

# LETTER FROM PRESIDENT GILLOTT

1

## REMEMBERING Joe Marty Baseball Field

Tuesday, August 1, 1995 is a day which I shall always remember with fond memories. On that day, my friend Bill Conlin asked me to be his luncheon guest at El Chico's (formerly ~~the~~ Joe Marty <sup>Griff</sup>). This was my first visit to the 15th and Broadway establishment but certainly not my last. Because of that invitation, I now have many new found friends. Most of these friends would be classified as senior citizens, however, they are as young in spirit as anyone I know. These wonderful people are strong supporters of Christian Brothers High School and all are loyal to the memory of ~~Mr.~~ Joe Marty.

While a student at Christian Brothers, Joe Marty excelled in sports with his real love being baseball. He is the only native-born Sacramentan to hit a home run in the World Series, accomplishing that singular feat with the Chicago Cubs in 1938. Joe played with the Cubs over a five year period, from 1937 through 1941, at which time he joined the United States Army. A confirmed cynic in many ways, Joe Marty was sentimental about his Christian Brothers High School alma mater and St. Mary's, the college he attended. Signed by the San Francisco Seals, he became part of a famed outfield which included ~~Manager~~ Lefty O'Doul in left, Joe Marty in center, and Joe DiMaggio in right. It was reported that Manager O'Doul stated that Marty had more natural ability than DiMaggio. This Sacramento man could outthrow and outrun DiMaggio, he could field better and hit along with DiMag in distance and frequency. o/c

Joe Marty came home to play for the Sacramento Solons in 1946 even though he continued to possess major league talent. He was ready to marry his beautiful girlfriend from Chicago and to settle in Sacramento. It was known that Joe Marty always was reluctant to maximize his great abilities. He wanted to return home after his four year tour in the Army. Joe Marty and Bill Limeberger (the father of Christian Brothers' LaSallian Educator for 1995-96, Ron Limeberger) were lifetime friends. They formed a business partnership and, according to Bill Conlin, these two gentlemen loved to engage in arguments, but would never permit outsiders to take sides; they were the ultimate partners. Bill Conlin reports that Joe Marty's baseball skills included a powerful arm, which he utilized as a fielder and his perfected standup slide. Bill states that Joe had one other distinction: he enjoyed and consumed more limburger cheese than any other ball player, then and now. Joe Marty Jr., is with a travel agency on the San Francisco Peninsula. The El Chico gang agree that Joe Jr. is a worthy offspring of Joe and Eleanor. According to these admirers: "Joe Jr. is a chip off the old block"

At the luncheon on August 1, I learned that the baseball field at Christian Brothers High School had been dedicated to the memory of Joe Marty. Because there are no physical signs which denote this fact, many friends, alumni, and current students are not aware that our baseball field is actually the "Joe Marty Baseball Field". In addition to briefing me on the history of the field and of Joe, these friends presented me with a check in the amount of \$5000 to be applied toward the construction of dugouts for the baseball field. In accepting the gift, I made a commitment that we not only will construct the dugouts, but will upgrade the entire facility and install new bleachers. After the upgrading is completed, it is planned to have a second dedication ceremony and to install an appropriate sign denoting our facility as the "Joe Marty Baseball Field."

(Note: Bill Conlin provided content for this article)

COACH LIMEBERGER  
By Adam Nichols '96

9

When thinking of Ron Limeberger, better known as Coach, the first image that comes to mind is his "No. 1 Grandpa" hat, which he frequently wears when taking a panicked student for a driver training lesson. Superficially, this might be humorous, but there is a reason why Mr. Limeberger was given that hat. His grandchildren cherish him and believe that Mr. Limeberger is, indeed, "No. 1."

Not coincidentally, Limeberger is also held in high esteem among the students. Whether he is teaching physical education or driver training, Coach has had a meaningful affect on his students—every day of his career.

"I think he was the best P.E. coach a kid could ask for. He manages to keep everybody in line and doesn't take a lot of messing around. Oh, he's great . . . and the best thing about him is his sense of humor," said Brian Judy.

While physical education class is an opportunity to experience the camaraderie of Coach's classes, such affability is not to be found again until driver training lessons begin.

"The driver training experience was . . . *different*. I learned to come to respect Charley [the brake] and Betsy [the car] and I even learned how to drive," said Matt Calvillo.

For most of Coach Limeberger's novices, the driver training lesson begins with learning the names of the "chicken" brake and the car itself, which Coach lovingly refers to as "Betsy" or sometimes "Mary Anne." When a particular student was truly a speed demon, Coach would remind them who was there, saying, "Meet Charley."

For some, the driver training experience was genuinely unforgettable. Jeff Williams said, "I remember when I took driver training from Coach . . . I had no previous driving experience, and it showed. Coach put up with me—even when I gunned the car out of the parking space and when I very nearly took out his garage door at his own house...It takes guts to teach people how to drive, especially to teach *me* how to drive, and I admire Coach for doing it. I could never do that."

