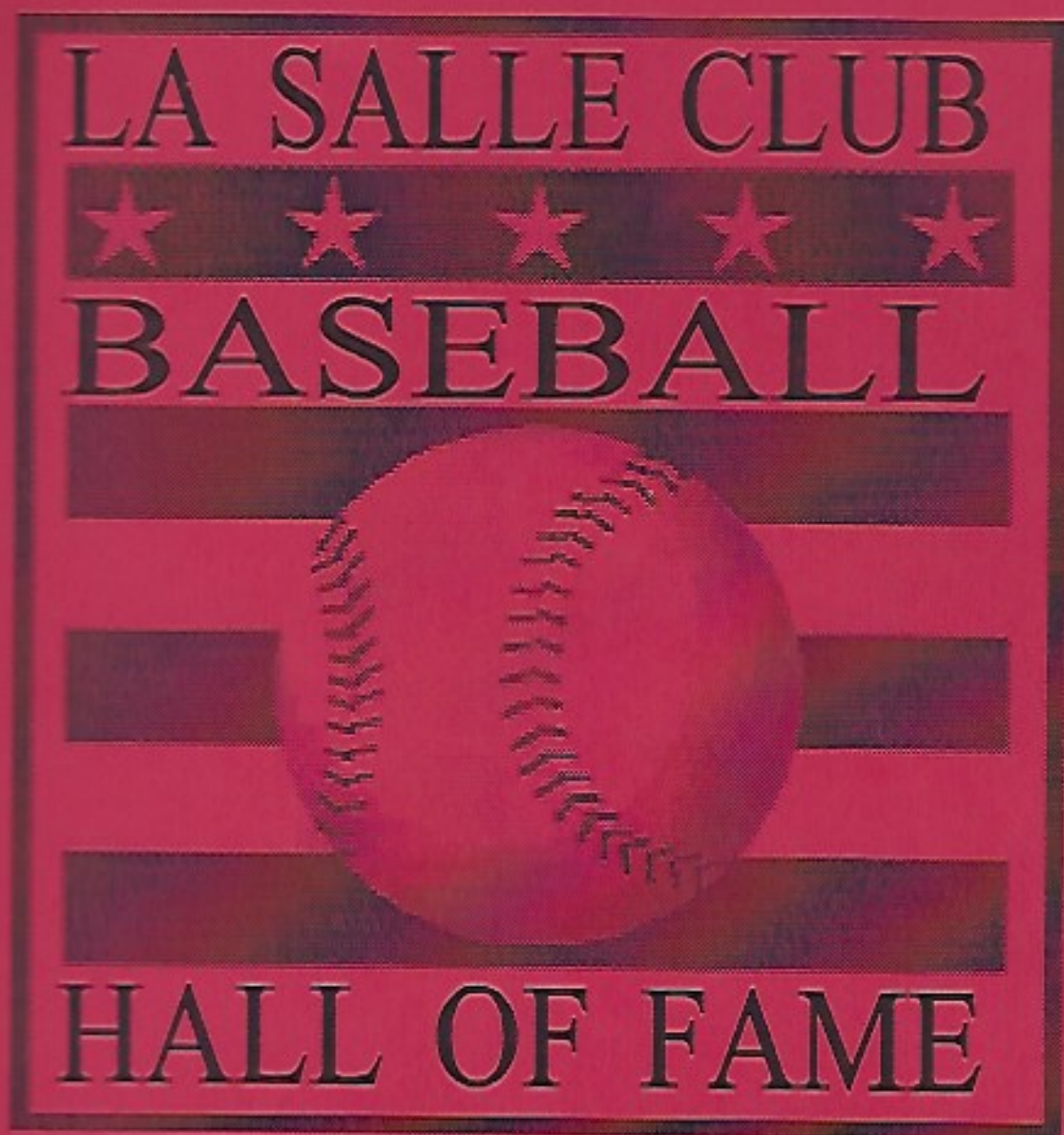


50th Anniversary



2004

A Tribute to Vincent F. Stanich
and
Honoring Lou Bordisso

Program

Jim Westlake

Master of Ceremonies

Jim McNamara

Chairman, Hall of Fame Dinner

Tribute to Deceased Hall of Fame Members

Father Lou Bordisso, O.C.

