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## A SHORT PRE-GAME

My hope in writing this history is to recognize trailblazing referees in our rapidly growing and changing sport, to give current and future referees a glimpse of the past to which they are both connected and indebted, and to capture for posterity the many stories, often humorous, that inevitably arise whenever officials gather.

In pursuing these goals, I faced the inevitable dilemma. Referees strive to go unnoticed; a ref's best game is often the one where no one remembers his presence. In fact, Vin LoBello's first dictum to referees was "the ideal official is the one who notices everything but is seldom noticed himself." The media carry no accounts of referees nor do officials have their own Sports Information Directors highlighting their exploits the way players and coaches do.

I started the information-gathering process by sending out a questionnaire to older, better-known current referees. They provided information about and leads for even older, retired officials who, subsequently, gave me biographical data on those who have gone on to The Great Post Game. The recalcitrant were nudged by emails and phone calls. Referees from the 1950s or earlier were listed in the NCAA rulebooks at the time, along with their addresses and alma maters. College alumni offices provided invaluable help in locating these former officials. Past NELOA Directories filled in many gaps as well. In sum, the process of gathering information proved the most difficult task. After undergoing this experience, I feel I could help locate Whitey Bulger or Amelia Earhart. The writing of the narrative was relatively easy.

Several people deserve special recognition for their help. Lacrosse Hall of Fame Archivist Josh Christian, Don Johnson, Roy Condon, Bob "Okie" O'Connell, and Steve Hinchey were selfless with their time and patiently endured my seemingly endless stream of questions. Without them this history would not have been possible.

## COVER PHOTO

Vin LoBello, Chief Referee of New England, 1963-1983.

## FIRST WHISTLE: THE EARLY DAYS

Governor Dummer Academy coaches Heb Evans and Bob Anderson's 1966 classic, Lacrosse Fundamentals, notes that the Indian tribes playing lacrosse in North America often used tribal medicine men as game officials. There is no account of how these first zebras did their job as Indian culture embraces an oral tradition of passing down information, but given the violent nature of these contests pitting whole villages against each other over vast distances, it might be assumed that they were the first practitioners of "Let 'em play" officiating.

In the mid-19th century Montreal became the center for lacrosse which was rapidly turning from warrior training to recreational sport. Bob Scott's Lacrosse Technique and Tradition (1976) describes how the Montreal Lacrosse Club in 1856 began to use longer sticks with a wide triangular netting tightly strung with gut. Passing was thus encouraged. Montreal dentist George Beers formed the Canadian National Lacrosse Association in 1867 and established the first set of written rules, a copy of which is on display today under glass at the US Lacrosse Hall of Fame in Baltimore.

Using Scott again as a reference, here are the highlights of Beers' seminal work:

Crosse: Any length, but netting must be flat when ball was not in it.

Ball: India rubber from 8-9 inches in circumference.

Goals/Field: The recommended length was 200 yards and goal posts were six feet high and six feet apart with a flag on top of each.

Coach: Each team had a "field captain" to supervise play.

Team: Consisted of 12 players with no subbing, even for injury.

Match: Decided by three goals (called "games") out of five. Teams changed goals after each game/goal together with a 5-10-minute rest. (Note: It appears that matches were very low scoring affairs in 1867).

Not Authorized: Touching the ball, throwing a crosse, holding, tripping, striking, and threatening.

The next year the English Lacrosse Association adopted time limits and a tape connecting the tops of the two goal posts.

Harvard was the first New England school to take up lacrosse, in 1879, and joined with several schools farther south to set up various intercollegiate lacrosse leagues which went through several name changes before the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse League was founded in late 1905 and remained the governing body of the sport for years to come. In the late 1800s netting was added to the back of the goal posts and players, especially attackmen, experimented with shorter, lighter sticks with smaller nets.

Who was refereeing these early games? One must assume that the officials emerged then as they often do today: ex-players, referees recruited from other sports, and physical education teachers exposed to the sport during Skills Classes.

Immediately upon its inception in 1905, the USILA fixed the crease dimensions at a rectangular 18 by 12 feet, allowed for free substitutions (but a player removed could not return), and 35-min. halves were mandated. The penalty for a foul was suspension for three minutes or until a goal was scored. For a second offense, a player was gone for the game. Talk about zero tolerance!

The Lacrosse Hall of Fame in Baltimore has every rulebook the USILA published from 1906. It was in the 1920s, however, that lacrosse grew significantly in popularity in New England. During this decade Harvard, Yale, Springfield, Williams, Dartmouth, BU, MIT, Brown, and the Boston Lacrosse Club were playing regular schedules. Tufts and UNH would join the fray in 1930.

The first USILA rulebook, called the United States Intercollegiate Rules, to include a list of the officials was published in 1924.

### 1924 LIST OF OFFICIALS

Chief Referee: W.H. Fries of Philadelphia, PA.

New England Officials:

R.G. Leonard, Williamstown, MA.

John J. Woodhouse, Cambridge, MA.

F.R. Calkins, Cambridge, MA.

Charles Marsters, Boston, MA.

Dr. V.C. Stewart, Woburn, MA.

Of the 53 officials total, only six were from New England. That percentage would increase significantly over time and by the 1960s the New England District would have the largest number of officials. In the 1924 group, 26 officials, including Calkins, Marsters, and Stewart, were included under a heading called "Supplementary List" and one wonders about the distinction or difference between them and the officials listed at the top of the page.

