

Special Thanks to:

Fred Bruntrager, John Finnen, Sharon Langer,
Denny Pozsar, Robyn Siedel & Paul Toscano
For all your support in
coordinating this special event.
A true team effort!

Clarkstown High School North

Edward J. McGrath Court Ceremony

December 5, 2008

Guest of Honor Edward J. McGrath

Dr. Margaret Keller-Cogan Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Deborah O'Connell Assistant Superintendent of Personnel
Dr. Deborah Leh Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning
Dr. Laura Lavine Associate Superintendent for Pupil Services
Dr. V. Henning-Piedmonte Instruction & Prof. Dev. Director
Mr. Jeff Sobel
Mr. John Krouskoff Instructional Technology Director
Mr. Harry Leonardatos Principal, North High School
Ms. Jane Hicks
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Mr. Lawrence Garvey
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Mrs. Rhea Vogel Board Member

Proudly Dedicates Our Gymnasium Court To

Edward J. McGrath

December 5, 2008

Program

Athletic Director Tess Brogan
Former Player Paul Toscano
Former Player Denny Pozsar
Son of Ed McGrathJim McGrath
Superintendent Dr. Margaret Keller-Cogan
Guest of Honor Edward J. McGrath

Edward J. McGrath

Mr. Edward J. McGrath is known to many in the following categories: player, coach, teacher, guidance counselor, colleague, mentor, friend and most of all to his family as a son, father and husband.

In 1956, Edward J. McGrath came to Clarkstown to serve as its new basketball coach and teacher of History. He remained a dedicated and excellent employee until his retirement in 1980.

- During his tenure as basketball coach, young Ed McGrath's teams were the class of Rockland County Basketball. His accomplishments were many, and they include:
- Ten Rockland County Public School Athletic League Championships
- One Section IX Class A Championship
- Twice selected as the New York Daily News Coach of the Year
- Ten times selected as the Rockland County Coach of the Year
- A record fifty-six consecutive wins in the Rockland County Public School Athletic League

His coaching career covered a period of twenty years. The dominance of his teams and the respect given him by his players and opposing coaches made him the pre-eminent coach of his time.

Edward went on to become a guidance counselor at Clarkstown High School North and served in that capacity until being appointed Head of Guidance at North High School in 1972. Coach McGrath served the district well in many capacities. He is fondly remembered by all who know him as being a "gentleman's gentleman."

Certainly, Coach McGrath's accomplishments as our school's basketball coach, speak for themselves. Coach McGrath made a difference in the lives of his student-athletes. While the accolades are a testament to Edward as a basketball coach, it is Edward J. McGrath the teacher, the mentor, the role model, and the gentleman he was, and still is, that we honor him today as we dedicate the Clarkstown High School North Gymnasium Court to Edward J. McGrath.

THANK YOU COACH McGRATH!

Clarkstown High School North Hall of Fame Induction Class of 1995

Ed McGrath attended St. Michael's High School in Northampton, Massachusetts from 1938-1942. While at S. Michaels he played four years of Varsity Baseball and was the team captain his senior year. He lettered in Varsity Basketball for two years and also served as the team captain his senior year.

He enrolled in the University of Massachusetts in 1942 and graduated in 1949. His education was interrupted for three years of military service in World War II. While at the University of Massachusetts, he played three years of Varsity Soccer, four years of Varsity Basketball, and two years of Varsity Baseball. In 1948, he was All-New England and All-American in Soccer and the team captain in Basketball.

He coached basketball at Marlboro High School from 1952-1956. During that time, he won two League Championships and had an overall won-loss record of 55-29. Ed came to Clarkstown in 1956 and coached the Varsity Boys' Basketball Team for 20 consecutive years. During his tenure, his teams were the class of Rockland County Basketball achieving 56 consecutive wins in the Rockland County PSAL. Ed's basketball coaching accomplishments also earned him the induction to the Rockland County Hall of Fame in 1982.