Invocation

~Dinner~

Jim McNamara

Introductions of New Hall of Fame Members

Jim Westlake

Conclusion

Raffle Donors

Please remember to patronize our generous friends!

Andiamo's		
Pete & Barbara Mikacich 2	\$35 Certificates
Bob Martin	Salami
Brownies		
Claire Brown 3	Lunches for Two
Don Larson	Collectible Framed Photos
Espanol Restaurant,		
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Frasinetti Winery & Restaurant,		
Gary & Howard Frasinetti	Sunday Brunch for 2
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Joe Marty's El Chico	2 Chicken Dinners
Tom Jurin	1 Gallon of Stuffed Olives
Old Ironsides, Sam Kanelos	Lunch for 2
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John Rakella III	Bottle of "Spirits"
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Tom Torchia	Bottle of "Spirits"
John Waldron	Bottle of "Spirits"

Our deepest gratitude to Al Balshore of Balshore Florists for his generous donation to the La Salle Club on the closing of the Southside Athletic Club.

Our gratitude to our Major Donors

Mr. David Borges
Mr. & Mrs. Russ Grove
Mr. Robert Hanlon
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Mr. Jim McNamara
Mr. Pete Mikacich

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...and to all of our Donors

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Special thanks to the following contributors to the

Vincent F. Stanich Award.

The Most Inspirational Player on the Christian Brothers High School Baseball Team each year receives this special award. Last year's recipient was Shaun Stinson, CB '03

Major Donors

Mr. & Mrs. Russ Grove

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Mr. Alex Muirhead, Jr.

Mr. B.J. Rice
Ms. JoAnne Stassi
Mr. Wally Westlake
Mr. Fred Wristen

In Memoriam

Let us remember...

Charles "Babe" Anderson

George Androvich

Buddy Boyer

Carroll Canfield

Tom Glaviano

John "Spider" Jorgenson

Ron Limeberger*

Dick Olson**

Tony Plescia

Bob Rodness

Alfred "Sonny" Valine

*St. John Baptist de La Salle,
pray for them.*

**While not a Hall of Fame member, Ronnie is remembered for his commitment to the La Salle Club and all things Baseball.*

***Not yet elected to the Hall of Fame, Dick was on the list of nominees.*

The History of the La Salle Club

One of the vital forces behind the athletic program at Christian Brothers High School is the La Salle Club. This organization, started in 1939, was the brainchild of Brother Eugene Ward, former principal, teacher and coach. With the approval of Brother Cyril, then principal, and Brother Bertram, vice-principal, the La Salle Club became an active fund-raising organization for athletics. Its early fund-raisers included the Annual Duck Stew, Boxer's Night, Soccer Night, Baseball Night and the La Salle Club Frolic.

Several years ago the club became inactive when it was decided that its function should be replaced by other support groups. The La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner was the only event that continued on and it has run for 50 consecutive years.

In 1995, Ray Clemons, former head football coach and athletic director at CBS (1948-1956), recognized the need to revitalize the organization. Through his leadership and with the assistance of Ron Limeberger, Chado Vasquez, Mike Clemons, Jim Westlake and others the La Salle Club reorganized and, again, became a force funding special projects such as a new state of the art weight room, renovation of the junior varsity girls softball diamond, two electronic scoreboards, a portable outdoor scoreboard, wrestling mats, a scorers table, and baseball field improvements, to name a few.

Our present membership, approximately 200, is comprised of men and women from the community who contribute their time and resources to assist in achieving the goals of the athletic program. Our funds are raised through memberships, the Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner, the Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame Dinner and donations.

Current club officers are: Chado Vasquez, President, Jim Westlake, Vice President, Jean Lahey, Treasurer, Anna-Lea Caudwell, Secretary, Gene Lynch, Membership Chairman, Jim McNamara, Baseball Hall of Fame Chairman, and Jack Witry, Moderator.

Baseball Hall of Fame



Dave Borges



Mel Dalrymple



Hank deLotto, Jr.



Nick Capachi



Russ Grove



Bob Hanlon

Inductees ~ 2004



Jerry Kaeser



Larry Kelley



Pfaul Kereazis.



