

NewKIDS

We welcome New Members:

Jeffrey Alcorn
Polytechnic '64. 4 yrs Football.
All - City Honorable Mention.

William Demattei
George Washington 1962. Just a
great sports fan.

Kevin Dunleavy
Serra H.S. 1980. San Mateo. 4 yrs
Basketball. All - WCAL Hon Ment. -
Nor Cal H.S. All Star team. USF '84.

Dean James
Capuchino H.S. 1954. San Bruno.
2 yrs Basketball, Baseball & Golf.
BYU 1958. 4 yrs Golf. Retired PGA
Golf Professional.

Brendan O'Neil
Moreau H.S. 1986 Hayward. 4 yrs
Soccer, Track & Cross Country.
3 Sport All - Conference. USF 1990.
Olympic Club Soccer, 3 yrs.

Jack Schroth
Lincoln 1953. Just a great sports fan.
60 yrs Handball - South End Rowing
Club.

Walt Torrens
Washington 1957. 3 yrs Football &
Track.

Dominic Tringale
S.H. 1965. 3 yrs Baseball.

Deloss Wood
Drew & S.H. 1949. USF 1954.
3 yrs Baseball & Track. Semi - Pro
Baseball

Urie Walsh
S.I. 1955. 3 yrs Football. USF '59.
67 yr Olympic Club Member.

Last of the Ninth

Since our last Round Table we have lost the following friends:

- Dick Bechelli
- Rich Batista
- Jack Campbell
- Jim Keller
- Gib Kirwin
- Jim Peters
- Dennis Richardson
- Don Sabatini
- Harold Stone

TIME OUT

By Manny Agorastos
Congratulations are in order:
Jim Brovelli

Will be inducted into the 30th Annual San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame Awards Banquet, this May 19th. Jim was our guest speaker in the Fall of '85, and now a current OTA Member. In '85, Jim was the head USF Basketball Coach. This brings a total of 51 OTA'ers who have been recognized by the Hall of Fame Committee. He joins 304 previous recipients for this award.

Mike Holmgren
The Lincoln High School Alum, an OTA Member and our speaker at the Spring '89 Dinner will be inducted into the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame on July 21. Mike's 84 victories with the team is the third most in franchise history, behind Vince Lombardi (98). Head Coach from 1992 thru 1998, he led Green Bay to a Victory in Super Bowl XXXI.

Gene Washington
Enshrined this past March at the 33rd Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame Banquet held at the St. Francis Hotel. He joins 144 local athletes and coaches in the "BASHOF" Organization. Gene, speaker at our OTA Dinner back in the Fall '93, was a former SF - 49er wide receiver, 3 time All Pro and played in 4 Pro Bowls. He became director of Football Operations for the NFL, from 1994 - 2009, then served as a Sportscaster and before retirement became Assistant Athletic Director at Stanford.



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The Round Table

*A Semi-Annual
Publication
of the
Old time Athletes
Association*

The Website

By Gerry Stratford

Some of us are Giants fans, and some root for the A's, but all of us are fans of Vida Blue. He grew up on the wrong side of Mansfield, Louisiana where he played all the different sports including baseball. Actually, he was pretty darn good at football. Recruited by Notre Dame, Purdue and Grambling, in his senior high school year he passed for 3484 yards, scored 35 touchdowns and averaged 10.3 yards per carry when he ran with the ball. Can you imagine a QB that threw passes of 50 yards or more with either hand? Vida could do that. But baseball offered an opportunity to be paid for playing, and one of the games greatest pitchers came eventually to California.

Remember the motion? Right knee up somewhere near his shoulder, leaning back so far that the ball in his hand nearly touched the ground, and then hard



Vida Blue

overhand and the ball would disappear. He pulverized more than a few catchers mitts, not to mention their frequently bandaged fingers. Oh, and Vida could hit the ball too. He was a good switch hitter, but managers did not want him to bat right-handed, fearing he might be hit on the left shoulder by an opposing pitcher, and strategy demanded that he take pitches or lay down a bunt instead of going for the downs.

One of the longest controversies in professional sport

Spring 2012

*Initiation Fee \$15
Yearly Dues \$25
Old Time Athletes
Association
1245 Meridian Ranch Dr.
Reno, NV 89253*

www.otanc.org

centered around Vida in 1976. Chub Finley's efforts to sell off his prized collection of superstars to the NY Yankees was held up by Bowie Kuhn and questions about the controversial Reserve Clause rebounded through the courts. Kuhn had decided that Rollie Fingers, Joe Rudi and Vida could not be sold. Should big money teams be allowed to acquire all of the best players? Should players be able to go where the salaries most rewarded their value? The upshot of this battle culminated in Vida becoming a SF Giant. He came in exchange for Dave Heaverlo, Gary Alexander, Alan Wirth, Gary Thomassen, three minor leaguers and close to \$400,000 cash. The only seven for one trade in baseball history. Seems like a bargain to me. Vida won 18 games that year, led the Giants to a 3rd Place NL finish, and he

(Continued on page 3)