



Old Time Athlete's Association
of Northern California
Founded 1930

The Roundtable Spring 2014

The Roundtable...A semi-Annual Publication

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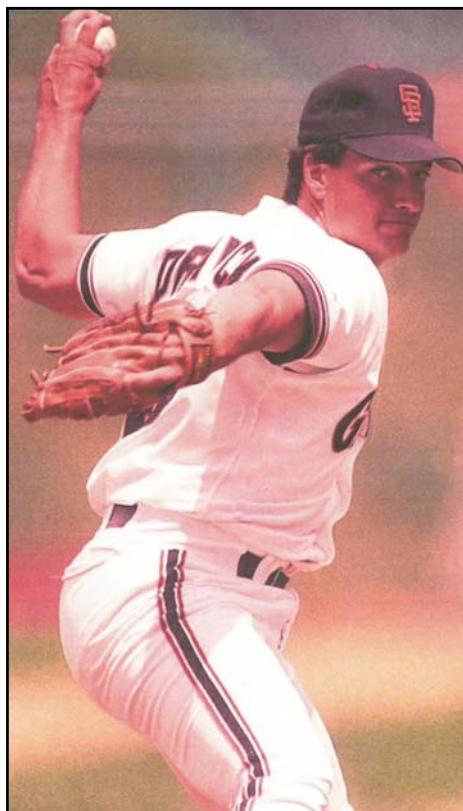
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Talk About a Comeback By Gerry Stafford

I imagine that you are a pitcher. You have a great arm. Everyone admires it. Your coach depends upon it. Your teammates and the sportswriters even ask you, "How's your arm doing today." Instead of "How are you doing?"

You are on the top of the world, and then cancer is discovered in that amazing arm. But you are not



Dave Dravecky pitched for eight years in the Major Leagues with the Padres and Giants. His best season was 14-10 with the Padres. Cancer ended his career as he helped the Giants reach the 1989 World Series. He won the Willie Mac award in 1989 voted by his teammates.

a quitter. Hard work pays off, and you're once again on the mound. You have a no-hitter going through the fifth, but in the sixth inning you make a pitch, you hear a horrible snap, the bone in your upper arm breaks in half, and you fall to the ground. Just one year later, you break it again while celebrating a Giants pennant win. And then, the doctor informs you that your cancer has returned and your arm and part of your shoulder must be removed. What will you do now that you really can't come back?

Dave Dravecky has the answer to this question. He not only has managed to find his way along this excruciating path, but he has also devoted his life to sharing the lessons he has learned along the way...how we navigate part loss and what in life is really important. Because, in the final analysis it really doesn't matter very much what you do, what you win or lose...what really matters is who you are as a person.

Dave has travelled the world telling his story, and helping those who suffer with loss. And now after the prognosis that he would "never come back" he has moved back to California. He is back to his team again, where he heads up a community outreach program for the San Francisco Giants, and he is here to tell the OTA about the things that matter and the things that don't.

So how does your arm feel now?

Krueger a Big Hit at the Fall Dinner

He's confident, speaks what he thinks, is controversial, knowledgeable and is a good guy. KNBR's **Larry Krueger** was our Fall Dinner guest speaker and gave an interesting talk that led many regular attendees to say he was the best speaker in a long time. He came right out of the box and talked about the incident that cost him his job at KNBR because what he was discussing was later referred to as racial slurs directed towards Latino players on the Giants team in 2006. It became a huge problem with Giants manager **Felipe Alou** causing a riff between the station and the Giants. Krueger said he was giving his opinion on the current Giants line-up on his late night talk show and Alou took it personal and Krueger was dismissed from the radio show. Six long years later he's back with the station and teams up with **Gary Radnich** on the 9 am to noon show. Radnich is the star but Krueger makes the show lively with his off-the-wall comments. No wonder the show is the most popular of the KNBR line-up of talk heads. During the time of his dismissal from the station he was more than out of work as no station wanted to touch him based upon the racial issue. Larry went to his father for advice and it was what helped him along the way with positive thinking. He finally landed a job with another station and once



Larry Krueger and member Bob Lee.

again his work was getting reviews and other big-market stations started taking notice. KNBR took the chance and grabbed him. The OTA audience was brought to an almost eerie silence as he spoke directly to his father and told him how much he loved his support during the rough times. It may sound corny but he's a guy bearing his sole to his Dad in front of 250 strangers like no one else was around. He fielded all kinds of questions from the Lincecum signing to decisions made by the Forty Niners or anything else the audience threw at him. It's truly amazing how much he really knows about what he's talking about ...and no script. Larry made lots of friends at dinner and it's easy to see why KNBR brought him back.