John Stanich



Walt Swedman



Ray Webster

*La Salle Club
Baseball Hall of Fame*

1953

John "Buddy" Ryan*

1955

The Knezovich Brothers:
Al, Mel, Paul*, Ray* & Don*

1957

Al Heist

1958

Brick Eldred*
Living Members of the Rooney O'Neil
Family

1959

Earl McNeely*

1960

Joe Marty*

1961

Elwood "Kettle" Wirts*

1962

Cliff Darringer*
Mel French*
Fred Pearl*
Joe Williams*

1963

Julius Anapolsky*
Harry Lilly*
Horace Smith*
Ralph Stroud*
1934-1935
Julius Style Shop Baseball Club

1964

Henry Clark*
Dan Donovan*
Walter Mails*
Fred Murphy*

1965

"Big" Bill James*
Jimmy Lane*
Manuel Petrali*
Captain Bill Ryan*

1966

Dewey Elliot*
*Vern Hodge**
Eddie Manger*
Bob Schang*
Parker Sheehan*

1967

Frank Bacon*
Jack Dooley*
Tommy Dunk*
Arthur Luddy*
Frank Osborn*

1968

Fred Bottaro*
Edwin Grove*
Francis Hall*
Frank Rooney*
Lloyd Snook*

1969

Jim Gorman*
Pete Hepting*
Steve Marietta*
Ray Rohwer*
Bill Shick*



1970

Albert Felix*
Tony Freitas*
Morvin Nevis*
Albert Westlake*
Ted Zackney*

1971

Dick Deterding*
Harry Hooper*
George Lial*
Frank Rationi*
Eggert Rohwer*

1972

Lenny Backer*
John Corato*
Clyde "Tub" Perry*
Joe Rooney*
John Silvey*
Ralph Young*

1973

John B. Costa*
Paul Genshlea*
G. W. "Mick" Hall, Jr.*
Frank Judy*
James R. Kelly*
Tom Pendergast*

1974

Allan Bryne*
John "Chick" Casali*
Elmer Congdon*
Jack Hoagland*
Roscoe Kimble*
Joe Lima*
Clarence Murphy*
Hank Ness*

1975

Fred Belluomini*
Wallace Canfield*
Ralph Downs*
James "Lefty" Cooke*
Dick Lamb*

Mike Visintainer*
Larry Williams*
Tony Zupo*

1976

Frank Armstrong*
George "Butter" Cole*
Elmer Enos*
Steve George*
Larry Gillick*
Elwood J. Keema*
Phil McGee*
Mike Separovich*

1977

Bill Avila*
Earl Eberlein*
Alex Kampouris*
Peter Mitchell*
Dr. Alfred Oliver*
Mike Page*
Dave Roderick*
Joe Smith*

1978

Clement "Boo" Coyle*
Herb Forsch
Gus Korstein*
William Peccole*
Manuel Salvo*
Harold "Sam" Sperbeck*
Jack Stassi*
Earl Wagner*
Lloyd Wagner*

1979

Mike Bakarich*
Lou Bordisso
Ned Carbone
N.G. Culjis*
Joe Duarte*
Percy Gassoway*
Karl Reimer*
Lloyd Toomer*



1980

Robert Duggan*
Tony Dutra*
Lou Heinzer*
Victor Pitts*
Elton Rogers*
Bill Svilich*
George Terra
Lou Vezilich

1981

Clarence Azevedo*
Ken Brock*
Manuel Joseph*
Bill Kenealy
John Pintar*
Mark Separovich*
Glenn Smith*
Vincent F. Stanich*
Vito Virga

1982

Ernie Cervantes*
Syl DeGregorio
Jimmy Flynn*
Joe Frates*
Fir Galli*
Ed Hughes*
Tom Parodi*
Tony Separovich*
Pete Tomasini*
Johnny Vergez*

1983

Joe Anderson*
Dooley Bertolani*
Jim Cluff*
Horace Dunning*
Howard Jan*
Joe Orengo*
Bob Peccole
Ernie Perry
Bobby Schang*
Orval Tregallas*

1984

Ponce Alvarado*
Wilbert Azevedo*
Bill Gianatasio*
Scotty Mackay*
Frank Nelson*
Elmer Newman*
Art Quadros*
Woodrow Scott*
Yubi G. Separovich
Ray Silva*
Soto Trillo*

1985

Babe Bertolani
Paul Bowa*
Jack Dark
Joe Faraci*
Eddie Fitzgerald
Bill Hallauer*
Jim "Tiny" Hansen*
Eddie Katsulis*
Ed Keenan*
Fred Keinle*
Hank Lema
Charles Luchini*
Pete Pitalo
Fred Schroeder*
Izzy Smith
Ital Vesci*
Connie Weisker*
Carl Younglove*
Steve Zupan*

