



1955-56 Good Baseball

Mission Bay would finally get to play a varsity schedule in football and predictions were made in the *San Diego Union* that the Bucs would pull off at least one upset. *Beachcomber* sports editor Larry Littlefield boldly predicted that Mission Bay would finish third in the City Prep League. Littlefield unwisely based his opinion on “excellent spirit from the student body.” Over 16,000 fans attended the 17th Annual Football Carnival at Balboa Stadium. The Mission Bay Pep Club, 67 members strong, performed with flash cards during the carnival. On cue, black and yellow cards were held high to form these glorious words: “Mission Bay” and “Buccaneers.”

Inspired Mission Bay “beat” La Jolla, 6-0, on a 43-yard pass from Fred Matteson to Jan Bossart in the opening quarter of



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play. Pt. Loma and Lincoln battled to a 6-6 tie, but in the final quarter, San Diego defeated Hoover, 7-0 for a 13-12 West victory. In a puzzling gerrymander, Mission Bay was designated as an East school.

A week after the carnival, the Buccaneers traveled to El Centro. A 33-yard Matteson to Bob Brooks pass gave Mission

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Bay a 7–6 halftime lead. The *San Diego Union* reported that a third quarter aerial from Matteson to “Steve Wisenhour” (Mel Weisenberg) increased the lead to 13–6, but El Centro answered with 14 points to grab a 20–13 victory.

In a sixth period football game, Benny Chamberlain “ran head on into Tony Cella.” Benny was carried to the nurse’s office on a stretcher. It was reported, tongue in cheek we think, that Tony had to surrender his brass knuckles to the coaches for a couple of weeks.

While the boys were playing football, the G.A.A. elected captains for volleyball: Sandy Dilno, Lynn Luckey, Karin Bonner, Trudie Ninomiya, Mary Schneider, Anita Kimbrell, Diane Pillsbury and Sandy Wilson.

Community complaints began coming in to the school about students honking car horns, yelling and singing school songs after football games. Stan Gilliland suffered a broken leg during practice. In an unrelated matter, his girlfriend, Marilyn Bresser, received a thank you letter from Mamie Eisenhower for the get-well card she had sent to the president. Ever thoughtful, Marilyn also scribbled get-well wishes on Stan’s cast.

Pt. Loma coasted to a 14–6 win over Mission Bay. The lone Buccaneer score was a 9-yard touchdown run by halfback Julian Gongora. A safety proved to be the difference as Kearny defeated Mission Bay, 9–7 in a thrilling gridiron duel. Brooks caught a five-yard Matteson pass in the fourth quarter to cut the lead to two points. The game ended with Mission Bay threatening on the Komet ten-yard line. A week later, Eddie Killinger had two touchdowns in a losing cause as Hoover crushed the Bucs, 31–13.

In a non-league contest with St. Augustine, Killinger again scored two touchdowns, but they were not sufficient to counter the Saints who took the game, 25–13. Total disaster struck on

November 4th when San Diego smashed Mission Bay, 53-0. The Cavers would go on to win the SCIF Championship. Forty years later, San Diego would learn it had also been declared the National Champions. The reason for the delay was clerical error. A secretary at the Gray Castle did not understand the significance of the honor and filed the correspondence away.



Undeterred by the San Diego game, Mission Bay came back strong against La Jolla. Killinger, Weisenberg and Gongora all scored on short touchdown plunges and Larry Brindley caught a Mario Ramirez TD pass to claim a 25-12 victory over the Vikings. In the season finale, Lincoln jolted the Bucs, 25-6. Eddie Killinger accounted for the only Mission Bay points.

That same day, the Buccaneers also dropped a 26-21 match-up with Lincoln in the City Prep JV championship game. JV scoring for the year: Bob Zamba 4 TDs, 24 points; Mel Rizzo 3 TDs, 1 PAT, 19 points; Chuck Morgan 3 TDs, 18 points; Ronnie Myers 3 TDs, 18 points; Bill Rice 2 TDs, 1 PAT, 13 points; B. Hunt 2 TDs, 12 points; Bob Ramillo 2 TDs, 12 points; V. Booth 1 TD, 6 points; J. Boyle 2 PATs, 2 points.