Poppin New President for 2014

Nick Poppin is a native San Franciscan raised in Noe Valley and the Excelsior Districts of the City. He went to Denman Jr. High and Balboa and graduated in 1956. He was an outstanding athlete playing varsity football and baseball and made All-City in baseball in 1956. After graduation he joined the Air Force and like many other athletes he chose sports rather than military duties. He pitched for the base team in Japan in 1958-60 and had the opportunity to play against many Japan University teams, Tokyo professional B teams and inter-league Navy, Army and Air Force teams. His biggest thrill was pitching in the PACAF tournament in Japan.



Nick Poppin

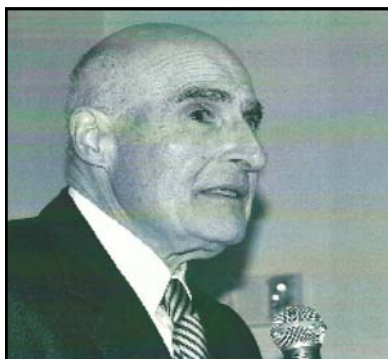
The highlight of his tour of duty in Japan was meeting his future wife Mieko, and they were married in the US Embassy in 1960. They had a son who passed away in 2003. Nick is also a member of the San Francisco Old Timers Baseball Association where he served as the 72nd President in 2012.

He's an honorary member of the Marino Pieretti Group. He is very active in Old Timer functions in his term of office and made many innovative changes for the Association.

"I look forward to meeting the new members of the Board of Directors and planning some interesting speakers for our semi-annual dinners."

Longevity, Loyalty and Reliability...

These words describe what **Manny Agorastos** has meant to the Old Times Athletes Association for the past 42 years he's been a member. Manny joined the OTA in 1982 and is a native of San Francisco having attended Lowell High School where he excelled in football among other sports he played. He played under two fine coaches:



Manny Agorastos at the microphone

Mike Yoyné and **Bill Feiling** and the team had winning records in both years. Manny went on to letter at the University of California under the legendary coach Lynn "Pappy" Waldorf. His greatest thrill in his Cal days was beating Stanford in the 1956 Big Game who were led by the great

TIME OUT

By Manny Agorastos , Cal '57

John Brodie and **Paul Wigen** in their line-up. The Bears were led by **Joe Kapp** who went on to have a great NFL career.

After graduation and entering into the business world his love for football didn't end with his playing days. He worked as a stock broker for Wedbush Securities and also taught business classes at City College when the call for football officiating beckoned him. He put as much enthusiasm into becoming an official as he did in playing sports and for the past 52 years he has officiated college, Jr. college and high school games retiring in 2012. He's been a member of the Board of Directors since 1990, was Vice president and President in 1992-93 respectively. He was the recipient of the Annual Golden Jock Awards in 2007 honoring a member for their contributions to the Association. He has been responsible for getting guest speakers for the bi-annual yearly dinners that included Santa Clara basketball coach **Dick Davey** and former 49er **Gene Washington**.

But what he's probably best known for is his introductions of the new OTA members at the dinner meetings which he has done since 1990. He's still working as a stockbroker (44 years) and is a member of the Olympic Club (48 years). Our "Hats Off" to Manny Agorastos for the great contributions he's made as a member of the OTA.

Dinner Meeting Date Changes:
Spring April 17 and Fall October 30, both days are Thursdays.

OTA Office Information

Initiation Fee: \$15
Yearly Dues: \$25

Mailing address:
1245 Meridian Ranch Drive
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Andy Burke 650-591-8585
Vice Chairs:
Andy Kerr 415-434-2649
Gary Bader 415-731-8027

Membership:
Jack Scramaglia 650-355-7795

Roundtable Information:
John McCarthy 209-470-1103
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Members and dinner speakers making headlines...**Jack Fleming**, Lowell High School Alum, swimming in the 75-79 age group won the U.S. Masters swimming National Championships in the 100 meter breast stroke and 100 meter butterfly at Mission Viejo last August. In September, he entered 6 events in the Nevada Senior Games and won medals in each event he entered. In October at the Huntsman Senior World Games in Utah, he won 8 Gold medals including the 200 butterfly and 400 individual medley. There were more than 10,000 athletes at the games and he was awarded the Overall Champion medal for his age group.

Bob Lurie will be enshrined in May at the 35th Bay Area Sports Hall of Fame. He will join some 150 local athletes and coaches in the BASHOF Organization. Lurie was the owner of the Giants from 1976-92 buying the team from **Horace Stoneham** prevented the Giants from moving to Toronto and then selling them to **Peter Magowan**.

Chronicle feature columnist, **C.W. Nevius**, and a former OTA guest speaker made a hole-in-one at Monarch Bay GC using a 5-iron on the 160 yd. 4th hole.

NewKIDS

We Welcome new members to the Association and they are: **Robert Fife**, a Sacred Heart graduate class of 1961. He



Fife top Belli bottom

played four years of football then on to CCSF in 1967 and played two years of basketball.