1986

Jack Andrews*
Joe Borich*
Harry Bright*
William Conlin*
Curtis Coppin
Glen Dufour*
James Herrera*
Les Lollis
Charles Schanz*
Curt Schmidt*
Manuel "Babe" Thomas
Wally Westlake



1987

Gene Bocker
Norman Coad*
Virgil Farnsworth*
Wayne Hanscom*
Larry Manuian
Joe Masi*
"Buddy" Peterson
John Rakela
Bill Taylor*
Milton P. Thomas*
George Valine*
John Vukovich
Bill Wright*

1988

Ernie Bertolotti*
Dan Bianchini*
Bert Bonomi*
Steve Cuckovich*
Orval Grove*
Henry Hanna*
Carl Lauchert*
Martin Slavich*
Wally Turpen
Joe Valine*
Emerson Wallace*

1989

Julian Elorduy*
Tommy Glaviano*
"Nippy" Jones*
Al Lee*
Hank Paschane*
William Rico
Allen Simas, Sr.*
Sam Stassi, Jr.*
Tommy Torchia
Chick Verdina*
Chick Wardlaw*

1990

George Androvich*
Bill Balakin
Bill Christie*
Clay Dalrymple

Tony Koester*
John Parino*
Sam Powell*
Al Saccani*
Eddie Samcoff
Ned Sheehan*

1991

George Babich*
Dr. "Bud" Lewis Beasley
Eddie Booth*
Tony Ferrara*
Monte Latino
Sam Latino*
Al Lazzarone
Ed Reeder
George Relles*
Eugene Sullivan*
Henri Warren*

1992

Julian Cisneros
Bob De La Vergne
John Eres
Gene Harris*
Leonard Keene*
Ron King
Chuck Lotta
William Robertson
Bob Stassi
George Vernatchi
Leroy Winter

1993

Ellis Daugherty*
Joe Felipe*
Ray Gallagher
Sal Gomez*
Lilio Marcucci*
Jim McCarthy*
Ned Pedisich*
Gabe Sady
Edmond Silvey
Frank Silvey*
Mike Sypnicki*
Gus Stathos



1994

Tony Alvarado*
Dick Bartell*
Carroll Canfield*
Bill Fleming
Bob Linck
Dale Miille*
Mike Radan
Bob Rodness*
Nick Smyrni
Dick Warner*

1995

Bob Barbeau
Bill De Fazio*
Bob Gallagher
Harry Knight
John Latino
Jim McNamara
Alex Muirhead
Richie Myers
Jim Tsukamoto
Bill Zanze*

1996

John Ceccarelli
John Hathaway*
John "Spider" Jorgensen*
Ray Lujan
Joe Nevis*
Vince Pisani
Leroy Stevens
Bud Watkins
Jim Westlake*
Mel White

1997

Augie Amorena
Al Anicich
Del Bandy
John Briggs
Monsignor Jim Church
Sam Kanelos
Don McKenzie
Bill Monahan
Bob Palmer
Gilbert Urbano

1998

Cuno Barragan
Daryl Cook
Woodie Held
Al Jacinto
Joe Kirrene
George Masi
John McNamara
Rudy Rodoni
Earl Rose
Ralph Rose*
Park Schuler*
Carl Tomei

1999

Tom Agosta
Buzz Berniesford
Tom Galli
Frank Mascaro*
Tony Plescia*
Gene Roenspie
Tony Stathos
Mike Virga
Manny Williams
Ken Wollenberg

2000

Chris Christin
Pete Gonsalves
Norm Greenslate
Frank McNamara
Clyde Perry
Jack Pickart
Stan Priebe
Frank Rios
Don Saner
Ray Sisler
Nino Spatafore
Sam Vartanian



2001

Norm Blackwell
Vic Buccola*
Joe Duarte
Jim Fellos
Bobby Gonsalves*
Pete Mikacich
Roger Osenbaugh
Notch Parino
Trusten Scotten*
Dick Sperbeck

2002

Fred Besana
Buddy Boyer
Harry Dunlop
Jim Frasinetti
Dan Mooradian
Bob Nelson
Ken Orvick
Joe Stanka
Pete Stathos
Pete Vartanian