*Phil
Jarvis*



*Bob
Brooks*

Despite a disappointing season, Eddie Killinger and Bob Brooks were both named to the All-City football team. Honorable mention went to guard Bob Goad, tackle Bill Lynt, center Teddy Mills and halfback Jerry Woods. Julian Gongora was selected as the team's Most Valuable Player. Ted Mills was the

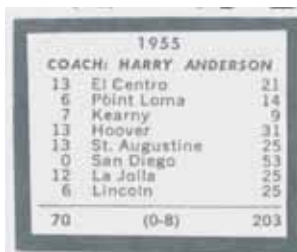
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team's best blocker and tackler and sophomore Mario Ramirez was the most improved player.

This is as good a place as any to explain the difficulties caused while writing this book when the *Taroga*, the *Beachcomber*, the newspapers and even the record books gave conflicting scores and results. An “official” record book that states Mission Bay opened in 1954 also has the Bucs losing every football game in 1956. The score of the La Jolla game was reversed. La Jolla did *not* win

1955
Football
Schedule

A graphic of a 1955 football schedule. It features a dark border and a light background. At the top, it says '1955' and 'COACH: HARRY ANDERSON'. Below that is a list of games with scores. At the bottom, it shows a total score of 70 and a record of (0-8) with 203 points.

1955		
COACH: HARRY ANDERSON		
13	El Centro	21
6	Pbint Loma	14
7	Kearny	9
13	Hoover	31
13	St. Augustine	25
0	San Diego	53
12	La Jolla	25
6	Lincoln	25
70	(0-8)	203

that game, 25–12. We won it!

For those students who did not wish to strap on the shoulder pads, mathematics teacher Joseph Byrnes, formed the chess club. Mr. Byrnes was a former captain and letterman for the Erasmus Hall High School chess team in Brooklyn, New York.

An honest coed found a dollar bill in the girls' lavatory. Word of the discovery quickly spread around the campus. Three enterprising boys went to the Lost and Found Office to claim the money. None were able to explain how they lost a green-back inside the girls' rest room.

In an exclusive story that appeared in the October 28, 1955 issue of the *Beachcomber*, it was reported that Padres third baseman Ray Jablonski stared and catcher Ed Bailey whistled. The clubhouse boy removed his glasses and combed his hair. The bat boy was dazed and could only gasp, “Wow!” The cause of this excitement was beautiful Mission Bay coed Anita McKinney who was attending Picture Day at Lane Field on September 11, 1955.

1955 was the first year Mission Bay competed in cross country. Our boys lost their first meet to Grossmont, 28–20. Jim Cervený took third place. We know the team also lost to Hoover, La Jolla and Lincoln, but finished the season with two victories. They must have beaten either San Diego, Pt. Loma and/or Kearny. Jim Cervený was first against La Jolla covering the course in ten minutes, 46 seconds. Other squad members included Bob Rood, Stan Henninger, Floyd Smith and Mike Eiland.



1955
Cross-
Country
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Tom Ritterbush should have been a junior at Mission Bay, but instead he “signed a contract with the world famous Ice-Capades.” Tom became the youngest skater to ever perform in the Ice-Capades. For his continuing education, Ritterbush was enrolled in correspondence courses. The young skater enthusiastically stated that he “was having a ball.”

The Beachcomber reported, “Mission Bay will be sending into battle three war vessels called Varsity, ‘B’ and Sophomore for the coming basketball season.” The varsity started the year with a 43–35 victory over St. Augustine as Leroy Brandt canned 23 points. After two narrow loses, the Buccaneers evened their record with a 53–47 win against El Cajon. Brandt and Keith Cook combined for 35 points. This was followed with a 50–38 triumph over Oceanside. Brandt scored 14 points and Tom Woods added ten.

Although there is no record of future Rock ‘n Roll Hall of Famer Frank Zappa participating in interscholastic athletics during his Mission Bay years, apparently he did exhibit an interest in an early Middle Eastern form of baseball, perhaps an off-shoot of

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Frank Zappa



seker-hemat. According to *The Beachcomber* (December 16, 1955), several students were asked how they planned to spend the upcoming New Year's Eve. Zappa replied, "Gonna get stoned."

In the Christmas Kiwanis Tournament, the Buccaneers won their first game with Mira Costa, 56–47. Leroy Brandt led the team with 23 points supported with 14 points by Keith Cook and 11 by Tom Woods. Pt. Loma knocked Mission Bay into the consolation bracket where they lost to Santa Monica by a dozen points. Santa Monica decided to go home so they wouldn't miss Santa Claus. The replacement Bucs drew Lincoln for the consolation championship. The Hornets won, 48–42, but Mission Bay was in the game until the closing minutes. Helix defeated the Bucs, 62–45 in their final warmup before league play.

