

## SPORTS

# Gridiron Club set to honor Roundy

## MARBLEHEAD

BY RICHARD FARRELL

FOR THE ITEM

The late Elliott Roundy, an all-star player for Marblehead High during the 1930s who later became one of the founding members of the Magicians Gridiron Club in the early 1980s, will be inducted into the Marblehead Gridiron Hall of Fame Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Gerry Five Club.

"Elliott's lifelong devotion to Marblehead football was truly remarkable, said Dr. George MacDonald, who was one of Roundy's closest friends and fellow gridiron club founder. "He epitomized Marblehead football back in an era when football was king. Even though he went on to coach at Ipswich High, he maintained a loyal interest in the Marblehead program. He wanted the best for the players, coaches, parents, teachers and fans."

Roundy, who died last Oct. 15 at the age of 80, played under legendary head coach Charlie McGuinness as a schoolboy football, baseball and basketball athlete while attending Marblehead High. Football, however, was the sport Roundy had a burning desire and passion for. As a 160-pound junior, Roundy made his mark. He was selected by the Daily Evening Item as the North

Shore area's first team all-star center for the 1933 season. A year later, Roundy shifted to offensive tackle and helped lead the Magicians to the inaugural Northeastern Conference title and an 8-1-1 overall record.

The final game Roundy played as a high school football player is considered by many a follower as the greatest victory in the history of Marblehead High School football. The Magicians traveled to Miami, Fla., Dec. 8, 1934 to take on one of the top schoolboy powers in the nation at the time, Miami Edison High. The underdog Marblehead team, which was coming off an impressive 38-7 Thanksgiving win over rival Swampscott, surprised the heavily favored Edison High squad with an explosive offense featuring a highly deceptive ground and air attack.

The Magicians jumped out to a 27-0 halftime lead and never looked back en route to a lopsided 52-12 victory. A Miami Herald writer reported the 1934 Marblehead High School team performed like a "bunch of Magicians," hence the birth of the unique nickname. That same year, Roundy was a key contributor in helping Marblehead capture the first Northeastern Conference basketball and baseball championships.

"Elliott was the consummate team player" who displayed

sportsmanship qualities in everything he did," MacDonald said. "You hear the expression 'do whatever it takes,' that's what Elliott was all about. Whether it was being an athlete, a coach, an athletic director or just a caring person, Elliott did whatever was necessary for a successful outcome to be accomplished."

As one of the founding members of the Magicians Gridiron Club, Roundy helped organized and run events that would benefit all levels of football in the town. In 1991, Roundy was recognized with the club's Monsignor John P. Carroll Community Service Award and in 1983, he was given the club's inaugural President's Award for outstanding contributions. The club recently established an academic scholarship in Roundy's memory.

The Magicians Gridiron Club grew and evolved into the major support group it is today for Marblehead football, according to MacDonald.

"One of the biggest reasons for this was of Elliott's willingness to help make it happen. He was not one to sit by idle and see the program flounder. He encouraged people to get involved and support the teams. He refused to be negative. He found something good to believe in and be positive about. His wonderful attitude and outlook on life rubbed off on and

influenced many, many people, both youths and adults."

In addition to being a world history teacher, football, baseball and basketball head coach and athletic director at Ipswich High from 1951 to 1983, the Colgate University graduate was also a three-sport official over a 25-year span. He served on many committees including the state hockey tournament committee in the 1970s and 1980s and the Marblehead School Committee in the 1950s.

His success as Ipswich High football coach, which included a pair of Class D state titles and a 22-game winning streak, landed him in the Massachusetts State High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1979. There are two facilities that bear his name; the Ipswich High gymnasium and the historic grandstand located at Seaside Park in Marblehead.

In 1940, Roundy served in U.S. Navy amphibious forces. He was a lieutenant in command of an LCT (Landing Craft-Tanks) in the European theater invasions from North Africa to the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame dinner are \$20 each and can be purchased by contacting Esso Haines at 631-1510 or Carl Siegal at 631-5475. The festivities begin at 6 p.m.