2003

Jim Knight
Ernie Maskovich
J.C. Masters
Paul Palermo
B.J. Rice
Frank Sanchez
George Stanich
Neil Sheridan
Ralph Silva
Jack Slaven
Victor Vesci
Fred Wristen

2004

Dave Borges
Nick Capachi
Mel Dalrymple
Hank deLotty, Jr.
Russ Grove
Bob Hanlon
Jerry Kaeser
Larry Kelley
Paul Kereazis
John Stanich
Walt Swedman
Ray Webster



Lou Bordisso



Charter Member, Hall of Fame Committee Inducted into Hall of Fame in 1979

A busher at heart...and not one whit ashamed of the tag...Lou has given his all for local baseball both as a player and pilot down through the years. Lou was born November 17, 1913 and grew up around Seventh and R Streets, getting his first schooling at William Land Grammar School. Newton-Booth was the bus stop for seventh and eighth grades. Then it was on to Sutter Junior High. Sacramento High was next and Lou won three Dragon letters. "Camelia Ed" Combatalade was the Dragon diamond boss in those days. He captained the 1931 Varsity team that included team mates Bill Svlich, Alex Kampouris, Joe Bagley and Frank Bottaro.

Out of high school, Lou played National Division ball with Julius in the early '30's. They had some top talent in those days and Bob McCarty, Sports Editor for the Sacramento Union, put him on the spot in September 1960 to name his idea of an "all star team" for his playing time in the Winter League. It was:

Pitchers... Jack Costa and Charley Schanz,

Catcher & Manager...George Lial,

First base...Lefty Wagner,

Second Base... Sam Stassi, Jr.,

Shortstop...Tommy Glaviano,

Third base...Glenn Dufour,

Outfield...Joe Marty, Johnny Kaeser and Bill Svilich.

McCarty made it clear that Lou was asked for his lineup without being warned in advance so he was "eligible to omit some fine performers".

In the Spring of 1932 Lou headed east to try out with Des Moines. He played a little ball for Peoria in the old Central League. Then home called and Lou headed back to Sacramento to start his career in the Winter League in 1933....lucky for us!!

Lou was reminiscing recently and recounted the thrill he felt when, as a young kid, he worked out with the Chicago Cubs and met all their ball players. More fond memories were kindled with the mention of the old Buffalo Park in Sacramento where he watched the greats of baseball...Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Bob Feller, Willie Mc Covey, Ted Williams and others who came through Sacramento on barnstorming tours.

After the war Lou ended his playing days but not his involvement with the game. He found a new calling as a manager. His record of 11 championships...count'em ELEVEN in the Winter League is phenomenal and unequaled. Pressed again by McCarty, Lou came up with this all star team from his managing days:

Pitchers...Gordon Jones and Roger Roy,

Catcher...Cuno Barragan,

First Base...Jimmy Westlake,

Second base...Eddie Samcoff,

Shorstop...Jim McNamara,

Third base...Joe Kirrene,

Outfielders...Tommy Agosta, Nino Spatafore and Ralph Rose.

A busher, a friend and the best darn third baseman/manager in the League. Lou, we take great pleasure in remembering with you tonight and thank you heartily for all you have done for baseball over the years!!

*The information in this article was taken from articles written by
Bob McCarty and Vince Stanich for the Sacramento Union.*



Nobody Can Equal Bordisso as Winner

The perennial manager for Matts Transfer Co., Lou Bordisso, has just concluded his 36th year in baseball with another championship - his 11th. He won one with the Southside Legion in 1947, eight with Matts and two with Julius Men's Shop. Half of Bordisso's baseball career was spent as Sacramento's leading third sacker and the other half managing in winter League and for a brief spell in Sacramento County League. His record as a field boss in the Winter League has been phenomenal. His pennant years were in 1947 with Southside. In 1948, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1964 and in 1965 with Matts. He won pennants for Julius in 1955 and 1956. No other manager in local history can match that record.

Julius still leads the pennant parade in the Winter League with 10 titles. The two years that Bordisso won pennants for Julius, Fred Matt his present manager, wishes to forget. Matt had stayed out of baseball for no reason than to get away from the rigors of winter ball. He claims that was the biggest mistake he ever made in his life as it gave Julius an opportunity to be ahead in the pennant chases. Had Bordisso managed for Matts instead of for Julius in the two years in question, Matt now would be ahead in the quest for Winter League championships.