Charles E. Marsters carved a terrific career in lacrosse. Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1883, Marsters played at Harvard before graduating in 1907. He was the first Chief Referee of New England (a term that today would encompass a mix of District One College Assignor of the MCOC of US Lacrosse and District One Representative to MDOC; a combination today of Roy Condon and John Hill). He founded the Boston Lacrosse Club in 1913 when he moved to Boston. Although he would stop officiating in 1943, he served as Chief Referee through 1948. Marsters was USILA Man of the Year in 1951, and was enshrined in the US Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1958. One must not underestimate the impact of the Boston Lacrosse Club: it served a vital role in the region by providing a quality opponent for colleges to play when the number of colleges participating in the region was quite low. The 1971 North-South Game Program at Tufts that June included a half page memorium to Charles Marsters from nine of his fellow officials.

It should be noted that the referees listed above were "certified" to adjudicate all levels of lacrosse; there would be no formal distinctions between high-school refs/college refs for another 50 years.

The rule book that Marsters used in 1924 was a far cry from the slick, densely packed 100-page Bible that we use today. The rules themselves took only 17 pages to cover and the rest of the 80-odd pages included the past season's results, team records, and a description of lacrosse being played in the various sections of the country. Highlights of the 1924 Rules:

Referee: Must be a disinterested party and not a member of either club. They were assigned to their games at the annual convention in New York City. There was a Judge of Play who roamed the sideline (supervising subs and number of players on the field) and called fouls behind the Referee or not seen by the Referee. An early CBO if you wish. The team Field Captains (read: coach) could call out infractions they saw and the Referee had the discretion to blow his whistle or not. No different from today! Fascinatingly, the Field Captain could complain

to the referee about the Judge of Play's poor calls and have him removed! Ah, the life of the CBO has never been easy. Each goal had a Goal Umpire standing behind the goal to call "Goal" or "No Goal." Voila, a 4-man game in 1924!

Crosse: Any length. No more than 1 ft. wide.

Field and Goals: Goals were to be 110 yards apart with 20-35 yards of open space behind. Fields were 70-85 yards wide. Goals themselves were 6' by 6' with mesh netting and the marked crease was 18' by 12'. There was a center line, but no defensive area lines. There was no drawn diagram of the Field of Play in the 1924 Rulebook.

Teams: Twelve players comprised a team and apparently they could wear what they wanted: no mention of personal equipment except for the prohibition of dangerous footwear. It wasn't until the 1930s that helmets began to be commonplace.

No coaching was allowed from the sideline/non-players, but the Field Captain (coach) could report rule infringements to the Referee (see above).

Start of Play: Face offs started the game and occurred after each goal with face-off men's left sides to the goals they were attacking. Ball placed between the reverse surfaces of the netting.

Time: Two 30-min. halves. Clock stopped for injuries, out-of-bounds, goals, time-outs, and disputes. Imagine, disputes even in 1924. There was one ten-minute overtime period.

Play of the Game: The out-of-bounds rule was unclear: it implied that when a ball went out of bounds it was awarded to the player nearest the ball when it went out (not unlike the modern rule on a shot going out-of-bounds). In 1921 the modern offsides rule was incorporated. Players could be subbed for once, but not twice.

Legal Checks: Much like the modern rules here, but one foot had to remain on the ground while bodychecking.

Fouls/Penalties: There were three classifications of fouls. Class A Technical fouls were the minor ones: delay of game or offsides. The penalty was a 1-min. penalty or awarding the ball to the opponent (called a free throw). Class B Technicals were more serious: holding, tripping, and slashing (called striking). The penalty was removal from the game for 3-7 minutes!! Finally, there were Personal fouls which resulted in expulsion from the game: cross-checking, deliberately striking a player, and abusive language.

Harvard's Allen E. Reed (father of the Al Reed who recently retired as an official; see CT section) began officiating in 1928 after All-American years in 1925 and 1926 as a defenseman. He would continue to referee into the 1940s.

In 1933 the number of players was reduced from 12 to 10. The distance between the goals went from 110 yards to 80 yards with a set 20 yards behind each goal to the end line. Finally, the playing time of 60 minutes was divided into four quarters of 15 minutes each. UNH and Tufts started lacrosse in the 1930s. Governor Dummer Academy and Exeter began play in 1936 and, in the western part of Massachusetts, Deerfield started in 1933.

#### 1934 LIST OF OFFICIALS

Chief Referee: Roy Taylor, New York City, NY.

Chief Referee, New England District: Charles Marsters, Boston.

#### New England Referees:

John Bohn, Medford, MA.  
Carlton Collins, Stamford, CT.  
Harvey Cook, Milton, VT.  
William Hall, New Haven, CT.  
George Henderson, Brookline, MA.  
Allen Reed, Boston, MA.  
Lewis Ward, Framingham, MA.  
W.E. Westman, Milton, MA.

#### Supplementary List:

James Bullock, Williamstown, MA.  
James Dugan, Quincy, MA.  
C.C. Garofalo, Hartford, CT.  
Luther Gulick, Andover, MA.  
Ben Haviland, Deerfield, MA.  
William Lang, Medford, MA.  
Gregory Lynch, Waterbury, CT.  
Walter Lynch, Waterbury, CT.  
Paul Mackesey, Lynn, MA.  
J.M. McDaniels, Norwich, VT.  
Wm. Morrison, Springfield, MA.  
Wm. Nightingale, Newton, MA.  
S.R. Ogden, Londonderry, VT.  
Z.L. White, Cambridge, MA.  
N.E. Withington, Belmont, MA.