The *San Diego Union* picked Mission Bay to finished ahead of Kearny, Pt. Loma and La Jolla in the CPL. The basis for this prediction



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Basketball
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was the team's strong showing in the Kiwanis Tournament and the individual skill of Leroy Brandt. The Buccaneers beat Pt. Loma, 37–29, as Brandt

netted 16 points. Mission Bay held the Pointers to 2 points in the first quarter. Preseason favorite Hoover downed Mission Bay, 46–37. Brandt had 17 and Larry Brindley added 12. Football standout Willie West scored 22 points as San Diego pulled away from Mission Bay late in the third quarter after the Bucs held a brief 28–27 advantage. West hit for 13 in the closing stanza as the Cavers hustled to a 45–33 victory. Again it was Leroy Brandt

leading the way with 13 points. In a non-league contest, Mission Bay romped over Sweetwater, 45-25. Brindley scored 13 and Bob Shea added ten.



The Mission Bay "B" cagers, led by Jerry Dinsmore and Frank Schiefer who each scored 15 points, defeated powerful San Diego High School, 49-43, to register the JV's first ever Prep League victory.

The varsity evened its CPL record at 2-2 with a 57-54 win over La Jolla. Keith Cook was high point man for the victors with 16 points. The sophomore team dumped La Jolla. For trivia experts, Bill Swank led the tenth graders with ten points.

Lincoln defeated the Bucs, 52-41, despite 12 points by Leroy Brandt. It was a balanced attack as Mission Bay took the measure of Kearny, 45-41, to finish the first round with a respectable 3-3 record. Grossmont thumped the Bucs, 47-30, in non-league action.

Despite 20 points by Leroy Brandt, Pt. Loma beat Mission Bay 53-51 in overtime. Leroy tallied 19 against Hoover, but the Cardinals easily defeated the Buccaneers, 64-43. In the meantime, the "B" team had already won eleven games. Sophomores Jerry Dinsmore and Frank Schiefer continued to blossom. The varsity's best game of the year was a 40-38 loss to San Diego High School in the second round. Leroy Brandt had 20 points.



*Leroy
Brandt*

The Bucs held on for a 46-44 victory over St. Augustine, but returning to league action, they were upset by La Jolla and Clyde Crockett, 58-47. Crockett, the league's leading scorer, registered 25 points. His younger brother, Doug, had 4 points for the Vikings. Leroy Brandt had 14, Brindley 13 and Shea 10.

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Lincoln beat Mission Bay, 63–53, for the Hornet’s 11th consecutive victory. Larry Brindley led the Bucs with 19 points. Leroy Brandt scored 25 as Mission Bay finished the season with a 61–41 victory over Kearny.

The Bucs went 10–15 overall and 4–8 in City Prep League competition. Leroy Brandt was named the team MVP and was also awarded All-City honors. Keith Cooke had the best free throw percentage and Tom Woods was selected as team captain.

That Mission Bay officially had a swim team this year could be directly attributed to the success of the Niethold Brothers. Bob Niethold had already graduated in 1955. The *Taroga* featured a team picture with younger Niethold, Ed, and a baker’s dozen young studs in swim trunks kneeling and standing before the



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Swim
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football grandstand on the athletic field. Come on, this is the Mission Bay Swim Team, located on the shores of Mission BAY. Where’s the water? Although footballer Bob Goad was not a member

of the swim team, the school paper reported that he saved drowning swimmer.

Students living in Clairemont were invited to join tennis, bowling and skin diving clubs. Lions Club tennis expert Ray Steinback would be the advisor for the tennis novices. Buena Vista life guard Vern Fleet would teach skin diving. Apparently junior bowling leagues were formed at the Clairemont Bowl. There wasn’t much else to do on the hill.

Derek Thomson, a young lad from Scotland, enrolled at Mission Bay. A *Beachcomber* reporter asked him about sports in his homeland. Derek said, “Back in Scotland, the most popular

sports are soccer and cricket. Baseball is hardly ever played.” Thomson made an observation about the difference between the education systems of the two countries. “There is not nearly as much discipline in American schools as in Scottish schools. The kids can say almost anything to the teachers.”

