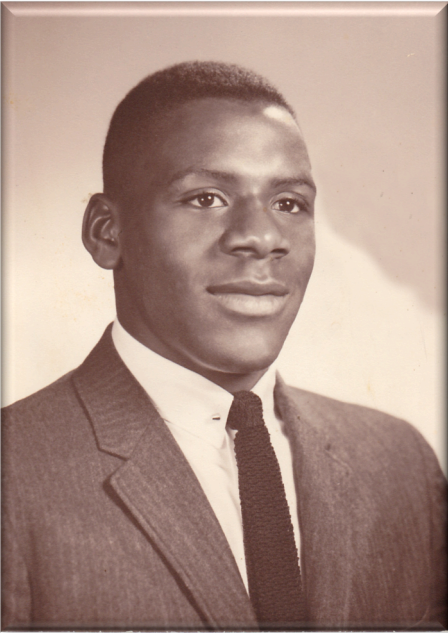


## LES ROBINSON CLASS OF 1962



For those fortunate enough to know him and to have seen him play, Les Robinson left a legacy at Mynderse Academy that is a tribute to him, his family and his hometown of Seneca Falls. Believed to be the first black person to have graduated from Mynderse, Les says that his parents, Leslie, Sr. and Mary Robinson instilled in him a work ethic that impacted him as a person, student and athlete, and helped him to succeed. Succeed he did. Les graduated with the Mynderse Academy class of 1962, widely believed to contain some of the most athletically gifted athletes in Mynderse Academy history. Two members of that class, George

Valesente and Bob Buchwald, are already members of the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame, and Les is now the third.

Les's sports career at Mynderse included the sports of football, basketball and baseball. In football, Les was a three year starter at halfback and safety. Les was All Wayne Finger Lakes as a Junior and Senior. As a junior, Les scored seventeen touchdowns earning league Player of the Year, and also won the S.M.S. Award as outstanding athlete at Mynderse. The 1960 football team (Les's Junior year) finished as League Champions (8-0), the only undefeated football team at Mynderse in the 1960's. The 1961 football team (Les's Senior year) gave up a total of seven points all year and finished 7-1.

In basketball, Les was a three year varsity starter, playing guard and forward, averaging 12-14 points per game. Les earned all league recognition three years in a row, captained the team as a senior and helped win a league championship.

While an outstanding overall athlete, baseball may have been Les's best sport. Taught the art of catching by his father, a fine athlete in his own right, Les started as a catcher on the Mynderse Academy baseball team for four years. Les was all league three times as a catcher, captaining the team as a senior and was a key component of teams that won three league championships and one sectional championship.

After graduating from Mynderse, Les attended college at Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware, where he played varsity baseball and varsity basketball for two years. In baseball he was the starting catcher as a freshman and sophomore, unseating a three year starting catcher. In basketball, Les either started at guard or came off the bench as a sixth man, adding much needed offense to the team.

Les left Delaware State to sign a major league baseball contract with the New York Mets. Les played in the Mets Minor League System for two years. Now married and with children to support, Les and his family located in Auburn, NY. While in Auburn, Les continued his love of athletics by playing semi-pro baseball and basketball.

Les went to work at the then Auburn Community College as Equipment Manager, being responsible for the purchase and replacement of all equipment, uniforms, etc. for all athletic activities and teams. Appointed Supervisor of the Campus Wellness Center in 1980, Les continues in that capacity to this day.

While at ACC (now Cayuga Community College) Les coached women's basketball and softball teams for approximately 12-14 years, as well as high school girls' softball. Highlights included beating Jamestown Community College, a Division II Program in basketball, in their own tournament, with only six girls, and beating Onondaga CC in softball, when O.C.C. was the defending national champion.

Les is equally proud of his community service in Auburn, New York. For over 30 years Les ran a summer youth program for city teenagers. The young adults were paid and helped contribute to their family finances. Les is excited to relate stories of these young people coming back to him twenty and thirty years later as successful adults. Les enjoyed working with young people where he could see discipline, academics and athletics all come together.

Les credits whatever success he may have had in his life to his parents, and to his exposure to different experiences which he had growing up in Seneca Falls. Les also believes his high school friends like George Valesente, Jim Delia, Tom Anglim, and Bob Buchwald helped him tremendously.

Les would like to be remembered in Seneca Falls as a guy who worked hard and came to play every game. However, Les would like to stress academics and let it be known that he worked as hard in his class work in high school and college as he did in athletic competition. Les is the father of three children, Darrin, Derrick and Zylina, all of whom were fine athletes in their own right. Leslie Robinson, Jr. resides at 35 Parker Street, Auburn, NY 13021.