The NCAA Official Lacrosse Guide for 1934 included four pages of "Suggestions for Officials" written by the Rules Committee. Suggestion # 7: "Do not forget the rest of the players by following the ball too closely...the effect is very salutary." The effect is still salutary today.

In the list above the town of Medford, MA appeared as home bases for Wm. Lang and John Bohn, a Medford Phys Ed teacher who also coached basketball in the 1940s and 1950s. Later, in the 1950s Medford would also produce Chief Referees Robert Mortenson (early 50s) and Allyn "Bud" Stillman (teacher and coach), Francis Pelosi (coach), Matt Sgan (student), Will Hunter (student) while in the 1960s NELOA Honorary Life Member Peter Brady (student and coach) and early 50s referee Bob Spofford would hail from Medford as well. Was it something in the water? Later, Amherst, MA and Exeter, NH would be towns producing inordinate numbers of lacrosse officials.

In 1940 the First North-South College All-Star game was held. In short order, working this game became the highest honor a referee could aspire to because the college championship each year was decided by a vote based on a point system: there was no post-season tournament to decide the national champion.

## 1944 LIST OF OFFICIALS

Chief Referee: Roy Taylor, Brooklyn, NY.

Chief Referee, New England District: Charles Marsters, Boston.

### New England Referees:

John G. Bohn, Medford, MA.  
Robert Johnson, Hazardville, CT.  
P.W. Burleigh, Ashmont, MA.  
Fred Kosiba, Saco, ME.  
Percy Catton, Cambridge, MA.  
Henry Letoile, Boston, MA.  
N. Cochrane, Quincy, MA.  
Earle Littleton, Medford, MA.  
Raymond Donnell, Darien, CT.  
Leo Netter, Mt. Hermon, MA,  
Edward Dyer, Boston, MA.  
Albert Nies, Cumberland, ME.  
Jim Forbes, E. Hartford, CT.  
Richard Putnam, Bloomfield, CT.  
Walter Tucker, Waverly, MA.

### Supplementary List

L.M. Child, Medford, MA.  
Carleton Collins, Stamford, CT.  
John Donovan, Newburyport, MA.  
Ben Haviland, Deerfield, MA.  
J.F. Hunt, Amherst, MA.  
F.L. Harson, Cranston, RI.  
S.W. Kaufman, Amherst, MA.  
B.P. Kopkind, New Haven, CT.  
Ben Martin, Cambridge, MA.  
S.R. Ogden, Londonderry, VT.  
Lincoln Redshaw, Lynn, MA.  
T.F. Ring, Woburn, MA.  
A. Barr Snively, Williamstown, MA.

The nationwide list included 125 referees, up from 53 in 1924. Fifty were referees while 74 were on the supplementary list. The only hold-over from 1924 was Charles Marsters, now the Chief Referee for New England. Leo Netter, above, started lacrosse at Northfield-Mt. Hermon School in the 1930s. Several other referees above moonlighted (!) as coaches as well. Barr "Whoops" Snively coached at Williams and then UNH. Ben Martin coached at MIT.

Nelson "Nellie" Cochrane played lacrosse at Harvard and then with the Boston Lacrosse Club after graduation. He served as Chief Referee of New England in the early 1950s after Marsters and before Allyn Stillman. Cochrane died at age 80 in 1990.

Marsters and Netter's Official Lacrosse Rules for 1944 was 20 pages in length but the print was smaller: there was simply more information. As in 1924, there was no list of rule changes from the previous year at the beginning of the rulebook. Some of the information was different than in 1924:

Referees: A referee and a judge were assigned to games and may be assisted by two goal umpires. The officials were now assigned to their games by a district assignor.

Crosse: Same as in 1924.

Field/Goals: There was now a diagram of the 110-yd. field of play. A 10' facing circle centered the field.

Teams: Ten players with substitutions allowed on the sounding of a horn. No limit on subs. Each team allowed two timeouts per half. All players had to wear numbers.

Start of Play: Face offs conducted as per today except ball placed within the player's reverse surfaces of the cross. No player allowed within the facing circle until the ball had left.

Time: Four 15-min. periods with two (full) 5-min. overtime periods.

Play of the Game: Out-of-bounds along the sidelines meant the ball awarded to the opponent. A free ball that went out-of-bounds on the end line was awarded to the nearest player. (forerunner of our "shot" rule). One supposes this was an early attempt to keep everyone from crowding in front of the goal.

Legal Checks: Same.

Fouls: A Technical foul was a one-minute serve or loss of ball. Cross-checking was a technical foul. Personal fouls were from 1-3 minutes in length: holding, slashing, tripping, illegal bodycheck. The expulsion foul was a single foul: deliberately striking someone. Offsides were 30-second time-serving penalties and mentioned in a separate part of the rulebook. Interestingly, shades of a rule proposal for the 2001 season can be seen with the rule that the Referee can call "play on" for an offsides that had no effect on the play! Editorially, all the technical and personal fouls were lumped together in a diverse list at the end of the book: no specific list of personals followed by a separate list of technicals. Finally, there were no pictures of official signals.

#### NATIONALLY THE 1950s

Lacrosse grew significantly during the 1950s with a spurt unmatched since the 1920s. Middlebury (1950), UMASS (1954), Amherst (1954), Holy Cross (1955), Lowell Tech (1957), Wesleyan (1958), Bowdoin (1958), and New England College (1949) all played intercollegiate schedules. Surprisingly, Springfield College would drop the sport for 20 years beginning in 1950. Seventeen prep schools were involved as well: Deerfield, Governor Dummer, Choate, Mt. Hermon, Tabor, Andover, Exeter, KUA, Williston, Kingswood, Marvelwood, Rivers, Lenox, Darrow, Lawrence, St. Pauls, and St. Marks. The Charles Marsters Sportsmanship Award was presented annually on the interscholastic level and Charles himself selected the All New England Interscholastic team. The Chief Referee had become the Chief Chronicler.