G.A.A. president Neomi Ninomiya announced election results. Louise Ferguson was the new G.A.A. vice president. Mary Ellen Mort was elected secretary; LaDona Young, clerk; Marilyn Stone, treasurer; Mary Schneider and Carolyn Stone were the new sports managers. Springtime activities would be swimming at the Mission Beach Plunge and softball on the girls athletic field.



G.A.A.
Swimming

The following Mission Bay girls attended a Modern Dance Symposium at San Diego High School: Esther Hassell, Linda McElvain, Anne Blei, Jeanine Rogers, Virginia Smith, Carole Berndt, Barbara Dixon, Suzi Edwards, Lind Elmlund, Judi Herz, Pat LePage, Nancy McElvain, Charlotte Morain, Suzi Morgan, Salli Peterson, Sandy Plough and Sondra Wieveg.

The Mort sisters, Mary Helen and Frances, did Esther Williams impersonations for the San Diego Swimming Association’s synchronized swim team. The team won first place at the Junior Outdoor Meet in 1954. They were hopeful entrants in 1955 Senior Indoor competition.

Diane Anderson and Doris Frank defeated Lee Ann Rogers and Linda Meyers in P.E. badminton. Marjorie Crothers teamed with Pat Sain to beat Joann Elwart and Charlotte Monson. Karen Young and Sandy True bounced back from a drubbing in the first game to claim an exciting birdie victory



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over Sandy Snyder and Barbara Becker. Margaret Ryan and Veronica Kuntze bested Ailene McGrath and Kathie Dey.

Another year and another Hoover triumph in the City Track Relays at Balboa Stadium in early March. The San Diego's 880-relay team of Roscoe Cook, Essex Hutton, Willie Jordan and Bobby State set a new meet record of 1:31.2 and La Jolla's Junior Jackson tied the 120-yard high hurdles mark of 15.1 seconds. Those guys could fly. The Mission Bay "A" squad improved to a fifth place finish this year. The *Union* named only the winners, but Buccaneer athletes placed in the 120-yard shuttle hurdles, the shot put, the distance medley, the high jump and mile relay. Bob Brooks was fourth in the 100-yard dash, an event won by Roscoe Cook in ten seconds flat. Mission Bay "B's" took third and the "C" team was second to Hoover. Bill Rice, Clarke Campbell, Roy Greathouse and Larry Gordon (of

*Gordon
and Smith
Surfboards,
Floyd
Smith (l)
and Larry
Gordon*



Gordon & Smith surfboards) captured the distance medley in four minutes, one and a half seconds.

Although San Diego sunk the Buccaneers in a dual meet that featured a 9.9 second 100-yard dash by Roscoe Cook, Jim Cerveny set a new school record of 4:37.7 for the mile. Pat Shea won the shot put with a heave of 48'2-1/2" and Tom Woods took the high jump at 5'8" inches. Two days later, Mission Bay dominated La Jolla in a meet where the score looked more like a math problem: 64-5/12 to 39-7/12. Bob Brooks won the 100 in 10.4 seconds, Shea the shot put (48'1"), Cerveny the 440, Bob Catlin the broad jump, Lee Primm the 880, Jimmy Little the pole vault, Mike Eiland the mile and the 880 relay team of Brooks, Catlin, Frank Day and Jimmy Buck beat the Vikings. The only other team victory was

over Pt. Loma, 60-2/5 to 41-3/5. Interestingly, the only loss suffered by the "C" team during the dual meet season was to Pt. Loma. The OB C-Dogs must have been a pack of swift little Pointers back in '56.

By the way, who dropped the shot put on Pat Shea's foot? We hope he was a sprinter and he probably hasn't stopped running yet.

As expected, Hoover won the City Prep League Finals at Balboa Stadium.



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Track
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Jim Cerveny set a new meet record when he ran the 880 in 1:57. Frank Schiefer broke the existing "C" shot put mark with a heave of 49' 1-1/2". Larry Gordon set the school "C" record with a time of 1:32.8 for the 660-yard run.

A picture of Norma Martinez bowling at Victory Lanes in Pacific Beach was featured in the *San Diego Union* as she and four other MB coeds vied for the title of queen of the First Annual Bowling Jamboree.

The boys sports program continued to expand. A wrestling room was added to the gym with a plan to add a wrestling team in 1957.