Catching Julius will still take some doing as Ronnie King, the Julius mentor, came up with as fine a group of young ball players ever assembled in the history of Sacramento baseball. It was only an odd set of breaks which prevented him from capturing a title for Julius during the past season. Julius had already won the first half and had a good leg on the second half, when similar plays on successive Sundays turned the slim margin against him. Only a strong Matt bench and some excellent pitching on the part of Roger Roy turned the trick.

Getting back to Bordisso. His ability to win pennants isn't just masterminding on the field of battle. It starts far in advance of that. Lou is constantly on the prowl for players who fit into his baseball plan. He looks for key men for every spot. His forte is a strong bench and spot relievers on his pitching staff. When Botch Parker's arm went bad on him down the stretch drive and Brian Ross could not quite cure his chronic wildness, Bordisso panned his hopes upon a veteran, Roy, who came into the game two weeks ago to stop Julius cold. His starting assignment last Sunday in the championship game was his first of the year and he was able to overcome a two-hitter by his adversary, Jimmy Nelson, to win by a scant margin of 2-1.

As a player Bordisso at one time was considered one of the finest "hot corner" artists in town. His first competitive baseball started back in 1929 when he played Junior Legion ball with the Julius club. During the early period of

Junior Legion competition local firms would sponsor the clubs. During the past 30 years they must represent Legion posts in keeping with a resolution passed by the American Legion.

On that 1929 club Lou claims that there had quite an aggregation of young ball players, he did not go far. Pitchers were Lou himself, south-hander and Sherwood Merrill. The left-hander Nevis was on first, George Mattinge, second base, and Lou on third. In the outfield were Ed Svlich, Bob Peccole and the late Jimmy Jones, who had teamed up with Lou Matts in playing local Christian Brothers High School team one of the finest prep outfields in Sacramento.

Lou captained the Sacramento High School team in 1931 when he played under coach J. Combatalade with such teammates as the Kampouris, Svlich, Merrill, Joe Sager and Frank Bottaro. He was also captain a year later.

Lou received a treat with the signing in the spring of 1932 on the recommendation of George Lal, who had managed the club for a 13 year period. He remained with the Sacramento Winter League team until 1947 with Julius.

On that club, which Lou claims is one of the best assembled in the local area, he had Lou manager and catcher. The infield was composed receiver. On the mound was Dave Shea, Norman Crawford and Edmond "Boss" Davey. Jack Costa, first base, Jim "Chief" Casali, 2b, Harry Warner, starting pitcher, third base. In the outfield were Jones, Sager and Tony Hoffmann. The left-fielder's bat was used as a utility infielder and in some playing roles.

Bordisso later played with the late Hughes Pharmacy and the Phoenix club. While with the latter club Bordisso set the National Division in hitting with a .375 average. Most of his hits that year were in the single variety and with the manager's aid he hit home all of Bordisso's runs during that one night field. The record was 10 runs, 10 hits, which Lou never could repeat.

During the last World War Bordisso spent considerable time in the Army and upon his return he immediately resumed activities with baseball and worked under "Red" Sager in the operation of the Southside Legion aggregation, a group of ball clubs in various communities. Christian Brothers High School players.

They had quite a collection of ball players under the Southside banner, named Harry Williamson, Jim Clark, Steve Brown, Joe Lettsick, George Anderson, and others. George Silvers, 2b, Joe Larson, 1b, Harold, the Vartanian and Joe Woodard.

Most of that group continued to be

around the Phoenix, after spending several years in California, is now a manager in the Kansas City team system. Larson was a bonus man with Chicago White Sox. Silvers and Vartanian played at St. Mary's College. Vartanian made up for the County League in hitting average.

Lou and Bordisso collaborated with Enos in managing a team under the Southside Legion banner in the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League, and they came through with a pennant. Then Bordisso aligned himself with Matt and that marriage has continued ever since with the exception of the two years he was with Julius.

In retrospect as to his career as a manager again Lou Bordisso has had his share of disappointments. In the year that he didn't cash in on pennants he was contender right down to the wire with no exceptions. Some of his losses in the championship game were heartbreaking.