In 1948 the rectangular crease was replaced by a circular one and in 1953 free movement of players after a whistle was adopted. Prior to this time players had to "freeze" in their positions at the whistle. In 1959 the Lacrosse Hall of Fame Foundation was created in Baltimore. In 1952 JHU's Kelso Morrell wrote Lacrosse.

The mid 1950s were the lacrosse years of Jim Brown of Syracuse who went on to national fame as the fullback for the football Cleveland Browns. Observers claim Brown was the greatest lax player of all time: an unstoppable force of 6'2" and 225 pounds. He came to Syracuse out of Long Island's Manhasset High School and current Williams Coach Renzie Lamb still has the scars from trying to tackle Brown during a high-school game. Brown played a lacrosse game in 1957 at New England College, a 13-7 Syracuse win. Can you imagine the look on Coach Quinn's face today if the Syracuse bus arrived in Henniker for a game!

In 1957 Brown became the first black to play in the North-South All-Star game and scored five goals by halftime in a show that still has the Baltimore faithful shaking their heads. Veteran referee Clark Mercer of Syracuse was Brown's roommate on the road: "Jimmy would play basketball all morning and then suit up for lacrosse and score at will. It was a man against boys. He had an underhand worm-burner that was incredible." A football coach and a lacrosse coach were comparing notes in the 1950s and discovered a mutual connection with Jim Brown. The football coach was incredulous: "You're telling me that there's a sport where they give that man a stick?"

Two "facts" about Brown have persisted over the years. One was that he used a very short stick; reports have it as short as 30" in length. A close look at the 1955 rulebook reveals that the minimum measurement allowed was 40 inches. Was Brown's stick really that short? Illegal? If so, why weren't teams calling for stick checks on him? Coach Lamb: "Jim Brown used a wooden stick with a defenseman's head on a very short shaft. But no one did 'stick checks' in those days; that came in with the plastic heads later."

The second "fact" was that one of Brown's moves was to clamp the ball to his chest and power his way to the goal and that the clamping/withholding rule was introduced upon his departure from Syracuse. A close check of both the 1959 and 1964 rulebooks indicates no wording of clamping/withholding the ball against the body. Bill Coleman: "In the late spring of 1957, Bill Wyman and I worked the Syracuse-Dartmouth game in Hanover, NH. Jim Brown was one of the centers. He was going to the Cleveland Browns right after school and the Browns apparently had given him a huge red convertible along with other things and he was riding around Hanover with the top down and half the team hanging onto it.

During the game he seemed to be able to bore in and score whenever he wanted to. I don't recall anything special about his stick and I can assure you that there was no clamping of the stick and ball against his body when Wyman and I were around!"



## 1954 LIST OF OFFICIALS

Chief Referee: Roy Taylor, Bernardsville, NJ.

New England Chief Referee: Allyn Stillman, Medford, MA.

Allan Bagni, Haverhill, MA.  
Joseph Hurley, Beverly, MA.  
Don Begin, Peabody, MA.  
Howard Lyon, Malvern, PA.  
Stuart Bicknell, Portland, ME.  
Will Montgomery, Duxbury, MA.  
David Burdge, Springfield, MA.  
Francis Pelosi, Everett, MA.  
Philip Burleigh, Dorchester, MA.  
Richard Putnam, Montague, MA.  
Nelson Cochrane, Hingham, MA.  
Winslow Robbins, Abington, MA.  
William Eblen, Farmington, CT.  
Len Roland, Springfield, MA.  
Ed Edmunds, Newton, MA.  
Frank Samuel, Lexington, MA.  
Frank England, Chestnut Hill, MA.  
James Forbes, Glastonbury, CT.  
Joe Tinker, Providence, RI.  
Carroll Huntress, Portland, ME.  
Tom Tsotsi, Somerville, MA.

The 22 New England refs seem to indicate flat growth over the number in 1944; however, the 1954 listing does not include a "Supplementary" section. Only Burleigh, Cochrane, Forbes, and Putnam were holdovers from 1944.

During the mid 1950s Allyn "Stilly" Stillman (deceased) assumed Marsters' duties as the Chief Referee of New England, assigning all officials to all games, big and small, through the entire region. Stillman, a PE teacher at Medford High School and a 1928 graduate of Springfield College, was also a leading soccer official and coach in those years. In 1961 he relinquished his assigning duties to Harold Wyman (deceased) of Northfield, MA. (see WMASS section). He would continue to referee, however, through 1966. Stillman passed away in 1987.

One of Stillman's co-workers, Francis Pelosi (deceased), started in the mid 50s and would referee until 1970. A Fitchburg State grad, Pelosi taught Graphic Arts at Medford High. Jim Tedesco, currently residing in Winchester, MA, began officiating after graduating from Springfield College. He put his whistle away in 1970.

Don Begin, now living in Topsfield, MA, received his introduction to lacrosse as a player at UNH

in 1940. He would officiate for 25 years.

Joseph Tinker began officiating in 1944 and continued until 1959. He lived in and refereed out of Providence, RI while teaching at Moses Brown School. "I took no written test. I was 'tested' by Charles Marsters and then did a few games with him when I was starting." He now resides in Bucksport, ME. As a football player at UNH he was enticed to play spring lacrosse as were many members of the team at that time. Tinker: "The most significant rule change during my era was the mandatory helmet rule. Prior to that mandate some colleges played without helmets and, as referees, we protected them a bit. Make shift face masks offered some protection but were not mandated at that time."