Why did Pat Heath have green hair? 16-year old Patty dreamed of joining the original San Diego Clippers. A basketball team? No, the Clips were San Diego's professional roller derby team. How many Bucs remember how roller derby queen Jerri Murphy would knock her female opponents into the third row of screaming, deranged derby fans? Jerri was Pat's mentor. The Mission Bay miss practiced twice a week with the team. For her efforts, our Patty received bruises, scratches and green hair. The track was sprayed with rosin. If a jammer spent too much time off their skates, they had a tendency to turn green. When

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Ms. Murphy hung up her skates for good, she became a bartender in Pacific Beach. Her specialty was tossing drunks through the swinging doors.

Baseball was Mission Bay's best sport as the team enjoyed an exciting run at the end of their season. The Bucs also put together an exciting run at the beginning of their season as they clubbed their way to victories over Oceanside (14–3), El Cajon (21–17), Grossmont (10–7) and El Centro (10–4). Leroy Brandt had two home runs against El Centro. Their record was 6–4 when the Bucs faced Escondido for the second time. The Cougars claimed the first meeting, 4–2, but Bobby LaSoya tossed a 3-hit shutout as Mission Bay went on to win five of the next seven games before the start of CPL action. The losses in this string were to Santa Monica and Helix during the Lions Tournament. The Bucs also posted a 5–4 victory over the San Diego State Freshman team.

In rating the City Prep teams in the local newspaper, mention was made that Mission Bay could use an all-Brooklyn bat-



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ttery of Ed Jowdy and Mel Rizzo who had both transferred from Flatbush. The Bums later followed the boys west and became the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1958. Back to local high school prognostications in

1956, the Bucs were expected to be in contention along with San Diego, Hoover, Lincoln and “perhaps La Jolla.” Now that is going way out on a limb to predict that five of the seven teams could possibly win the CPL.

Against Hoover, Fred Matteson doubled in Mel Rizzo and Leroy Brandt to give the Buccaneers a 2–0 lead which held until



the last inning. Larry Elliot and Ralph Mann drove in the tying and deciding runs as Steve Evans picked up the 3-2 win for the Cardinals. Lincoln beat Mission Bay, 6-4, and San Diego dropped the Bucs to 0-3 in league play with a 7-2 victory. The CPL was again proving to be very difficult circuit as Mission Bay also lost to La Jolla and Pt. Loma in the opening round. The only bright spot was Lasoya's 2-hit victory against Kearny to avoid the basement.

The second round started with another close, 3-1, loss to Hoover. Then things started to be fun. Bobby Lasoya threw a no-hitter at Lincoln as he struck out nine in the standard 7 inning high school game. Next was a 10-inning marathon with San Diego that saw the Buccos on the long end of a 5-4 score. The Mission Bay victory dropped the Cavers into a first place tie with Hoover with identical 7-1 records. Leroy Brandt went the distance for the win and his single chased Tim Carroll across home plate with the deciding run.

The Buccaneers then held on for a narrow 6-5 win over Kearny. The next opponent, Pt. Loma, now held second place in the CPL. Their star pitcher, Bob Imlay, and our own Bobby Lasoya were hooked up in tight 3-3 duel until Fred Matteson scored Larry Brindley with the winning tally in the 11th inning. The Bucs defeated La Jolla in the season finale, 5-2, to finish strong in third place of the City Prep League. Ernie Beck's boys were the hottest team in San Diego. The high school season just didn't last long enough for Mission Bay. Leroy Brandt and Eddie Killenger were selected as co-captains. Tim Carroll and Jerry Dinsmore were the most improved players. Big Leroy was again the team's most valuable player.

Coach Beck immediately shifted his attention to Post 552 American Legion Ball for the summer. Bob Lasoya started with a 3-hitter over Post 492 (Hoover), the defending Southern

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California champions and two years removed from their national championship, as Mission Bay-Kearny opened the Legion season with a 6–1 victory. They lost badly to Lincoln-Helix (Post 433), 13–5, but with Lasoya back on the mound, Post 552 defeated Chula Vista (Post 434), 6–1. The Mission Bay-Kearny team knocked off Sweetwater (Post 255), 10–3, and El Cajon-Grossmont (Post 303), 10–4, before moving into undisputed first place in San Diego County with a 7–4 victory over San Diego-La Jolla (Post 434). Coach Beck's team scored all their seven runs in the second inning of a game highlighted by Stan Gilliland's grand slam.

