

David L. Wormuth – Class of 1959



The 1950's was an era in Mynderse Academy sports that produced a number of multi-talented athletes. Dave Wormuth was no exception, excelling in football, basketball, and baseball. He is to be considered, with several others, in the elite category of these athletes.

As a quarterback, Dave led the Mynderse eleven to three straight League Championships, which capped an eight year run of titles. The previous five championships were won by teams quarterbacked by John Pannucci and Gene Nicandri. All three of these quarterbacks were named to the All State team. Dave's teams won their final 23 games while capturing the three league titles. He was team captain, team MVP, and All League quarterback, as well as All State signal caller. Dave has always credited George Davis' coaching as a major factor in his success. A number of Division 1 schools were very interested in recruiting Dave.

As the point guard for the Mynderse basketball team, Dave played four years on the Varsity, and was captain and MVP in his senior year. Mynderse won the League Class AA title for the first time in 12 years.

In baseball, Dave was the starting third baseman for three years, and in his senior year the team won the Finger Lakes Conference, the Wayne-Finger Lakes Conference, and the AA Finger Lakes title.

Other honors and activities at Mynderse included Block M President and winner of the Gould Award as the outstanding graduating male senior.

Dave chose to attend Columbian Prep School in Washington DC after high school graduation. Columbian was noted for turning out successful football players, including Heisman Trophy winner Joe Bellino. Dave was the starting quarterback and he was awarded the MVP Trophy by the Washington DC Touchdown Club. This included schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. As a result, scholarships from

several Division 1 universities were being considered, including an appointment to the Naval Academy. Navy offered appointments for two quarterbacks, the other appointment went to Roger Staubach. Syracuse, as defending National Football Champion, (the Ernie Davis era) had been recruiting Dave for some time and he accepted a full scholarship. At Syracuse, Dave played football for the undefeated Freshman team (freshmen were not eligible for Varsity sports). He was not the starter, but had very good passing statistics.

After much deliberation, Dave decided to transfer to the University of Rochester, which offered a much different atmosphere. At Rochester, he followed in the footsteps of Gene Nicandri, as he had done in high school. Dave was the starting quarterback and most valuable offensive player for three consecutive years (1962,63,64). By his senior year he held all but one of the U of R passing records (ironically, these were previously held by Gene Nicandri). He was chosen to play in the Gem City Senior Football Bowl. Two Continental Football League teams (Hartford Charter Oaks and the Norfolk Neptunes) offered professional try outs which Dave declined. Dave was inducted into the University of Rochester Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993 (second inductee class).

After graduation, Dave became a VISTA Volunteer in Los Angeles, serving as community liaison for anti-poverty programs. He then returned to the U of R where he became Associate Director of Admissions and Associate Director of Financial Aid. He held these positions until retirement.

Dave and his wife Carol live in Brighton, NY.