

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Dundalk native Richard Edell inducted into lacrosse Hall of Fame

By RON GRABAREK

Longtime lacrosse coach and Dundalk native Dick Edell is being inducted into the Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coach's Association Hall of Fame later this month. The following is written by one of his former classmates and teammate at Dundalk High.

Dundalk High School graduate Richard I. Edell (Class of 1962) will be inducted into the Intercollegiate Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association Hall of Fame on May 28 as part of the 2016 NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship Weekend in Philadelphia.

What a wonderful honor, but his induction is the just part of the story. I have been given the honor to write this article about my friend, and my three-year varsity lacrosse teammate. We were the only two sophomores selected to play on the Owl team that won the Baltimore County championship in 1960 and we continued to play until we graduated in 1962.

Dick has accomplished much in his life, and feels strongly that his success in life was a result of growing up in our hometown of Dundalk.

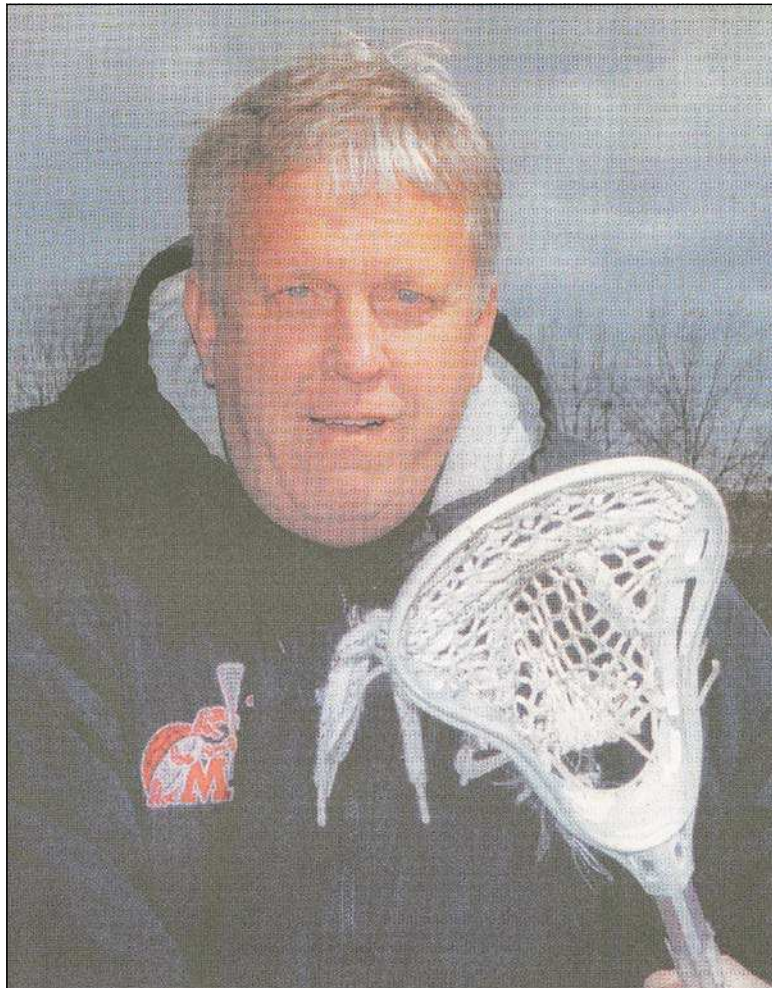
In those early years and through high school he was successful in other ways. He developed his work ethic, his sense of humor, athletic skills, and began relationships which continue to flourish to this very day.

Many of these people still have strong ties to Dundalk, and still live in the area. A few of those special childhood friends are Eddie Higgs, Dr. Leo Courtney, Frank Insignia, and Kevin Sanders.

Growing up in Dundalk in those post World War II years was a special time. People were enjoying a growing economy, they were optimistic about the future, and our area developed into a strong manufacturing community. Bethlehem Steel at Sparrows Point and Glenn E. Martin in Essex were two booming companies, and employed many of the individuals who migrated from areas outside of our town looking for jobs.

The community grew steadily. Demographically most of these people were hard-working, middle class individuals, with some cultural differences, but with one common denominator. They were motivated to make a better life for their families.

Like most of us, Dick Edell attended Baltimore County public schools. After Dundalk Elementary, he entered what was known as North Point Jr. High school located in Sparrow Point, and in 1959 he started at the then-new



Richard "Dick" Edell, a member of the Dundalk High Class of 1962, is being inducted into the Intercollegiate Men's lacrosse Coach's Association Hall of Fame this month.

Dundalk Senior High.

During those middle school years he continued to play basketball, but found a new game, that he had never seen before. There were a bunch of older guys throwing around a ball with a strange looking stick with a net on it. That was his first exposure to lacrosse.

Dick and I remembered how we both would draw a six-by-six foot goal in chalk on the brick wall at the closest school near our homes. Then, for too many hours most days, we would just bounce the ball off the wall, playing catch by ourselves.

Dick fell in love with the game, and wanting to learn everything he could about it. He was able to get help from those older guys who were throwing the ball around.

As he looks back on his development as a player, he attributes his lacrosse skills to the help he got from those players. They took him under their wing, and a few years later they ultimately became his teammates on the 1960 championship team.