The 1955 Official NCAA Rules comprised 16 pages of yet even smaller print which may have edged more older officials into retirement than any on-field action.

Referee: Two officials were to be used: a referee and an umpire. There were pictures of the 12 official signals at the end of the book. In those pictures the hatless referee was wearing a striped shirt with a bow tie, long football-like white knickers, and black socks.

Crosse/Equipment: Players required to wear a helmet with a face guard. No mention of gloves.

Field/Goals: There's a circular crease and no center face-off circle.

Start of Play: Required line-up of teams at the center before the start of the game, as per today.

Time: Language included for high-school games: 10-min. quarters.

Play of Game: Out-of-bounds on shots were awarded as per today.

Fouls: Twenty-two technical fouls listed in order, including one for illegal equipment. There were eight personal fouls including cross-checking which had finally found a home. In 1924 it was an expulsion foul. In 1944 it was a technical foul. Goalies given four seconds to clear the crease after gaining possession of the ball.

#### NATIONALLY THE 1960s

Given the growth in the sport during the 1950s and the many changes that would come to the sport during the 1970s, the decade of the 60s was relatively quiet in lacrosse. Eighty-four college teams were playing in 1965 and that number would double exactly by 1975. The 1960s were the decade of the service academies: Army and Navy would field the top teams in the nation. While the sport spread into Arizona, Kentucky, and Tennessee, an international flavor was experienced with visits by teams from England in 1961 and Australia a year later.

Closer to home, Holy Cross in 1960 hosted the first North-South College All-Star game in New England. Seven years later, UMASS would host the annual tilt. The coach for the north that year was Middlebury's Joe Morrone while Bowdoin's Rob Pfeiffer would anchor the North defense (see Maine section). A participant in the June UMASS Freshmen orientation, Roy Condon, would watch this game in the 92-degree heat; his first exposure to lacrosse. Officiating the game were Frenchy Julien, Bernie Ullman, and Vin LoBello.

This decade marked the appearance of public high schools playing the sport and their

opponents at first were the prep schools of the area with well-established programs. Governor Dummer coaches Heb Evans and Bob Anderson published Lacrosse Fundamentals in 1966. In 1968 Plymouth State College coach Paul Hartman wrote Lacrosse Fundamentals.

It was in the 1960s that many of New England's current refs, or ones just retired, were introduced both to the sport and to officiating lacrosse. It is appropriate, a bit later in this text, to discuss those referees state by state.

After twelve years at Delaware, Alden "Whitey" Burnham coached Dartmouth from 1961 through 1969 and offers a candid view of refereeing in New England in the early 1960s. "In 1961 there were only 13 prep schools and 17 colleges playing lacrosse in New England and each team only played 11-12 games; two or three of those games for the colleges were played in the south during a spring trip. Consequently, the opportunities for officials to work a sufficient number of games in order to improve just did not exist. Their organization (NELOA) could best be described as 'loose.'

"In those days the quality officials were from the Baltimore area. Quality was driven by the sheer volume of work available at all levels. Annual officiating clinics were mandatory, assignments were made by a commissioner and a rating system by coaches as well as spot supervisors kept officials on their toes. Because of the shakey status of NE officiating, the Ivies opted to have all league games assigned out of Baltimore. Eventually, NE lacrosse began to burgeon, not only in the number of teams but also in the number of games played by each team. By 1969 there were 43 prep and high schools playing along with 24 colleges and universities. Needless to say this heralded the need for more and better officials, better organization, clinics, assignors, a ratings structure, all the things that bring about a quality product.

"Vin LoBello was a tireless worker as was Gerry Gingras from Vermont. In New Hampshire, Bill Coleman from Jaffrey and John Auld from Goffstown were instrumental in referee development. Scully Scandrett out of Amherst really got involved and was a great assist to Dave Harrison. All in all the quality of officiating in the northeast improved dramatically in those years with the growth of the sport."

The 1964 Official NCAA Lacrosse Rules ran to 22 pages of very small print and there were few changes from the 1955 rules. The field diagram would mirror that of 2000 almost exactly save for the broken line boundaries of the goal areas at either end:

Referees: By 1964 there was language concerning a third referee on the field and there were two full pages of officials' signals: still with the same hatless Great Gatsby character in a bow tie.

Crosse/Equipment: Gloves were now required and helmets must be buckled.

Time: During play, timeouts could only be called in the offensive half by the team in possession's captain and teams were limited to one timeout per period.

Fouls: Personal fouls section's language was very similar to that of 2000.

## THE 1970s

## GAME CHANGES AND RULE CHANGES

The decade of the 1970s brought dramatic changes to the sport of lacrosse in the areas of equipment, participation by public high schools, determining a national collegiate champion, and television exposure.

By 1971 the "molded plastic stick" was declared legal in the rulebook and plastic heads were seen from Winchester High School in eastern Massachusetts to the college and club ranks. The 1973 NCAA rulebook cover photo was the first depicting a player with a plastic stick (taken during the 1972 season).

Until 1971 the annual collegiate champion was selected by the Championship Awards Committee of the USILA and its award was made public during the halftime of the annual North-South College All-Star game held a few weeks after the close of the season. In 1971 the USILA affiliated with the NCAA to decide the champion on the field in a championship tournament event open to all varsity lacrosse teams. Cornell defeated Maryland 12-6 at Hofstra in a game televised live.