University of Massachusetts Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2008

Edward J. McGrath was a three-sport athlete at the University of Massachusetts during the 1940s, playing soccer, basketball and baseball. He was All-American soccer goalkeeper in 1947 and 1948. He career was interrupted by World War II, as he played basketball in 1943, and then again from 1947-49. McGrath also suited up in baseball in 1947 and 1948. He was a three-year starter in basketball, at forward in 1943 and 1947 and then at center in 1948. He came off the bench in basketball as a senior captain in 1949 in winning the Richards Memorial Cup. On the diamond, he was a starting shortstop in 1947. Following his college career, McGrath was invited to the Pam-Am Games in 1950 as a soccer goalkeeper. While in school, he served as vice president of the senior class in 1949, was president of his fraternity and a member of the University of Massachusetts Senate. McGrath earned his Bachelor of Arts in History in 1949 and a Master's in Physical Education in 1951. He was invited to the University of Massachusetts graduation procession in 1999.

Congratulations and Memoirs to Edward J. McGrath

Why did I choose to become a coach? That question has been asked of me countless times. A long time ago, I made a life decision. I decided to do what the people I admired most in life chose to do. I had great coaches all my life at every level, but the coach who inspired me the most was my high school basketball coach, Ed McGrath. I remember him as being positive, knowledgeable, competitive, and a gentleman. I always looked up to him and always felt fortunate to have had the opportunity to play for him.

When he retired from coaching, I was honored to have been chosen to succeed him. I remember thinking; could I ever come close to being as successful as he was? I knew I could never fill his shoes.

He once told me, do not try to be like anybody else, just be you. However, during my years of coaching there were countless times that I would say to myself, how would Coach handle this situation.

There were many memorable moments spent with Coach. One that stands out was traveling to a high school in NJ my junior year for an early season scrimmage. Our mode of transportation was Coach's 1956 Cadillac. I sat in the front seat between Coach and teammate Brian Kidd who had complete control of the radio. Brian scanned and found the song "The Lion Sleeps Tonight", turned the volume up, and we all started to sing along. The back seat chorus consisted of Al Orlando, Danny Gartrell and Johnny Radlein. I remember thinking, wow, what could possibly be better than this? I had never ridden in a Cadillac before!

Another special time we shared with Coach and Mrs. McGrath was when they came to see our son, Paul, play in a college basketball game at Stonehill College. For Coach and Mrs. McGrath to take the time and effort to see our son play basketball was a very special moment for all of the Toscanos. After all, they had known Kathie and me since we were 15 years old!

Now that Coach McGrath's night is finally here, I have to say I am as proud of his achievements as our coach as his own family. It does not surprise me, however, because all of his players feel the same way. We are all a part of his family in a way.

Congratulations Coach on this wonderful and long overdue honor of having the Clarkstown North Gymnasium now called 'The Edward J. McGrath Court'. Wow!

- Paul Toscano '63

I was lucky to be the JV and then the varsity basketball manager for Coach McGrath from 1970 -1973. I had the opportunity to watch and learn from Coach McGrath on and off the basketball floor both at practice and at games. I can still see the smile on his face and the humor flowing as the man in the purple practice coat and white pants with the whistle in hand put the team through their paces during practice. Coach McGrath knew the game inside and out from individual fundamentals to team strategies and he flowed all of that

information into his teams. He knew how to command respect and motivate young men to play together, compete hard and win as a team. And Clarkstown won many games under Coach McGrath. A lot of games. When I graduated form Clarkstown, I moved to Virginia and for the past 35 years have been watching the best college basketball played in the country, here in the Atlantic Coast Conference. For nine of those years I was a basketball manager and then an official scorer at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. I was fortunate to watch the great coaches work up close and in person including Dean Smith at UNC, Lefty Driesell at MD, Mike Krzyzewski at Duke, Bobby Cremins at Georgia Tech and Terry Holland at UVA. Coach McGrath could have easily coached in the ACC because his knowledge of the game, his drive and his passion would have matched up with the great ones.

Like those other gentlemen, Coach McGrath was a great coach because he was a great teacher. And like another great teacher that comes to mind (John Wooden), Coach made us all feel like family and he shared a lot of wisdom with us and we learned a lot (whether, as teenagers, we wanted to admit it at the time or not). I have great memories of Coach McGrath and Clarkstown basketball. Thanks Coach.

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Ed,

You truly deserve this honor! Your tenure as a basketball coach and educator in Clarkstown was exceptional. Your teams won many championships and at one point 56 straight wins. This is even more impressive when it is noted that though you loved winning, your commitment was to your players as individuals and not just athletes. You left a lasting impression on the athletes you coached and those of us who were fellow coaches and friends. Congratulations,

-	Joe	D'	Innocenzo

Dear Ed,

Congratulations on your well-deserved award.