Among those players were Skip Roberts, Howie Dail, Karl Uttenreither, Wayne Parris, and John Anderson. All of these players went

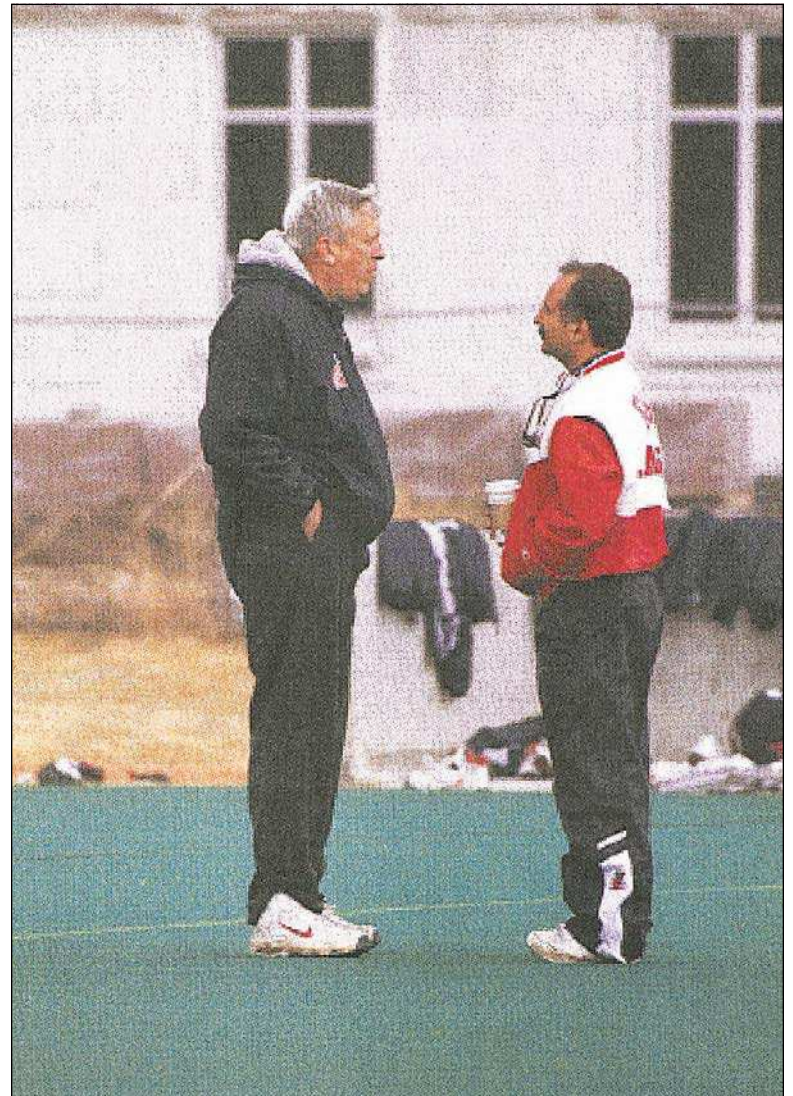
on to play on Division I teams in college.

With his work ethic, Dick became a very good student-athlete in high school and participated in many extracurricular activities. He was the junior class president, a member of the Steering Committee, played basketball and lacrosse for 3 years, all in order to achieve his goal to be accepted into the United States Naval Academy.

This truly reflects his motivation when he wanted to accomplish something. In high school Dick surrounded himself with good friends, and many of whom were very good athletes.

Looking back over those years, they all did their part to assist him, and he feels they played a part in his growth as an athlete, and helped make him the person he is today. There was his very close friend Jackie Davis, basketball teammates John Schroeder, Fred Medley, Jimmy Pitt, Bob Barton, Ken Mullaney, and his lacrosse teammates Charlie Bates, Ricky Ragan, Dominick Christello, Rich Sizer, Joey Adams, Bruce Hinkle, and this writer.

Edell earned a nomination to the Naval Academy and was accepted



Dundalk native Richard "Dick" Edell, left, was one of the most successful coaches in men's lacrosse history when he retired in 2001.

after his graduation from Dundalk in 1962. During his plebe year, he realized a military career was not what he wanted to do with his life. He realized he wanted to be a teacher, and pursued that career path by transferring to Towson State College in 1964.

Following in his mother's footsteps, Edell majored in Physical Education. He graduated in 1967, played lacrosse and was named an honorable mention All-American as a midfielder. He continued his education, earning a master's degree in education from Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) in 1970, and later earned a master's degree in science from the University of Baltimore in 1976.

Dick's first teaching position was at Bear Creek Elementary school, and his coaching career began that same year. He taught at Bear Creek, and also became the freshman team lacrosse coach at Towson State.

He held that coaching position for two years before accepting the position of head coach at Calvert

Hall in 1971. During three years at Calvert Hall, he led the Cardinals to Maryland Scholastic Association championships in 1971 and 1973.

The University of Baltimore provided him his first collegiate head coaching opportunity. He had a lot of success at Baltimore over the next four years as the lacrosse coach, and it also became one of his strangest coaching assignments.

Dick was also the soccer coach, and in 1975 he led his team to the 1975 NCAA Division II national championship. The strangest thing about that accomplishment was that Dick never played soccer at any time during his athletic career, frankly didn't know much about the nuances of the game, but through hard work and a strong work ethic, he had the ability to lead his team to a national championship. He attributes that success to his growing up in Dundalk, and his ability to meet a challenge.

(Ron Grabarek will conclude his thoughts on Richard Edell next week.)