A year later, to give a boost to smaller college programs, the USILA started a college-division tournament which co-existed for two years with the NCAA tournament until the NCAA took it over and ran it for Div. II-III schools. In the first game of the first round of this USILA Tournament in 1972, Boston State with midfielder Jim Tighe and goalie John Yeager lost to Adelphi 16-4.

Tighe actually began refereeing before he graduated and still works games today from his home in Duxbury, MA.

The NCAA format had several ramifications. For colleges, it meant that an early-season loss or two would not entirely ruin its chances for a crack at the title: coaches could be more risky in their scheduling. Secondly, with the NCAA cachet, the sport drew unprecedented television and media coverage. Finally, it meant that the "top plum" for officials would now be an assignment to the post-season NCAA tournament and not the annual North-South game.

While prep schools in New England had been playing the sport for some time, public high schools enjoyed their first big spurt of participation in the 1970s. Connecticut high schools would have their first championship game in 1974, joining Massachusetts schools who had been up and running since the late 1960s. Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine would also see public school growth even if a formal state championship was still down the road.

At the 1973 North-South game current US soccer coach Bruce Arena teamed with current Harvard lacrosse coach Scott Anderson on the North squad.

In 1974 the NCAA rulebook was organized by chapters as it is today, although it wasn't until 1975 that the rulebook would include all the ARs that we know today. Up until 1977 those ARs would appear in a booklet edited by Joseph "Frenchy" Julien and published by the USILA. No history involving lacrosse would be complete without a salute to Frenchy Julien, considered

by many the sport's most influential official. In Roy Condon's words, "Frenchy Julien ruled!"

Born in Canada in 1910, Julien soon moved to Brooklyn, NY where he picked up the sport before lettering in four sports at Rutgers. He was a lacrosse All-American in 1932 after leading the nation in scoring the year before. In 1956 he was District Chief Referee of New York and two years later became the Chief Referee for USILA, a position he filled for 20 years. In 1965 he was elected to the US Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

With his horn-rim glasses and a Ty Cobb-baseball type hat, the wiry Julien was known for his wit and quick repartee. Julien, in an interview in Lacrosse Magazine in 1981: "I remember I got sick of being yelled at by coaches and players over calls so I took a rule book and memorized three common rules. Then, early in the game, I'd wait until a player came close to committing one of those fouls and call it. When the coach started yelling, I'd go over to the bench, throw the Rule Book at him and say, 'Look it up on page 64 Section IV, paragraph three!' Then I'd walk away and the coach would look it up to discover I was exactly right. This worked for years."

Losing badly in the final two minutes to Navy one year, Princeton coach Ferris Thomsen had the table area blow the horn. Julien inquired why the horn was blown. Thomsen replied, "That Navy guy fouled my player!"

Julien replied, "No he didn't. Just let me call the game."

A minute later the horn went again and Julien rushed over. "What's the matter now?"

Dinty Moore, the Navy coach, said, "That was a goal, it went through the net!"

"No it didn't. Let me call the game and don't blow that horn anymore."

After the game Julien deduced that the coaches had figured to have a little fun with him since the game was out of reach. Two years later the same teams played and it's a tight game, 7-6 in the last minute. Suddenly Julien blew his whistle, and walked slowly over to the bench area where he solemnly called the two coaches together. "What's the matter?" asked the coaches. "What's the matter with you two guys, no fun with Frenchy today?"

NH's Bill Coleman remembers Julien's appearance at a Cornell-UMASS playoff game. Coleman: "He was a bit of a nuisance, Frenchy was. He arrived with a tape recorder and sat in the stands and commented on the officials during the first half. Then he showed up at halftime and made us listen to the damn tape. One of the upstate NY refs working with me was really bent out of shape by this; it didn't really bother me because I had met Frenchy before. Of course we thanked Frenchy profusely for his comments and then the upstate ref sputtered as we walked back onto the field, '\_\_\_\_\_ Frenchy! He ought to concentrate on enjoying the game!'"

Frenchy Julien would be the USILA Chief Referee through 1976. NFL Referee Bernie Ullman would assume the position in 1977. In the 1980s the position was filled first by Maryland's Fred Eisenbrandt (1983) and then by Long Island's Jim Garvey (1988). Garvey would referee the football Cotton Bowl, the NCAA basketball tournament, and the NCAA Lacrosse Final all in the

same year. He is also the only referee to work the Army-Navy game in three sports: football, basketball, and lacrosse. In the early 1990s the NCAA wanted their own NCO and that position was filled by Warren Kimber from New Jersey, who serves today, while the USILA Chief Referee position became the USILA National Coordinator of Officials, a position held by Charlie Phillips. 1974 rule changes saw the stick dimensions finally settle at 6 1/2"-10" and subs didn't have to report to the table before entering: they could literally sub on the fly.

New rules for 1976 deemed that in an extra-man situation, the team in possession at the end of a period would retain possession at the beginning of the next period: the rule we have today. And if coaches made a second "stick check" request and the stick was legal, their team was charged a timeout.

The highlight of the 1976 season was Cornell's 16-13 overtime (see 1978 rule change) victory over Maryland in the NCAA finals seen on ABC's Wide World of Sports. It was the Mike French-Frank Urso duel. The Great Gatsby bow-tied character in the diagrams for the officials signals was replaced with a more modern fellow with a hat and striped shirt. JHU coach Bob Scott's Lacrosse Technique and Tradition appeared on bookshelves.