My claim to fame is that I contributed a dozen of those wins in C'towns long winning streak back in the 60's when I coached at TZ.

We will always remember the great times at Middle States basketball camp. Congratulations and Good luck.

- Dan Dinan

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Coach, I have included some articles from my personal archives and some thoughts about

your first three seasons at Clarkstown. This all happened over 50 years ago so there may be foggy moments. Dennis (Denver) Pozsar

The team picture is of the team you lead to your first championship as a coach. We know now we were not even close to the talented teams you would have later but we remain your first. The mugs in the first row were sophomores on your first team (1956-1957) along with junior Terry Coyle and seniors Charles Albrecht and our best player Walter Kay. I believe this team produced one league victory against Pearl River and a couple non-league wins. We had some intense practices highlighted by Pete Gotay and Ted Cooper going at it and crashing through doors into the hallway. Thank goodness Walt Kay was finally able to separate them.

The 1957-1958 season must have made you think, 'why did I ever leave Marlboro?' Terry Coyle was our senior captain and started with the "first row mugs" in the picture. Jimmy Vellane was doing duty between the J.V. and varsity until joining us full time. Johnny Machold was our best player and probably your first test. The game I remember best was really not a game but a halftime. I believe we were playing St. Lukes of Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J. and as usual we were trailing at the half. I think coach felt this was a game we could win and came storming into the locker room and for the first time, and I think the last time, started screaming. When he picked up the sneaker and threw it to the floor Pete Gotay started laughing and soon the entire team joined Pete in laughter - so much for the dramatics! We went back on the floor only to lose again. We finished the season 1-16 with our only victory a league game against Suffern. I would only learn later that the powers that be were questioning their decision and I guess the pressure was on. The only ones who did not question their choice were his players who loved playing for him.

The 1958-1959 season brought back four starters. Richie Alexander, John Machold, Pete Gotay and myself. Jimmy Vellane, a junior, would round out the starting five. Lou Toscano would eventually become a starter and Pete the sixth man. We became the Tampa Bay Rays of county basketball going from "worst to first" finishing as co-champions with TZ and a 10-2 record. The game of the season was the game in Piermont against TZ. A great win in a very difficult place to win, but we were prepared. We won our opening sectional game but lost in the semis in sudden death after a couple of overtimes. Coach McGrath was selected "coach of the year", the first of many he would receive. Even through the bad times, we considered him our coach of the year because he never lost faith in his players and his players never lost faith in him. As Johnny Machold said to me the other night when we were talking about our season that coach was a "fine man" a person you could respect. Coach made us better players and he made us better individuals. Fifty years later, I still say that there was nothing better than playing for "Mugsy".

P.S. Ed McGrath was a great coach and person but he was not a great driver. He would drive us to Bear Mountain for summer evening games and to New Jersey for preseason scrimmages. What an experience! I believe his car was a black Dodge or Plymouth station wagon that probably had seen better days. We often got lost in N.J. and when coach decided to make a turn or back up, he did, no matter what might be in the way. He would take a lot of good-natured needling from the guys lucky enough to be in the car. We came to look forward to these adventurous rides.

- Dennis Pozsar

Ed McGrath:

A well-deserved honor for a true gentleman in every walk of life, a role model one can only aspire to emulate. Congratulations to the entire McGrath family. From,

- Marianne Olbermann and family

Dear Ed,

What can we say?? You brought the true meaning of basketball to the county. Remember the Friday nights that we waited on line to get into the gym – if you didn't make it you had to see it on TV. No one seemed to mind – it was more important that you were there. How calm you appeared during the game. When everyone else was losing their composure you seemed to maintain yours – at least on the surface. And those after game Town Tavern meetings where each play was re-evaluated, re—hashed and resurrected over and over again. Those were the Happy Days. But more then giving us basketball you gave us a sense of morality and fairness that is unseen in these present days. Team members as well as your friends knew what you stood for and what you valued. Little was said but much was shown through example and through your own family. It was this part of your career that we appreciated the most. You raised such an awesome family. Granted without Ruth you were not much but together you raised four wonderful children with great values and standards. We as a young couple often wondered if we could do the same.