In reviewing Bordisso's career one must recognize the fact that Eddie Samcoff played along the 10 years he played for Lou. The same outfielder who has now moved to Chico, has been one of the key men who Lou has always utilized. Others who played a great role in Lou's career were Russell Knight, Steve "Lefty" Wagner, Al Jacobs, Benny Sulas, Paul Jones and Sam Waldenberg to mention a few.

Another key player of note in Sacramento happened with Bordisso some time or other. He was Louie Jones, Radio Myers, Johnny Hogg and Warren King to good advantage as players.

Lou never wants to get panned down and even in olden record of his former players Bordisso believes that his 1953 club, which was managed by the championship by the Kansas City team, was his best. On that occasion he had Matt on his bench when Pat Hubert went to bat. Bordisso threw, 4-3 in a diamond ball. The last hitting order that day was: Al White, cf, Al Jacobs, 2b, Sam Westlake, rf, Joe Larson, 1b, Ed Daugherty, 3b, Hal Rhyne, lf, Harold, c, Matt Wood, catcher and Jones, pitcher.

Lou is still young in years and it is reasonable to assume that he will compile a record in local ball competition which will never be equaled in our lifetime. He also has a great life goal which is to overcome his arthritis in all time up in the championship game.

Published in the Sacramento Union on January 2, 1967



A good scout to be honored

Mike Strahler...Larry Bowa...Johnny Vukovich...John Firenza...Don Hammitt...Bob Irving...Randy Lech...Rick Bosetti. Those are just a sampling of the youngsters who have been uncovered by Bill Avila. Phillie scout. Although Avila's discoveries are officially signed by Eddie Bockman, the Phillie scout does so only upon the unequivocal recommendation of local scout Avila.

Avila is now in his 18th year of employment with the Phillies. He was given the job upon the recommendation of Dave Kelley, who had the confidence of Phillie General Manager John Quinn. Quinn personally tendered Avila a contract and there has been a very happy association ever since. Since Kelley's retirement, Bockman has taken over as Avila's boss.

AVILA'S BASEBALL experience dates back to 1930, when he first organized the Police Juniors. His greatest glory came when he directed the local Manhart Legion Post into the national finals in 1935. In that memorable year, Avila took his team all the way, only to lose out to the Gastonia Junior Legion in North Carolina in the finals.

Later Avila entered the field of managing, piloting a team in the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League. Starting in 1937, when Avila became manager of the Al's Haberdashery team, he was successful in almost all his baseball maneuverings. While at the helm for the late Al Andler, Avila won two championships. It was while running that club that Avila came upon Wally Westlake, whom Avila thought was one of the finest prospects to come out of Sacramento. Avila touted Wally to an Oakland contact and Westlake's subsequent success in the majors can attest to Avila's ability to pick 'em.

IT WAS THEN THAT Avila became interested in scouting as an extracurricular activity. He started with the Sacramento Solons when they were operated by Yubi Separovich in 1944. Yubi, recognizing Avila's talents, later made him general manager of the Anaheim club in the Sunset League.

Not wishing to work away from his home base, Avila returned to Sacramento to take up scouting duties with the Solons. Every regime which



operated the local club carried Avila on the payroll. However, when the Phillie offer came along in 1960, Avila made his move.

To bring Avila closer to baseball prospects, the Phillies, under the Avila's guidance, began to subsidize teams in both the Sacramento Winter League and in the Spring League under the County League banner.

IF AVILA HAD BEEN in a competitive position back in 1949, he could have secured the signature of Gordon Jones to a contract. But Jones signed a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. Others who were discovered by Avila but signed by different teams include Woodie Held, Bob Puccinelli and the late Dom Lumley. Held had a 17 year career in the majors before he bowed out.

Avila did discover some other gems and signed them while with the Solons. He first "bird-dogged" Johnny Briggs into a Solon contract. At the same time, Avila got the little Elk Grove lad, Richie Myers, to sign up. Both Briggs and Myers were sold to the Chicago Cubs in a package deal in 1955, bringing in a sizable sum of money to help replenish the starving Solon treasury.

Three of Avila's 1958 contributions to the Solon cause were Clayton Dalrymple, Roger Osenbaugh and Gary Rushing. Dalrymple later became Philadelphia's No. 1 catcher for a seven-year period.

Other local players signed by Avila during his tenure with the Solons were Jim Deyo, Bill Shields, Tom Galli, Al Anicich, Frank Mascaro, Hal Rhyne, Sr., Gene Roenspie, Sam Kanclous, Jack Pickart, Cuno Barragan, Tom Agosto,

John McNamara and Jim McKeegan.