Sudden death overtime arrived in 1978. That year in the World Games in England, the US lost its first-ever match in the final in overtime to Canada. Not before or since have they lost. In March of 1978 the first issue of Lacrosse Magazine was published.

In 1979 came a change in the procedures after a goal. The scored-upon team was given the ball at midfield. No faceoff. Bowdoin's Mort Lapointe was Chairman of the NCAA Rules Committee at the time. This rule lasted all of one season (Lapointe cast the tie-breaking vote the next season) before the FOGO men returned to the game! But this rule would set in motion game changes that, in turn, would set in motion rule changes that, ten years later, would speed up the game. Teams that scored, knowing the other team would get the ball at midfield, would bring in nine long sticks for defense. These tactics would soon be seen at other dead-ball or horn situations. Jim Grube, then coach at Delaware but soon to be coach at Middlebury, reflected: "The game of lacrosse was becoming the game of baseball. Change your equipment after every inning." Grube, Yale's Mike Waldvogel, and the ACC's Gene Corrigan would launch rule changes over the next decade that would bring back the speed of the game of lacrosse.

The decade closed in 1979 with a preview of beepers: officials were required to carry stopwatches to monitor the various occasions where delay of game might occur. The time limit then was 30 seconds, not 20.

## THE 1980s GAME CHANGES AND RULE CHANGES

The 1980 season saw the inaugural Div. III NCAA Championship. Hobart, on its way to winning this title, opened the playoffs with a 37-1 victory over MIT. Hobart's coach Dave Urick would write Lacrosse Fundamentals of Winning in 1988.

The Carrier Dome opened in 1981 in Syracuse. In a portent of the Rulebook/Guide's future, the

1981 book included just a single page listing the scholastic all-stars from the previous year. Gone were the region-by-region written summaries of secondary school play and team statistics. No regular or special subbing was allowed after a faceoff until an official had sounded a second whistle. This rule would last until 1985. Bodychecking an opponent on the ground was illegal and the rulebook included language for a timing device (beeper).

The 1982 NCAA Guide/Rulebook was the last "guide" after 38 straight years of covering college/jr.college/club/secondary school lacrosse season wrap-ups and all-star teams from the previous year. From now on the rulebook would be devoted solely to rules. A historian's lament is in order here. Those guides in past years proved invaluable to me in tracking players, officials, teams, coaches, and significant developments in the sport. The person doing this task 20 years from now will have a tougher time deciphering the 1980s and 1990s and beyond without these advantages. 1982 was the last varsity season for UCONN.

Goalies were required to wear chest and throat protectors beginning in the 1983 season. The 1984 rulebook included language for a CBO (Chief Bench Official) and the penalty for a field not meeting specifications: visiting team won by default. By 1989 violation of the rule went almost 180 degrees in the opposite direction: a technical foul only.

Little did the 1985 rule writers know when they created the mandatory mouthpiece rule the questions and procedures that would bedevil officials right up until today: Clear or colored okay?

Covers all upper teeth? Came out as a result of play or not? Warn them once?

I remember the new rule on stick lengths in 1986 quite clearly. The rule that year was short sticks were 40-46 inches while the five long sticks allowed on the field were 56-72 inches. It was my first game as an official: Middlebury College JVs at Vermont Academy. Both teams undefeated. I was hopelessly incompetent; by the time I recognized a foul two more had occurred. Fourth period. Tie game. Vermont on defense. Middlebury coach yelled that VA had too many long sticks on the field. My partner Mike Held and I counted five sticks that definitely looked like long poles. The sixth stick seemed, from a distance, not to be a long stick. VA Coach Al Brown yelled that it was a middie stick. Middlebury coach was convinced it's a long stick. We measured it: 48 inches. But we weren't sure of the rule that year so (I am not making this up) Held went to the table area and rummaged for his rulebook as the two coaches peered over his shoulder. I was trying to be inconspicuous on the far side of the field. Held flipped through page after page as players and coaches stood around. Bingo! Oopps..it's an illegal stick: 3 minutes locked in. Middlebury scored twice in that interim to win. Thinking back, the VA coach would have been better off just pulling the stick in question and taking the 30-sec. technical penalty.

In an attempt to speed up play, the NCAA Rules Committee changed a slew of rules in the 1989 and 1990 rulebooks. The play-on technique for loose-ball technicals appeared officially in 1989 and the slow-whistle (flag-down) technique was extended to the entire field. 1990 brought a reduction in the number of long poles to four. Ten second counts for both the defensive and offensive ends were started as well as the last two minutes mandatory "Keep it in." Regular subbing (horn) was disallowed on endlines and after non time-serving technicals. Faceoffs were

now to be conducted with the ball on the ground.

Several New England officials were and continue to be involved officiating the professional indoor lacrosse (MILL evolving into NLL) game that started in January of 1989 at the Worcester Centrum. Roy Condon, Bruce Crawford, Dave Berman, Jim Carboneau, Rob Wyman, and John Bellows have worked in the league which played in Worcester for three years and then moved to the old Boston Garden and then the new Fleet Center before the franchise left the area. Condon, Crawford, and Berman continue to work in the league, but at locales outside of New England.

#### THE 1990s GAME CHANGES AND RULE CHANGES

After the many rule changes of 1989/90 that quickened the game, the next few years brought very few significant changes in the way the game was played and conducted. Off the field, however, major developments unfolded that directly involved referees, particularly at the college level.

In January, 1990 the constitution for NILOA (National Intercollegiate Lacrosse Officials Association) was adopted.