The team won the Southern Division Championship with a 2–1 win over Post 6 (Pt. Loma). San Diego County has produced three American Legion Junior National Championship teams. Post 6 won the prestigious title in 1938, again in 1941, and Post 492 won in 1954. This was a very impressive accomplishment by Mission Bay's baseball talent.

Neomi Ninomiya earned 19½ points in G.A.A. to take top honors for the school year. Other third year girls earning at least 12 points during their G.A.A. careers were Karin Bonner, Jan Butler, Kathy Cox, Marguerite Dobson, Kathleen Earnest, Joan Fredericks, Louise Ferguson, Sharon Graney, Jeanna Hershold, Charlene Jeffers, Claudia Larson, Phyllis Pillsbury, Barbara Warfield, Beverly Wold, LaDona Young, Pat White, Linda Larson and Joan Bockbee.

The Record Book



Football Overall 1-7, League 1-5

13	El Centro	20
6	Pt. Loma	14
7	Kearny	9
13	Hoover	31
13	St. Augustine	26
0	San Diego	53
25	La Jolla	12
6	Lincoln	25

Football Individual Scoring

Player	TD	PAT	Total
Killinger	6		36
Brooks	2		12
Gongora	2		12
Wisenberg	2		12
Brindley	1		6
Dinsmore		4	4
Adams		1	1
Totals	13	5	83

Basketball Overall 10-15, League 4-8

43	St. Augustine	35
37	Coronado	38
43	San Dieguito	50
53	El Cajon	47
50	Oceanside	38
56	Mira Costa	47
40	Pt. Loma	60
43	Santa Monica	55
42	Lincoln	48
45	Helix	62
37	Pt. Loma	29
37	Hoover	46

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33	San Diego	45
45	Sweetwater	25
57	La Jolla	54
41	Lincoln	52
45	Kearny	41
30	Grossmont	47
51	Pt. Loma	53
43	Hoover	64
38	San Diego	40
46	St. Augustine	44
47	La Jolla	58
53	Lincoln	63
61	Kearny	41

Basketball Individual Scoring

Player	Points
Leroy Brandt	376
Keith Cooke	221
Bob Shea	142
Larry Brindley	140
Tom Woods	111
Tim Carroll	37
Keith Laird	27
Jim Madill	24
Richard Juttner	20
Joe Henry	6
Charles Misere	2
Jan Bossart	
Gary Coombs	
Mark Jones	
Bob Nash	
Mel Ninomiya	

1955-56



Baseball
Overall 17-12, League 6-6

14	Oceanside	3
21	El Cajon	17
0	San Dieguito	3
1	Helix	8
10	Grossmont	7
10	El Centro	4
2	Escondido	4
8	El Cajon	5
9	San Dieguito	3
0	San Dieguito	7
7	Escondido	0
10	Oceanside	4
5	SDSC Frosh	4
4	Santa Monica	8
7	El Cajon	3
0	Helix	2
3	St. Augustine	2
2	Hoover	3
4	Lincoln	6
2	San Diego	7
9	Kearny	2
2	Point Loma	8
1	La Jolla	8
1	Hoover	3
7	Lincoln	0
5	San Diego (10 innings)	4
6	Kearny	5
4	Point Loma (11 innings)	3
5	La Jolla	2

Baseball
Individual Stats: Hitting

Player	G	AB	H	HR	Avg.
Cooke	1	1	1		1.000
Brandt	29	94	40	6	.425
Carroll	27	66	24	1	.363
Sauter	1	3	1		.333
Matteson	29	76	24		.316
Lucas	23	63	15	1	.238

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Brindley	29	83	19		.229
Killinger	24	59	13		.220
Bruce	24	23	5		.217
LaSoya	26	79	17		.215
Rand	16	20	4		.200
Jones	14	15	3		.200
Mills	11	10	2		.200
Dinsmore	28	69	12		.174
Jowdy	13	23	4		.174
Gandolfi	16	20	3	1	.150
Rizzo	22	42	6		.143
Morgan	20	23	3		.130
Over	1	2			.000

Baseball Individual Stats: Pitching

Player	ERA	W	L	Pct.
LaSoya	2.60	10	4	.714
Jowdy	3.60	2	1	.667
Brand	2.95	3	3	.500
Matteson	2.90	1	4	.200
Cribbs	0.00	0	0	.000

BUCC BRIEFS



Eddie Killinger was an All-City football player for the Buccaneers who received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. He played football for the Midshipmen and retired as a Captain in the United States Navy.