ASIDE FROM HIS scouting, Avila also possesses organizational ability. He conceived the idea of the Solon Rookies, who were annually subsidized by the Solons. While operating the club, Avila landed an outstanding left-handed prospect in Gene Hayden, who went on to become a regular on the Seattle Rainiers.

Avila organized the Sacramento County and Rural leagues, later serving as president of both.

For his fine work on behalf of baseball, the late Nick Carr conceived the idea of a testimonial dinner for Avila back in 1956. The Elks Temple was packed to capacity by the local bush colony who paid homage to one of Sacramento's baseball leaders. Most of his 1935 Manhart club and the 1946 and 1947 Carmichael teams were on hand to honor him.

Avila was also one of the founders of the Sacramento Bushers Association and the membership saw fit to elect him president in 1966.

Avila also authored a baseball column. He was our replacement back in the '40's when we took leave from writing this column. He also had a radio program which chronicled the efforts of bushers in this area. Avila also championed the cause of the forgotten men in Folsom Prison and he organized an old timer's group to go up regularly to Represa and entertain the inmates. He later was instrumental in getting the Folsom Prison team to compete in the Sacramento County League, which was quite a caper.

AVILA ALSO ASSISTED Sal Gomez, Fred Matt, Vinoc Casino and Lou Bordisso in their efforts to bring a lighted ballpark to the city playgrounds. This project was brought to a realization in 1968.

Avila later inveigled Nick Culjis into co-sponsoring a team in local baseball competition. Culjis is still doing so after 17 years.

In 1977 the La Salle Hall of Fame Committee brought Avila into the fold as a Hall of Famer.

Avila is tireless, energetic, aggressive and indestructible. He shows no signs of weakening.

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The 1936 Sacramento High School baseball team, which lost the state title to Manteca 6-5. Left to right (standing) are Palandech, manager; Quadros, Feletto, Davey, McPartland, Ed

Combatalade, coach; Younglove, Taylor, Klebs, Larson, manager. Bottom row Smith, Dutra, Savage, Manzitta, Marchall, DeGregorio, captain; Hansen, Butler, Bertolani and Yamada.



WINTER LEAGUE KINGS—Here is the Julius nine which went undefeated through the Winter League's top ranking National Division. On the team, left to right, are: front row—Eddie Samcoff, Jim McNamara, Stan Priebe, Dick Warner and Cuno Barra-

gan; middle row—Chris Christin, Frank Nelson, Nino Spatafore, Roman King, Doc Haskell and Manager Lou Bergisso; rear row—Harry Knight, trainer; Bill Walsh, Bob Caselli, Ellis Dougherty and Nick Ponsi. See Photo



1951 SACRAMENTO JUNIOR COLLEGE STATE CHAMPIONS

In Front: J.R. Brown, Leroy McClain. Front Row: Scratch Defazio, Ducky Knezovich, Pete Vartanian, Albi Bown, Tony Stathos, Jerry Kaiser, John McNamara. Back Row: Bill Ott, Bud Farley, Bob Nelson, Buzzie Berrisford, Jack Steinagal, Bob Richmond, Bob Lehtola, Dick Olson, Larry Hampshire, Coach Jack Woerner



ONE OF THE strongest teams in the history of Sacramento semi-pro baseball was the Julius Haberdashery team, which won the Winter League pennant in 1935. They were, from left bottom, Jack Costa, Henri Warren, Bill Svlich,

George Liel, George Steward, John Casali and Arthur "Bud" Waters. Standing, from left, Otto Saicedo, Lou Bordisso, John Kaiser, Elmer "Spec" Shea, Earl Wagner, "Sonny" Davey and Norman Coad.



1953 Sacramento Junior College State Champions

Front Row: Coach Jack Woener, Jan Aitkien, Nick Capachi, Pete Stathos, Sam Vartanian, Lenny Johnson, Bobby Gonsalves. 2nd Row: Frank Newman, Dick Traversi, Pete Mikacich, Muggs McNamara, Marty Hume, Walter Short, Ted Miyagawa. Back Row: Done Saner, Nason Hall, Dave Pillar, Norm Coons, J.C. Masters, Chris Christian, Jim Westlake.