The Mr. Limeberger known by the student body has gumption and honesty, qualities obviously instrumental to being a driver training or physical education teacher. Though an instructor's job is never easy, Coach has a way of making everything look simple. It may not be always obvious, but the student body appreciates him and all he has done for Christian Brothers. When the students of today look back at high school, "Coach" will surely be remembered fondly.

By  
Adam Nichols  
Senior - CBHS

10-27-95

Ron Limeberger Receives National Honor  
by Pat O'Brien

When Ron Limeberger was a student at CBS, he considered becoming a Brother. No need, Ron became a lay teacher (now called a "Lasallian Associate" of the Brothers) and in the process has outlasted nine principals he served under. Not bad for the fiery but playful coach, gym teacher and driver ed expert who first attended CB in the second grade!

*DISTINGUISHED*

For his exemplary modeling of Lasallian values over these many years since he was hired in 1958, Ron was nominated by his peers and the administration of CBHS as the "Lasallian Educator of the Year." In a unique addition to the honor, Ron was concurrently selected as the winner from all the West Coast Brothers schools. The award was bestowed in November in Chicago during the national meeting of Lasallian educators. In the past this honor has gone to those in the limelight, administrators and counselors, those in more high profile positions. Honoring Ron shows an appreciation for those who work in the trenches, those who are serving but sometimes overlooked in their consuming toil.

Although those who know the playful Ron would say he has never viewed himself as "exemplary", Ron has passionately embraced the traditions and values of La Salle, and the award recognizes that fervor in his long-time service. All this expressed through a true affection for his students and commitment toward their growth, attitudes he learned from Brothers who taught him, Brothers like Ambrose, Maris and Gilbert.

Ron first encountered the Christian Brothers in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades when he was taught by the Brothers at their old elementary school, an annex to the high school, at 21st and Broadway. It was during this time that he met the legendary Brother Ambrose, the Brother who is still honored by our school's graduation award presented each year to the graduate whose quiet devotion is shown through service to others. Ron also was deeply impressed by Brother Maris Spillaine, a young brother at that time, who loved sports and kids, a big man of gentleness and dedication. Ironically, Maris was a good friend of mine as our families lived next door to each other in San Francisco where our dads followed the same profession, firemen.

Like many other students, Ron began to realize the quality of these men as he reflected in his maturing years, both in high school and thereafter. This was the foundation of his desire to "give back" to kids as an educator at CB.

Ron entered CBS as a freshman in 1949, was selected Student Body President his senior year, graduating in 1953. A two-sport baseball and basketball star, Ron learned his no-nonsense approach to work and play from two differing sources, the first of which was obviously the Brothers. He recalls the gentle but influential Brother Gilbert

Cotter as a man who had a profound effect upon him. Unfortunately Brother died in the Philippines during the summer, but I am sure he is smiling from heaven, probably saying something like, "I knew he could do it, too bad he's not getting the honor in my native Boston."

The second source is professional baseball where Ron worked as batboy/clubhouse boy for the Sacramento Solons of the old Pacific Coast League. This experience was not only a dream come true for Ron but a reality check in terms of handling responsibilities. I know for I had the same position, but in San Francisco.

Ron attended Sac State and returned to CB in 1958 to coach and teach. When CB moved to the Bishop Armstrong campus in Oak Park in 1965, Ron came too. He coached varsity baseball for over 20 years, and is still going strong as a "strict" gym instructor. Along the way he also served a term as P.E. Department Chair, Athletic Director, La Salle Club Moderator, and also persists with the intricacies of behind-the-wheel driving, protecting parents of 16 year-olds from the obligation of teaching their own kids to drive, making the streets of our River City safe for Sacramentans. Although we don't exactly know how many, Ron has worn out a number of cars in thirty years of driver training. Ron still has a grin on his face with the September arrival of a new car provided to continue this important training.

Students continue to get a kick out of Ron's unique language, a lot like that of Casey Stengel, the legendary Yankee manager who coined expressions heavy with truth despite their inherent contradictions. It's interesting that Ron observed the sage Casey while working in the Sacramento ballpark which Casey visited regularly during his pre-Yankee days as skipper of the Oakland Oaks, also called the Acorns.

Of course, Casey never said that prayer to "Jesus, Mary and Joseph", an invocation that frequently falls from Ron's lips, most of the time a prayer, sometimes a call for help or expression of amazement, but always delivered with passion.

An indication of the respect that his teaching peers hold for Ron happened a couple of years ago when he was out of school with heart problems. Former CB teacher and present Valley football coach, Dave Hoskins told Ron not to worry about a thing, that he would take care of all after-school driver training---gratis. That's typical of how grads and teaching buddies regard the honoree.

It was appropriate that Joan, Ron's wife, was with him to receive the award in Chicago since without her support he could not have survived his demanding but rewarding career. Only those who have served, coached, taught and moderated at CB can understand the impact of this service on mates and family...and the appreciation that they deserve.

Ron's sons, Mike and Mark, also attended CB. His daughter Jill, attended high school at 21st and Broadway at Manogue. Ron's granddaughter Melissa is continuing the tradition as a proud member of our Junior class. Congratulations Ron for bringing such pride to Christian Brothers.