



Old Time Athlete's Association
of Northern California
Founded 1930

The Roundtable Spring 2015

The Roundtable...A semi-Annual Publication

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Lott a former

Bair With Us

By Gerry Stratford

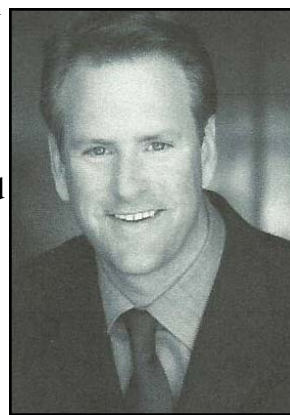
On ancient maps, cartographers occasionally designated certain areas with the words, "Here are the Giants." And one man has been instrumental in making such a designation proper for a special part of San Francisco. **Jack Bair**, probably more than anyone without a number on his back, has contributed to the legend that is Giant's baseball.

Our guest can probably tell us a million stories about a quarter of a century with the Giants, the players, the coaches, the broadcasters and Lou Seal; or, you might ask him about efforts to provide a venue for the Warriors. But Jack earns a spot in the OTA himself, by virtue of having played and coached baseball here in San Francisco many years ago. Jack played in the Bay Area Men's Senior Baseball League for ten years 1990-2000 and also played for Dante Benedetti's New Pisa Restaurant team.

Bair joined the Giants organization in 1993, but even prior to that he was indispensable, for as a deputy City Attorney for the City of San Francisco, he directed the legal effort to prevent the team from being sold and moved to Florida.

Once on board the Giants team bus, he first managed their legal affairs, and then subsequently negotiated

the move from Candlestick Park to the iconic AT&T Park. He not only managed the intricate real estate acquisition, but also contributed to the architectural concepts that make our ballpark one of the most intimate and at the same time dramatic stadiums in all of baseball. It was Bair who pointed out that the brick building across the street from the new park might offer a style worth emulating, suggestive of San Francisco's early days.



Jack Bair

Two features at the ball park, in particular, are uniquely Bair's—at his suggestion, on the outfield wall was painted what might have been the best advertising pun of all time, and that advertiser's name soon found its way to many an outfield walls throughout the both leagues. The other feature while not Jack's idea, has a unique connection to him. A major sponsor early on was the Coca Cola Company, and they planned to erect a gigantic abstract cola bottle beyond the left field wall. They wanted that to accompany that symbiotic structure with some other unique feature, and Jack suggested a dunk tank, where a celebrity might sit rather hoping that a Giant home run would not result in

But Coke wanted something bigger and more visible. As it happened, the conversation took place in Jack's office, and on a shelf there was an old baseball glove that had belonged to his father. The Coca Cola representative picked it up and said, "Something like this, only really big!" And so it



was, that a digital scan and creative modeling has placed a memento of the Bair family in all of our memories of Giants baseball.

Bair also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of San Francisco in the Sports & Fitness Management Program and is a frequent lecturer at Bay Area law schools. He is a graduate of the University of California, Davis and Yale Law Schools. Bring your questions, and wear your orange ties

What Has Happened to Sports

By Gerry Stratford

The October meeting featured an insider's view of collegiate football and more generally the trajectory of organized athletics. Gary Cavelli began his career in the Sports Information department at Stanford University, and what was then a small five man office has become a dynamic force with hundreds of employees with far reaching responsibilities.

Gary has certainly seen the changes in college sports. He was there for the hiring of Bill Walsh in 1976; and a coach's annual salary then was just \$40,000. Today such individuals often earn more than 5 million dollars.

Gary explained that TV and sponsorships have driven this escalation, that the NFL games are our country's most popular TV sport followed closely by the competition among college teams. Putting this in perspective, Gary reported that the recent Giant victory in game seven of the World Series may have been viewed on 10,000,000 television sets, but more than twice as many are tuned to college games every Saturday.

Gary is now part of the hoopla himself, as he is the Director of the Foster Farms Bowl that was played at Levi Stadium, so he is closely connected to the college game. What is the future of football asked one of our members and Gary presented a balanced perspective. On the one hand, the potential of brain injuries is finally being addressed, although whether

equipment or rule changes completely solve this problem is still unclear. Something indeed must ultimately change.

