



Al Scott, a .500 hitter and second baseman

Al Scott '33

by Kenny Kirrene '78

“CB was the best thing in my life”

Almost three quarters of a century divide the man in front of me from his photographs as an athlete at CB. All those years have done little, however, to diminish the striking, masculine face of Alfred Irving Scott II. The clear eyes and firm grip of a .500 hitter remain. His hair is still full, his body capable. He is lean and alert, and he had better be as his wife of more than sixty years, Albeth, does not miss a thing. They are a handsome, urbane couple who live in Eskaton Village, Carmichael. They use to live over near Curtis Park on Donner and 25th, close to where my dad Jerry grew up. Typical of Sacramento, when I introduced myself over the phone to Albeth she said, “are you related to little Tommy Kirrene who grew up over on Marshall Way?” Tom is my dad’s brother, my godfather. I knew at that time that I would enjoy my visit with the Scotts.

Al and Albeth come from old Sacramento stock, hers dating back to the 1850’s. He was born in 1915, she “a little later.” They met each other at Sacramento Junior College in 1934, after Al returned to town. They married in ‘41 after saving enough money to begin a life together. Although a Sac High Dragon, and from the area, Albeth didn’t know about her “Tom’s” athletic prowess here in Sacramento, only that he was “strikingly handsome.” Albeth calls him “Tom,” an intimate nickname given to him by an uncle who apparently shouted out “Hooray for Tom” upon hearing that he had a newborn nephew. They have three sons who all attended IC and later Bishop Armstrong: Irv (Alfred Irving Scott III) ‘60; Roger ‘63; Mark ‘66. Irv’s three sons are alums of CBHS: Chris ‘85; Brian ‘89; Matt ‘01. I’d say three generations of Scotts from two different centuries is rather impressive, and what makes this school so special.

While visiting with the Scotts, Al shared with me the scrapbook of his days at Christian Brothers. Inside I discovered an era of sports in

Sacramento that could have only existed in the 1930’s. I found the athletic chronicles of Al Scott and Christian Brothers. He was one of those three-sport athletes of which Christian Brothers was so well-known, and of whom so few exist today. Looking through Al’s scrapbook takes me to a time in Sacramento that has long passed, when the football team of ‘32 was featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle Daily Sporting Green*, and the *Vallejo Evening News* printed up a ten page “Souvenir Program” of a grid-iron match between CBS and St. Vincent’s High of Vallejo, at Tobin Field.



Quarterback Al Scott, number 7 and the 1932 Football Team



Al Scott (circled) in his 8th grade class picture at Christian Brothers

Alumni Life

Al's association with this CBS of Sacramento began in 1924 when he moved over from Jefferson School during the fourth grade. From this period on, the Brothers at CBS had a profound effect on him, especially given the fact that his father, Alfred Irving I, had succumbed to the flu epidemic that struck the Central Valley in 1918 when Al was only three. From his earliest days on the "new campus" at 21st and Broadway, Al "felt a fit, a place where he belonged." He thrived in the all-male environment, where athletics and competition were part of his daily life. For Al, this date was to begin what he calls "the greatest experience of my life." Given his accomplishments during this period, I can understand why.

Al's list of accomplishments during his high school years presents a profile of a well-rounded individual: athlete; Student Body President; Editorial Staff Writer; strong student. Although Al managed to find time to be involved in leadership and journalism while at CBS, most of his experiences centered on sports, experiences that led him to receive scholarships from both the University of Oregon and the University of San Francisco. You can see even from his eighth grade class photo that he was built for sport: sturdy frame, strong jaw, confident gaze. During his high school years at the campus, Al lettered in three sports: basketball, baseball, football. His scrapbook chronicles well his and the school's sports history during this early period. Although Al considers baseball his best sport, he was not too shabby in the other two. In 1931 he played in the basketball game against Sacramento High School that Kirt MacBride's article phrased, "for the city prep championship." He was a member of the CBS team that battled St. Mary's of Stockton, during a time when "Santa Clara and St. Mary's colleges had nothing on Christian Brothers and the Gaels of Stockton when it came to rivalry." During the 1932 season, Al scored 101 points, second only to Gene Casey, the team captain! This gift for playing "round ball" was passed down to his son Irv and grandsons Chris and Brian who also played basketball at Bishop Armstrong and CBHS respectively. Equally of note was Al's success as an athlete on the gridiron. During the '31-'32 seasons, Coach Porcella ran the famed "Notre Dame Shift" with Al at quarterback. Al and his teammates met with unprecedented success in '32 as the team went unbeaten that year. Later, during the 1935 and '36 seasons, Al returned to CBS to help Head Coach Jimmy Flynn defeat the Sacramento High School Dragons, "at a time when the Dragons annually used CBS for target practice." In fact, it was the first time that Brothers had ever defeated Sacramento on the gridiron. However, despite his success at basketball and football, it was at baseball that Al most excelled. At second base he had a pretty handy glove and made use of his arm. During one season he led the league in hitting with a .500 average. His bat helped CBS to win two City Championships. In fact, during the '30-'31 seasons the team won 27 of 30 ball games. Quite an accomplishment for a small, Catholic high school team. This success that Al found in baseball continues on to this day with Al's son Irv playing in the Men's Senior Baseball League, winning seven "World Series" in the past twelve years. Irv says that his youngest son Matt is a natural with the ball: We will wait to hear good things from him in the future!

I truly enjoyed my visits with the Scotts. During our visits they mentioned names that I have heard the "old timers" critique throughout the years during the La Salle Club Hall of Fame dinners: Marty; Margetich; Separovich; Flynn; Casey; Porcella. They mentioned venues around town that my grandfather Joe would have known: Washburn, Moreing, and Edmonds fields.



1933 CB Baseball Team. Top L to R: Coach Porella, Leo Visintainer, Jack Casey, Leo Stetson, Mark Separovich, Al Scott, and Brother Odren. Bottom L to R: Joe Valine, LeRoy Nevis, Jack Messner, Paul Bernardis, Alex Sweet, Roger Kelly, Gene Sullivan, Roger Cates and Frank Russell. Ground L to R: Joe and Al Franzoia



The Scott family L to R: Irv '60, Mark '66, Roger '63, Albeth and Al '33

They spoke of catching the trolley car out to Playland in Oak Park and of the grand opening of The Alhambra Theatre. Finally, they spoke, especially Al, of a love for Christian Brothers and the inefable impact it had on their lives, an impact that had made for "the greatest experience" of his life. I would say that is high praise coming from a man of Al's accomplishments and years of experience. I wish he and Albeth well.

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