You were a role model to us not only as a teacher, a coach but as a husband and father. We became very attached to you and your family (especially Jeff). We will never forget what you have given us – from great basketball, to long lasting friendship. We are sorry that we cannot be there in person but please know that you are always on our mind and in our heart. You, Ruth and all of your family have made an everlasting footprint on our hearts and souls, We are better for knowing you all.

Love,

- Kathy and Marty Piccinich and the girls

Coach – It has been a long time (36 years) since you told me not to even look at the ball, "just try to cover Paul (Toscano) as best you can." There are many full circle moments in life. I had one the other day. My son, Connor, is going to South Kent Prep School and we looked at the sports schedule. There it was, the crew team plays "Newburgh Free Academy". A few more memories of a time when the internet, cable TV, etc., were just a pipe dream. I remember when Ed McGrath was asked to carry a gun while being a guard (not lifeguard) at Lake Welch State Park. I am not sure if he knew which end to hold. I remember when Ed McGrath hosted a party at his house right off of Route 304 and at the bottom of "Hoover Hill" (called that because of the number of FBI agents living on "the hill"). The furnace went out. I remember Artie Landau trying to fix it and the explosion that occurred that nearly blew the front door off its hinges. I remember when Ed McGrath quite calmly and not laughing initially corrected Artie Greene when Artie was giving directions

to "Wamberjack Street" in Lavalette, N.J. and Ed said, "don't you mean West Amberjack"? Coach, you had a lot of "Artie's" (Orlando, Landau, Greene) in your life! I remember when ten people were diving into the party mix between plays of the "1968 Sugar Bowl" on the TV at Ed's house, and the hooting and hollering that went on while Paul Toscano had us all mesmerized. I remember the nurturing relationship and mutual respect that was evident to all who saw Ed McGrath and Artie Orlando together. I remember the comment from Ed in the early 60's when he was visiting 3 Alan Drive in New City and Bobby Fisher (the neighboring house's 8-year-old boy) said to Ed as he barely stepped onto the Fisher property, "get off our property!." Ed said, "boy, this kid is sure property conscious". I remember that high-pitched pre-game pep talk that inspired us as we burst into the gym at Clarkstown High School. I remember when all hell was breaking loose during multiple games, looking around and seeing the calmest person in the gym being Coach McGrath. He had a way of centering us all and keeping the excitement of the moment in place while loftier goals were achieved. Thanks for the memories coach! I never experienced the level of coaching again that I experienced through you and Artie Orlando. Coaching is more than "x's" and "o's" and you and Artie nailed it.

- Steve Greene (Clarkstown North Class of 1972)

"Coach Mugsy"

The early years: I was lucky enough to be selected my sophomore year to play varsity games, that's how bad his team was in 1957-1958. Early in the season we made an ill-fated trip to NJ to play a far superior team. We were getting killed at halftime. Coach, in an uncharacteristic manner, came screaming through the locker room door. He was so upset his voice was high pitched, to the point where it was like he was possessed. Shocked, I looked over to Peter Gotey (big mistake) and he had his head buried in his hands, and was locked into uncontrollable laughter. Naturally, it got contagious, and almost everyone was laughing. The ending to this story becomes very vague at this point, but I remember it only because of how much out of character Coach was for that brief period of time. I think Coach learned that he was not Vince Lombardi if he could not convince us that he possessed a mean streak. Subsequently, Coach McGrath got upset and scolded his teams whenever he deemed necessary, but I think that day taught him to stay in character and be true to himself.

My senior year: Coach had just won his first championship (and his job) and now he had to follow up that with a team that could be best described as very athletic, but lacking basketball talent. He had to deal with a John Machold clone in me, with a temper that was much worse! Early in the preseason, we were making slow progress and I was getting more irritable at each practice with the direction we were going. Whatever possessed me to do the unthinkable – I did – I stormed off the court letting everyone know I quit!! Picture me in the locker room undressing, fuming, and finally realizing what I had just done. Worse yet, what was I going to tell my father!! (Father's back then didn't know the word "quit") Once again, the story becomes quite vague, but if Coach McGrath hadn't been my coach and I had some "Hossiers" guy I might not be writing this episode now! Somehow Coach knew how to treat all players as people too, he could see beyond the personality and temperament of individuals and bring out the best in them. We went on to win another championship that year with talent far inferior to other teams. We upset the best team in the county by 40 points, at a time when 40 points could win a game. That season remains one of the most

remarkable coaching jobs in Rockland County history, thanks to a Coach that inspired us to play to our potential and beyond.