Compensation for athletes that recognizes and rewards their contribution to school revenues must be established—room, board, tuition, spending money, health coverage, and guarantee of a four-year education might be a start. But what about compensation for the use of promotional photographs or digital imagery, perhaps with payment delayed until after graduation. The rules imposed by the NCAA are out of date, and probably unfair to athletes.

Other issues that need to be addressed concern recruiting rules, limits on practice time and merchandise sales. The question time was lively and clearly there are no easy answers, even for those like Gary who have devoted their lives to answering them.

TIME OUT

OTA Members of Interest

After 38 seasons, 326 wins, 22 conference titles, seven state titles and seven mythical national championships, **George Rush** has decided to retire from his job as the head football coach at City College of San Francisco.



George Rush

Rush, who has more wins than any other junior college football coach, announced his retirement in January. The Rams also named Rush's successor, **Jimmy Collins**, CCSF's quarterback coach for the past six seasons. Collins played for Rush as a quarterback in the mid-2000s. Rush was our Fall

1994 speaker and is a member of the OTA. His father was also a member of the OTA.

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Former Speakers Named to All-Century Team

Three OTA members and past speakers at our Fall & Spring dinners were named to the California Inter-Scholastic Federation All-Century Team. The CIF, celebrating its 100th anniversary, named **Bill Walsh**, **Ronnie Lott** and **Dan Fouts** to this elite group. Walsh pictured to the left is considered by many one of the greatest coaches in NFL history during his time as the Forty Niners head coach. Lott a former



Bill Walsh

USC product was a defensive stalwart during his time with the Forty Niners and has already been enshrined into the NFL Hall of Fame.



Ronnie Lott

Dan Fouts, was one of the most



Dan Fouts

prolific passers in the NFL and was part of coach Dan Coryell's "Air Coryell" offense

for many years. He too is an NFL Hall of Famer. The Chargers retired his number 14 and is only one of two players to have their number retired. He is also one of seven quarterbacks to have two consecutive 30 touchdown seasons.

SF Prep Hall of Fame

Sam Goldman and **Greg Wood** will be inducted into the SF Prep Hall of Fame at the 33rd Annual Awards Banquet on May 16th. The pair join 55 other OTA recipients who have been recognized by the Hall of Fame Committee. Also being inducted this year will be: **Wilson Faumunia**, Balboa 1969-72, football and track & field; **Kenneth Flanagan**, Galileo, 1956-59, baseball and basketball; **Jerilyn**

Jank, Lowell, 1974-2008, Coach of gymnastics team; **Richard Max**, Riordan, 1951-55, football; and **Rich Scramaglia**, Sacred Heart, 1947-51, baseball and basketball. Goldman is being inducted by special recognition as the media person for Hall of Fame from 1957-2014. Wood was an All-City football player at St. Ignatius.

OTA Office Information

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

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Roundtable Coordinator Needed

We need someone to coordinate the Roundtable twice a year. Our present person has to step down because of health issues and is unable to continue. Anyone interested in taking over the duties should contact Andy Burke at 650-591-8585.

OTA Dues Notice for 2016

The OTA dues have been set at \$25 per year for as long as most of us can remember. Costs for all things that we do each year continue to increase. At the January 30th Board meeting, the Board discussed this problem at length and finally came to the conclusion that the fairest way to share the cost by all the members was to raise the dues, commencing in 2016. This is advance notice to all members that in January 2016, the OTA dues increase to \$35.00 per year. We trust that you understand the need to increase the dues, and will willingly retain your OTA membership and enjoy the camaraderie of our twice a year dinners.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors

NewKIDS

We Welcome the following new members:

Francis Clifford, graduate of St. Ignatius High School class of 1966. He played four years of baseball and golf.

Terrence Keeley, graduate of St. Ignatius High School class of 1956. He ran track for four years and made the All-City Cross Country team. He also played one year of basketball and later attended and graduated from USF in 1960.

Rich Mercurio, attended Lincoln High School where he played baseball for four years.

James Rohrer, a Polytechnic graduate class of 1960. He participated on the swimming team for three years, ran track for three years and was an accomplished miler and half miler. He was inducted into the Poly High Hall of Fame in 2003.

