word.

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It was in '36 that the La Salle Club, promoter of sports at CBS, and Bishop Armstrong since 1957, was organized with such men as Fred Carison, Walter Hicks, Cy Pultz, Al Westlake, Larry Williams, Lou Bordisso, Kettle Wirts and Brothers Joseph and Patrick.

After the war years, sports boomed at CBS as Ray Curry, who coached from 1945-48, produced such squads as the '46 boys: Joe Bertain, at quarterback; Harold Matthews, another QB, Dick Bertain, Jerry Mikacich, who was all-city center, Jerry Sheid, all-city end, Tom O'Neill of the O'Neill clan, Jim and Dan Lahey, Russ Crocco, left half in the Notre Dame box; John Pultz, Joe Concannon, all-city guard, Larry Kehoe, and Bob Latola, also all-city at end, now a coach at Norte Del Rio.

Sets Mark

Don Hammond scored