The Genius of Coach McGrath:

Coach McGrath had that intangible attribute that made you want to win for "HIM". He was a winner because he ALWAYS had the respect of his players; his character was flawless. When you know he feels that you are more important to him than winning there is no limit to your drive to succeed for him and yourself. All the years I played the system changed based on the skill level of the players, but the one constant was let us win this one for Coach (and maybe for ourselves to talk about 50 years later!). I can never thank Coach McGrath enough for making me a better person, on and off the court.

- Jim Vellane

Dear Coach,

I would like to share one of my many fond memories of you. We were on the bus heading to Nanuet who at the time were 0-13 while we were 12-1. Because of the match up, we decided to try and have Jim Malfetti break Paul Toscano's record of 50 points in a single game. (By the way don't tell Paulie about this!!!). Game starts, we throw it in to Jim, he scores gets fouled, we steal at half court, slow it down, wait for Jim, throw it inside, he scores gets fouled etc. etc. At this time you are probably the only coach in Rockland County to call a timeout with HIS team up 8-0!! In the huddle, you ask what is going on? We sheepishly explain. Because of your class and respect for other teams, you said go ahead but do not look stupid doing it! Jim had 52 points with about six minutes to go and you pulled him out. Mission accomplished!! You were and always will be the best!!!

- Bryan Hassett And the rest of the guys from 1966

I played for Ed McGrath in 1974 and 1975. An interesting memory I have is that one Saturday in the early 1970s (I don't remember the exact year) a friend and I went to Madison Square Garden to watch the Knicks play. What we did not know was that during halftime, the Garden was honoring the top 20 high school basketball coaches in N.Y. State. I was watching with mild interest as they were introduced, but my ears perked up when I heard "... and from Clarkstown High School in New City, NY, Coach Ed McGrath of the Clarkstown Rams." That was exciting for us, and I am sure a great honor for Coach McGrath.

- Mark Robinson



ED McGRATH

Clarkstown's Ed McGrath Named "Coach of Year"

By SAM BASSO

Ed McGrath, Clarkstown High's court mentor, who brought the last place Ram's of last year to a cochampionship this season, received the honor of "PSAL basketball coach of the year" by the Sherwood Newspapers.

Lanky, likeable Ed McGrath and his charges absorbed plenty of setbacks since the centralization of the school district. The last time the Purple and Gold won a basketball crown was in 1941, when they were the Congers Lakesiders, with a 9-3 record.

In the first two years of campaigning the Rams went 1-11. The first year the Maggies stopped Suffern for their first win since centralization and last season Clarkstown won their only hoop contest from Pearl River. The Rams overall record for '57-'58 was 1-16. Many times close but only two wins was the Clarkstown story – until this season.

Under McGrath, the Rams climbed the league ladder in a full swoop. They took the 1958-59 co-championship with TZ, each with a 10-2 record. Tappan Zee, losing twice in league competition, met defeat both times at the hands of Clarkstown.

Winning on the Piermont bandbox was an accomplishment unclaimed by the county teams - except Clarkstown. They humbled the Piermonters in a game which for the first time, disintegrated the otherwise smooth functioning combination.

Clarkstown traveled to Spring Valley and came through after a tough encounter with a 47-43 win. The Tigers were tough at home and lost their only other game to the Taps. Then came the explosion at TZ -and Clarkstown caused it, 54-47. Nyack was the only team which could stop the Rams and the Indians did it first at New City, 59-47, and then at Nyack, 59-52. All the remaining games were won by the Maggies by comparatively close scores. The team finished fourth in high scoring totals (637 points) and had 578 points scored against them.

Ed McGrath went to high school at Northampton, Massachusetts, and played varsity for four years on the baseball and basketball teams at St Michael's. The Navy got McGrath and he was a radar man on a manof-war. He was attending officer's candidate school just prior to getting his honorable discharge.

Big Ed finished his college at the University of Massachusetts, majoring in history. He played varsity basketball for four years. This is where he met Reuith McKenny. Miss McKenny is now Mrs. McGrath. The McGraths have four lovely children, Jimmie 8, Brad 7, Sheila 6, and Jeffery 3. Ed and Reuith were married shortly after graduation.