Vince Belli is another graduate of Sacred Heart class of '61 where he played 4 years of football and basketball.

George Darling, a Lowell HS graduate class of '56. He lists himself as a Great Sports Fan.



Richard Muzio, a Galileo graduate, '55, played 3 years soccer making All-City and 2 years baseball. At CCSF in 1967 he played soccer.

Bob O'Donnell, Washington HS, 1954, played 4 years basketball. At Cal he lettered for 3 years of crew racing.

Jerome Williams, attended St. Ignatius class of 1974. Set school and league records in the 100 @ 200 yard dash, long jump and 440 yard relay. Voted All-City, WCAL and All Northern California in track & field. Was a WCAL basketball official.

Members and Guest at the 2013 Fall OTA Meeting

Jack Abad	Chuck Figone	Phil Lellmen	Jack Schroth
Manny Agorasto	Marcel Fiore	Ford Long	Jack Scramaglia
Vince Aguilar	Jack Fitzpatrick	Bill Lynch	Wallace Sheehan
Al Alcorn	Jack Fleming	Al Maccuso	Lou Signer
Jeff Alcorn	Steve Franceschi	Dave Macklin	Bob Simi
Gary Bader	Alan Fraser	Mike Maffei	Steve Simi
John Bain	Richard Friedman	Roger Major	Jeff Stahl
Charlie Baker	Charlie Gagan	Bob Maloney	William Stevenson
Joe Banovich	Norm Gard	Joe Marino	Gerry Stafford
John Barbieri	Fred George	Allen Martino	Greg Suhr
Jim Bass	Art Gerrans	Bob Max	Carl Sundquist
Mark Bass	Rich Giambastini	John McCarthy	Tom Swartz
Wayne Batmale	Jerry Gibson	Ray McDonald	Terry Taylor
Don Benedetti	Joe Gigliotti	Tom McGraw	Jeffery Thomson
Marv Berkson	Frank Glynn	Robert Micheli	Chuck Vanoncini
Jerry Bocci	Jerry Gosland	Al Modena	Dave Verbrugge
Frank Brady	Ron Granucci	Ray Monteroso	Dick Verbrugge
Bud Bresnahan	Ray Greggains	Shaun Morrison	John Wagner
Ed Browne	Bob Guddee	Atilio Mossi	Urie Walsh
Charlton Buckley	Bob Guerrero	Rich Murphy	Ray Warman
Sean Buckley	Tom Gumina	Jon Nakamura	Dick Welch
Andy Burke	Bob Hagler	Ed Nevius	Jeff Wrench
Leon Burns	Frank Halldorson	Frank Noonan	Larry Zemansky
Otis Byrd	Jack Hayes	Charlie Norton	John Zuffo
Nick Camera	Walt Heim	Oleg Obuhoff	
Lou Carella	Dick Hoedt	Dennis O'Connor	Guests Present
Dan Casey	Bill Hogan	Ed O'Connor	Bob Chang
Jon Chiarenza	Tim Hornbecker	Thomas O'Connor	Ron Darling
Marc Christensen	Don Hourigan	Brendon O'Neil	Bob Fife
George Choppelas	Beebe Hughes	John O'Neil	Jack Guenza
Art Citron	Bob Isola	Chuck Osborne	Mike Jonas
Sam Citron	Gary Johnson	Jim Owen	Ralph Krueger
Dave Clisham	Mel Johnson	Don Papa	Bob O'Donnell
Bill Collins	Warren Johnson	Joe Passanisi	Bob Toso
Jim Connolly	Charles Jones	Howard Poblitz	Jerome Williams
Mike Crilly	Bob Jensen	Nick Poppin	
Michael Cronk	Bob Kahl	Howard Powelson	
Pete Dalton	Brian Kearney	Fred Quinn	
Bob Datwyler	Rick Kell	Kirk Rademaker	
Ron Davis	Andy Kerr	Ted Rademaker	
Bob Dawson	Herb Kessler	Dennis Ragan	
Tom Dee	Kris Kimball	Harry Redlick	
Jim Deignan	George Korte	Buck Reed	
Mike Donohoe	John Kristovich	Ton Ribera	
Mike Dotterweich	Larry Krueger	Baxter Rice	
Jere Driscoll	Tom LaGrave	Robert Roche	
Warren Fannin	Leo La Rocca	Al Romero	
Michael Fass	Charley Leach	Andy Ruiz	
Don Feehan	Tim Leach	Paul Sari	
Roger Ferrari	Bob Lee	Murray Schneider	

Last of the Ninth

Since our last meeting we have lost the following friends:

Maurice Bessiere
Bob Borghello
Bernie Esser
Bill Kaplan
Ray Monteroso
Bill Talmadge