When you look back before Mission Bay came into existence, La Jolla was a powerhouse. Guys like Art Luppino were from Pacific Beach and those good athletes from Pacific Beach went to La Jolla High School. When Mission Bay opened, they went to Mission Bay High School. A lot of great athletes came out of Pacific Beach and Mission Beach.



The thing I remember most about Mission Bay is the staff. We had good teachers who treated us with respect. They challenged us in the classroom and kept us on the straight and narrow. They knew we were young boys with lots of red corpuscles . . . they understood. I thought they did a super job. Mary Maull was the principal and Norman Houser was the vice principal. It was a very good school.

Phil Jarvis was a natural leader. I remember the Niethold brothers, Bobby and Ed . . . Bob Goad, Fred Matteson. Good guys and good athletes. It was fun to be part of a new school, but there were problems, too. We had a hard time finding places to play. We had to lug our gear up to Brown Military for football practice. Then we had to go back to Mission Bay for our showers. I even played a little basketball that first year. We played any place we could find a court. Harry Anderson said, "You're a great shot, Eddie, but every time you shoot, somebody moves

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the basket.” I always maintained contact with Coach Anderson over the years. I felt bad that he died so young.

In football, we played all our games at home in '54, so Coach Anderson wanted to get us a good road game. We ended up in El Centro and took one of those typical old school buses used in those days. Halfway through the first quarter on a kickoff return, I was tackling the ball carrier from the front. Someone got him from behind. We all hit at the same time. My teammate's knee got me in the ribs. I was really hurting. Anderson kept putting me in and taking me out. On the way back, Matteson said that every time the bus hit a bump, I'd moan. When we got back the next day, I visited the team doctor, Dr. Mitchell. He x-rayed me and found I had three broken ribs.

During practice, I think it was Pat Shea who hit Stan Gilliland. We heard a pop. Coach Anderson said, “Roll him off the field.”

We had some good, solid players. We just didn't have very much depth. I say that despite our record, we had a good team. We went both ways back then — sixty minutes and you were dragging your stern in a wheel barrow. The City League was a good, solid league. Beating La Jolla was the highlight of our season.

Ernie Beck was a superb gentleman and a heck of a coach. I played centerfield and right field on the baseball team. Timmy Carroll was a catcher and an outstanding baseball player and signed a professional contract. Leroy Brandt was a helluva basketball player and a helluva baseball player, too. He was a big kid with big hands and a quick thinker. He was a cut-up and a tease. He got picked off first base in a game. It's hard to explain exactly what happened, but it sure was funny to watch. Leroy acted like he knew that he was out and really didn't try to make a move. He held his hand out for the first baseman to tag him like he was just giving up. But then he made a move and got his

foot around the guy and was safe at first. He was a good hitter and played first base.



Bobby Lasoya had a great roundhouse curve ball. I didn't do well against curve balls. Coach Beck tried to teach me how to hit the curve. He said I'm going to throw you nothing but curves and I don't want you to hit. Just get back in the box. Don't take a cut. Just watch the ball. I did that a few times and then he threw a big roundhouse curve. I watched it and it hit me right in the head. After that he said he wouldn't get mad when I'd strike out on the curve ball.

I played football for two years at the Naval Academy until my knee got banged up. We went to the Sugar Bowl one year and the Cotton Bowl the next. Navy was good back then. We had several All-Americans: Bob Riefsnyder, Roger Staubach, Joe Bellino. I played fullback and linebacker in high school. Eddie Erdelatz, the coach, called me in and said, "I understand you're a football player." He looked at my size and asked what position I played. I said, "Fullback." He said, "You'll be a halfback here." We played both ways and I had to be a defensive halfback, too. I just didn't have the experience to play defensive halfback at that level.

I can recall at the Naval Academy getting ready for the Army-Navy game. We were doing round-the-world drills. Eddie Erdelatz called the play. It was a 48 pitch wide to the left. I got good blocking and ran for what would have been a touchdown. He said, "Run that again." Behind me, he pointed at me and the direction I would be going to the defensive team. They knew exactly what was coming. All I could see was 250-pound linemen. I turned up-field and got hit head on and two got me from the side. My helmet peeled off like an orange. Erdelatz said, "Put on a new helmet." Then he said, "Run it again."

Gold Leather Helmets – Black Hightop Shoes



We practiced another half hour, but I don't remember anything that happened. I was admitted to the hospital the next morning with a concussion.