Ed coached and taught at Northampton Vocational High School. His basketball team took the title the first and second years. In 1956, McGrath started at Clarkstown and had two disastrous seasons.

Such outstanding court stars as Walt Kaye and John Machold owe their court savvy to McGrath's coaching. Clarkstown's key to success this season was their team play to this end, Coach McGrath's influence is clearly discernable.

This is a "first" for Clarkstown Central. McGrath is the first Clarkstown coach to be honored as "coach of the year" since centralization.

THE ROCKLAND COUNTY JOURNAL NEWS NYACK, N.Y. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1959

Clarkstown Upsets Dutchmen at Tap Court

THE ROCKLAND COUNTY JOURNAL NEWS



WAITING FOR THE BELL for the opening of the P.S.A.L. basketball season is the Clarkstown Central varsity squad pictured above. The Rams, who are considered a prime threat to defending champ Tappan Zee, are lined up as follows: front row, left to right, Rich Alexander, Johnny Machold, Dennis Pozsar and Pete Gotay; second row: Lou Toscano, Jim Vellane, Paul Itkin and Tom Fenton; third row: Tom Peterson, Joe Brady, Jerry Lindenberger, Bill Sheldon and Mike Sosnowich; and in the rear; F. Beasley and Mike Griffin. Clarkstown opens at Spring Valley tomorrow night.

Taps, Rams Scrap It Out Tomorrow Night By Joe MARSICO

It's ulcer harvest time in county PSAL basketball circles as for the second time this week the card features a clutch battle when six teams swing into action tomorrow evening.

This time it will be the two contenders squaring off in what could be the deciding battle for the 1958-59 crown. The site is Piermont. The challenger is Clarkstown.

Two other games are slated, one for Pearl River where Haverstraw's Red Raiders visit and the other is Spring Valley with the guests being Suffern's Mounties. Nyack, all but eliminated by Tappan Zee on Tuesday and reduced to the role of "spoiler" has the night off.

Grabbing a page from the late Al Smith's book: "Let's look at the record" for a more comprehensive picture on the impending showdown battle.

Everything points to a Tappan Zee victory except the fact that the Rams have been the only county team to take the measure of Coach Bill Moran's talented troupe. They did it in the first half, 59-49.

Tappan Zee, in piling up its six wins in seven tries has racked up 479 points for a 69 point per game average. This is 103 more points than Clarkstown's 373 for a 54 point average in the same number of games. But Clarkstown did beat the Taps the first time they met.

-CAGE CALLS-

ART HOPPER (18-6):

Tappan Zee by 15 Spring Valley by 8 Pearl River by 4

DICK WOOTEN (18-6): Tappan Zee by 16 Spring Valley by 9 Haverstraw by 3

DICK BAKER (18-6): Tappan Zee by 12 Spring Valley by 9 Pearl River by 5

JOE MAURER (18-6): Tappan Zee by 12 Spring Valley by 9

Pearl River by 5

JOE MARSICO (17-7): Tappan Zee by 9 Spring Valley by 12 Haverstraw by 6

GEORGE MUELLER (15-9): Tappan Zee by 6 Spring Valley by 14 Pearl River by 12

Defense Even

Defensively it is a flat-footed deadlock, both teams having given up 338 points or 49 per game. That's exactly the number of points Tappan Zee scored when they lost to Clarkstown in the first half.

The Dutchmen have been tattooing their opponents by at least a 20 point average while Clarkstown has been accomplishing the same thing with a modest five point difference. But both have the same records, six wins and one defeat.

Now we come to the final point, the home court "advantage". How much does it count? We shall see. The game is at Piermont. You figure it.

And then we have the personnel making up each club. Tappan Zee has the freescoring, easy-going Charlie Hogan, who a few weeks ago broke the single game scoring record with 49 points. And then they have just about the toughest rebounder in the loop in Matt Rehtorovic. For extra board strength Moran can count on Carl Brawner.

In the backcourt, Tappan Zee has about the best duo around in Joe Campoli, feeder par-excellence, and Dave Galgano, a dead-eye from any part of the tiny Tap home floor. The Tappan Zee bench is about the best stocked in the county.