Tim Simon, attended St. Ignatius High School and graduated in 1973. He played football for two years.

Charles Smith, a Polytechnic High School graduate class of 1957. He participated for three years in track and field, concentrating on the high hurdles and pole vault. He also participated in cross country for three years.

Members and Guest at the 2013 Fall OTA Meeting

Jack Abad	Jack Fitzpatrick	Joe Marino	Dick Verling
Manny Agorasto	Jack Fleming	Mario Maso	Joe Vollert
Vince Aguilar	Richard Friedman	Bob Max	John Wagner
Jeff Alcorn	Gene Gallagher	Malt McCall	John Ward
Mark Avelar	Fred George	Ray McDonald	Dick Welch
Jerry Bachecki	Art Gerrans	Tom McGraw	Jerome Williams
Gary Bader	Con Giafkidas	Val McKeever	Greg Wood
John Bain	Jerry Gibson	Don Meek	Gerry Woods
David Banker	Jerry Gosland	Robert Micheli	Russ Zeibell
Dewey Barron	Jeff Graff	Bob Mitchell	John Zuffo
Wayne Batmale	Ron Granucci	Al Modena	
George Benetatos	Ray Greggains	Al Monaco	Guests Present
Marv Berkson	Bob Guddee	Shaun Morrison	Sean Buckley
Ken Bianchi	Bob Guerrero	Rich Murphy	Bob Chang
Larry Bingham	Tom Gumina	Jon Nakamura	Frank Clifford
Jerry Bocci	Bob Hagler	Stephen Negoesco	Terry DeYoung
Frank Brady	Jerry Hamilton	Robert O'Donnell	John Heim
Charlie Bragg	Jack Hayes	Tony Passanisi	Tom Hornbecker
Bud Bresnahan	Frank Hedley	Jack Phelan	Mel Johnson
Ed Browne	Walt Heim	Nick Poppin	Rich Mercurio
Charlton Buckley	Allan Hitchcock	Bob Randall	Louie Morrison
Andy Burke	Dick Hoedt	Harry Redlick	Don Peter
Leo Burns	Bill Hogan	Ted Rademaker	Pete Queven
Harry Bush	Tim Hornbecker	Dennis Ragan	James Rohrer
Lou Carella	Don Hourigan	Harry Redlick	
Jon Chiarenza	John Locco	Buck Reed	
Marc Christensen	Gary Johnson	Len Revegno	
Art Citron	Tom Johnson	Tony Ribera	
Sam Citron	Bob Johnson	Baxter Rice	
Dave Clisham	Bob Kahl	Joe Richardson	
Bill Collins	Brian Kearney	Robert Roche	
Aldo Congi	Bob Jensen	Al Romero	
Jim Connoly	Bob Kahl	Ed Rothman	
Dan Costello	Brian Kearney	Andy Ruiz	
Michael Cronk	Andy Kerr	Paul Sari	
Pete Dalton	Kris Kimball	Bernie Schneider	
Frank Damon	George Korte	Murray Schneider	
Ron Darling	John Kristovich	Jack Scramaglia	
Bob Datwyler	Charley Leach	Bill Shaughnessy	
Ron Davis	Tim Leach	Bob Simi	
Jim Deignan	Bob Lee	Steve Simi	
William De Mattei	Phil Lellmen	Dick Skidmore	
Jack Donahoe	John LeTourneau	William Stevenson	
Mike Dotterweich	Ford Long	Gerry Stafford	
Jere Driscoll	Bill Lynch	Carl Sundquist	
Kevin Dunleavy	Al Maccuso	Tom Swartz	
Alonzo Emery	Dave Macklin	Terry Taylor	
Roger Ferrari	Mike Maffei	Jeffery Thomson	
Bob Fife	Roger Major	Dom Tringali	
Marcel Fiore	Bob Maloney	Frank Verducci	

Last of the Ninth

Since our last meeting we have lost the following friends:

George Jarvis

Plus we lost some friends from the San Francisco Old Timers Baseball Association:

Joseph Smith
Bernie Wyman
Mel Chiarenza