Machold Leader

Clarkstown counters with Johnny Machold, a fine rebounder and top scorer; Richie Alexander, big enough to be a fine rebounder but also a great shot from the side and corner. Then there is Lou Toscano, who's rebounding has done wonders for the Rams.

Guiding the attack will be the combination of Denny Pozsar and Jimmy Vellane. Vellane is a counter-part for Galgano, a good ball handler and fine shot, while Pozsar, not noted for his scoring, can set up the big men.

Coach McGrath also has the advantage of a fairly well stocked bench and can make moves without hurting his club.

So there it is, the big one of the year, being played in the smallest gym where seats no doubt will be at a premium. We suggest you get there early, real early, if you hope to get in for this one.

Rams Check Defending Champs For 59-57 Win

By Joe MARSICO

There's no substitute for hustle. Clarkstown's Rams had plenty of it last night, twice coming form behind ten-point deficits, finally battling into a six-point 11th hour lead, and then holding on for a 59-57 win over Tappan Zee to project themselves over the defending champs into undisputed possession of first place in the PSAL basketball race.

It marked the second time this season that Coach Ed McGrath's crew has taken the measure of the Flying Dutchmen and stamps the Rams as a definite threat for this years crown.

As for the Dutchmen, the pressure suddenly shifts on them for they must win the rest of the way if they hope to stay close enough to take advantage of any slipup by Clarkstown.

The win by the Rams also explodes a myth that Tappan Zee teams do not lose on their home court. The Taps can and always could be taken on their home floor if the opposition came in with the proper mental attitude. Clarkstown apparently did last night.

There were six heroes for the Rams as all of Coach McGrath's charges played a big part in the downfall of the Dutchie dynasty.

The Cast

Big Lou Toscano, surviving through a pair of nose bleeds, only scored five points but he battled Matt Rechtorovic, the Tappan Zee board pounder, to a standstill.

Johnny Machold, whose three quick buckets late in the fourth period finally put the Rams in front to stay, also did a bangup job under the boards.

Richie Alexander, with his pet onehander working well, kept the Rams in close during the first half.

Denny Pozsar, with his ball handling playing an important part, found time in the third period to deposit five points in a row to stem a mounting Tappan Zee lead.

Jimmy Vellane, operating out front with Pozsar, did well in that respect and capped it with a pair of inportant buckets in the last period.

And Pete Gotay, the only substitute employed by McGrath, did well in spelling Lou Toscano and Alexander.

Panic Shows

Tapppan Zee did well in defeat but a semblance of panic crept into the picture when they found themselves down by four with but a minute left to play. Standing out in that situation was Dave Galgano, who battled the Rams right down to the final buzzer. Hogan also did well under the pressure.

Rechtorovic, who topped the Tap scoring list, went a bit eratic in those closing minutes and the usually reliable Joe Campoli seemed to be hurrying those pin-point passes a bit too much.

The Dutchies had gone into the final period sporting a four-point, 51-47 bulge and seemed in control of the situation. The Rams came on to make their own breaks.

Vellane started with a driving lay-up that was matched by Hogan just before Johnny Machold took charge. Big John hit on a drive at 3:45 of the semester, came in with a one-hander at 4:15 to knot the count at 53 all and 15 seconds later dropped in a rebound to put Clarkstown in front to stay.

Here the play got a bit erratic on both sides as passes misconnected, shots were off target with the Rams still holding to their two-point bulge.

Out Goes Lou

Toscano fouled out with 1:34 to play and it looked like the Taps might make it. But Vellane drifted in with a one-hander, Gotay and Machold hit with single foul shots to make it 59-53 with a minute to plat.

Hogan drove for a deuce that was nullified on what appeared to be a double call, official Bud Haring calling the shot good and George Lucas detecting a foul before the shot, wiping out the bucket and awarding two shots.

Much discussion followed, with Lucas' call standing, Hogan hit the two shots and the Taps were still down four points. Galgano drifted under for the final two points just before the game-ending buzzer sounded.

Both clubs started in a rush, the first period seeing the nets stuffed for 43 points and the Rams giving an indication that they meant business as they took a 22-21 lead at the first break.

Eight points by Alexander and seven by Johnny Machold were the bulk of the Ram total while Hogan and Rechtorovic hit for eight each for the Taps.

Get Hot

Rechtorovic, Hogan, Campoli and Galgano hit their stride mid-way through the second period and projected the Dutchmen into a 10-point 35-25 lead at the minute mark. Here the Taps were at their best, Campoli directing the play and setting up like a magician.

But the dogged determination of the Clarkstowners began to show as Alexander, Machold and Pozsar hit on consecutive shots to cut that lead to four. Tappan Zee maintained a 39-33 spread when Galgano hit one of his pet heaves just before the half ended.

Galgano and Rechtorovic, in the early minutes of the third period, again spurted the Taps out to a ten-point lead. Toscano hit on a drive from the corner and Pozsar did his best work of the season in coming in with five straight points on a pair of buckets capped by a free shot to cut the lead to a mere three points.

Alternating baskets from that point gave the Dutchies a 51-47 lead going into the final period.

Varied Defense

Clarkstown's 3-2 zone gave the Dutchies trouble all the way and their on-and-offagain backcourt press did its job in checking the fast-breaking Dutchies.

Tappan Zee stayed in its patented zone most of the way but swung to man-to-man in the final period for some reason and the move back-fired.

Rechtorovic, with 19 points, was the scoring leader of the game as Hogan and Galgano hit for 16 each. Machold's 18 topped Clarkstown while Alexander dropped in 14 and Vellane ten. All of the Rams hit the scoring column.

Tappan Zee's jayvees recovered from their recent loss to Nyack when they came up with a comfortable 47-36 win over the Ram juniors. The Tap juniors had piled up a 28-16 lead at the half and maintained it the rest of the way.

Tom Palkovic led the winners with 19 points and Mozer had 11. Steve Drummond and Al Stanton had ten each for Coach Jim Hessian's crew.

Sammy Frasco worked the jayvee game alone, quite a task in the small Piermont gym... Rams fans jammed the gate before it opened and almost froze out the Dutchie rooters who showed up a bit late. Lines were forming at six o'clock.

The Lineups:

Clarkstown

Clarkstown (59)				Tappan Zee (57)				
	G	F	Т		G	F	Т	
Machold	7	4	18	Rechtorovic	7	5	18	
Alexander	7	0	14	Hogan	6	4	16	
Toscano	2	1	5	Campoli	1	4	6	
Vellane	4	2	10	Brawner	0	0	0	
Pozsar	4	1	9	Galgano	8	0	16	
Gotay	1	1	3	Coriano	0	0	0	
Totals	25	9	59	Totals	22	13	57	
Score by Quarters:								

22 11 14 12 - 59

Tappan Zee 21 18 12 6 - 57

Officials: Lucas and Haring

Clarkstown JV (36)				Тарра	an Z	ee J	V ((47)
	G	F	Ť			G	F	T
Drummond	4	3	10	Mack		2	1	5
Stanton	5	0	10	Palkov	ic	9	1	19
Gertrell	4	1	9	Mozer		4	3	11
Wissig	0	2	0	Blauve	lt	2	0	4
Dusanenko	2	1	5	Luccet	ti	2	4	8
				Brauni	ner	0	0	0
Totals	<u>15</u>	6	36	Totals		19	9	47
Score by Quarters:								
Clarkstown J	١V			8 8	9	11	-	36
Tappan Zee	JV		1	12 16	7	12	-	47

Officials: Sam Frasco

Inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame Class of 1982





The ultra-successful Clarkstown H.S. basketball coach for 20 seasons, 1957 to 1976. Between 1963 and 1972, his teams won 136 games and lost only 14 ... that includes a record 56 consecutive victories in Rockland PSAL competition, and three straight unbeaten PSAL seasons. McGrath's teams won 10 Rockland County PSAL championships, eight of them outright. His career coaching record was 190 wins, 92 defeats. His great 1972 club, anchored by Hall of Fame center Bob Mathias, captured the Section 9 Class A championship. That was the farthest his team could go, since there was no NYS tournament at that time. Clarkstown won four straight Rockland PSAL titles twice under McGrath, 1963-1966, and 1969-1972. McGrath won Coach of the Year honors 10 times. His teams were always well-coached and fundamentally sound. As an athlete, McGrath won seven letters in baseball and basketball at St. Michael's High School in Northampton, Mass., and nine varsity letters in basketball, baseball and soccer at the University of Massachusetts. He captained many of his high school and college teams. As a senior, he was selected as an All-America soccer goalie.