Prior to NILOA officials were officials: there was no clear separation between those referees working at the secondary school level and those who also worked at the college level. In fact, in the 1960s and early 1970s a system of identifying officials was used whereby refs were identified as "B" (hs/prep sub-varsity), "BB" (varsity), "A" (college sub-varsity and fill-in hopefuls), "AA" (college varsity), and "AAA" (Ivy League varsity).

With NILOA came stringent criteria which had to be met in order to referee college games including a written test, observation, doctor's okay, recommendations, etc. The country was divided into 11 districts, each with a district director (today: John Hill for New England) and a district assigning authority (today: Roy Condon). As the decade closed NILOA became a part of US Lacrosse's (now the governing body of the sport) Men's Division Officials Council (MDOC). MDOC has committees pertaining to refereeing youth, high-school, club, and the international game. The college game was represented by NILOA. Just recently, NILOA evolved into the Men's Collegiate Officials Committee (MCOC). And you thought the rulebook was confusing!

In 1991 and 1992 the rule changes centered around personal equipment. Random stick checks were required twice per game. These would evolve into full-service equipment checks by 1997. Shoulder pads, NOCSAE helmets, and rules on undergarments and palms of gloves appeared. 1995 brought the introduction of the AP or alternate possession: no more facing off in other parts of the field. In 1996 the rulebook recommended that three officials be used for college games. Releasable penalties were full-serving unless a goal was scored by the man-up team (no more release by getting it in the offensive box). Timeouts in 1997 were reduced to three full ones and one 20-sec. timeout.

As the decade closed a separate national collegiate championship tournament under the



auspices of US Lacrosse emerged in May in St. Louis: the USLIA (United States Lacrosse Intercollegiate Associates) National Championships. This event was the season's culmination for hundreds of programs across the country not aligned directly with the NCAA in DI, DII, or DIII college play.

For years the only rulebook used at both the college and secondary level was the NCAA Rulebook. This changed, too, as the National Federation of State High School Associations produced its own rulebook for member states administering lacrosse: Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire now follow NFHS rules.

## VERMONT

Gerry Gingras, Harry Loyzelle, and Bob Abrahamson were not the first lacrosse referees in the state; it may just seem that way because all three are still working high school games nearly 40 years after their debuts. The "first" honors go to S.R. Ogden of Londonderry, Harvey Cook of Milton, and J.M. McDaniels of Norwich whose names appeared on the 1934 national list of officials.

By 1960 Middlebury College was the only school in the state playing the sport. Vermont Academy would start in 1968. Of the Big Three, Gerry was the first: on the NELOA scrolls by 1963 and living in Claremont, NH. Gingras: "It was hard to get found in those days. Finally Vin LoBello discovered me and I started doing college games." Gingras served as NELOA President 1981-1983.

On a spring night in 1967 the Castleton AD, Dick Terry, met Harry and Abe at the Nineteenth Green, a watering hole in Rutland. Terry brought three rule books and over a beer or two or...all three of them went over the rules for a game the next day. It was the first game CSC ever played and the first ever seen by Abe. Abe: "Larry 'Tom' Tomasi (out of EMASS), Harry, and I were the only self-appointed officials in Vermont. Later, LoBello heard about us and assigned us to college games."

In those days, penalty flags were red. On his way to the field for a game, Abe noticed he had no flags. He sauntered by the soccer flag poles that marked the corners of lacrosse fields in those days. R-r-r-riip. Problem solved.

At Norwich University, which began lacrosse in 1969, railroad tracks abut one of the sidelines. Harry and Abe were working a game there when a long train went by. Play continued up and down the field. Goals scored. Penalties served. Still the train kept going by. On and on. Finally, a caboose completed the long procession. Harry, on the far side, yelled across the field for all to hear, "Hey Abe, did you see the engines on that train?"

Abe, whose voice everyone always hears, yelled in front of the coaches and players, "Engines, hell! That train had 196 cars!"

By 1970 UVM had a varsity program and a few years later Harry and Abe were working UNH at

UVM. A hot rivalry. Abe called a slash on UNH and the UNH coach went nuts. Abe yelled over at him, "But coach, he really nailed OUR guy!" Abe is the only high-school assignor Vermont has ever had. He and Harry worked the first official state high-school championships in 1992.

Gingras, Loyzelle, and Abe worked many ECAC games over the years. In one, Harry and Abe were working in front of Middlebury's Jim Grube and Bowdoin's Mort Lapointe, both of whom were past or present members of the NCAA rules committee. Ball went out of bounds and Harry couldn't tell off whom. No APs in those days: face-off on the field. Loyzelle: "That year there was a rule that you couldn't sub for the faceoff men until there was possession in the box. I administered the faceoff and immediately Bowdoin subbed. I threw the flag and then killed the play and Lapointe asked what that was all about. I explained the rule and Lapointe replied, 'That only applies to center faceoffs.' He got Grube's attention and he agreed with Lapointe. Abe and I got together and we agreed to do the rest of the game using the rule the coaches had agreed to. Later, I called the NELOA commissioner and he said I was correct on my ruling: that it applied to all faceoffs. Shows you what coaches know even if they are on the rules committee!"

#### VERMONT REFEREES 1968

Bob Abrahamson  
Gerry Gingras  
Harry Loyzelle  
Larry Tomasi

The Castleton team in the early 1970s was a fun-loving group that included current referees Rob Wyman, Skip Spensieri (NY), Joe "Smokin Joe" Menoff, and current coach Tom Manovil. After the team had lost at Lowell Tech in 1971 their bus broke down in Manchester, NH. The team and coach retreated to the nearby Sheraton Wayfarer where a high-school prom reception was in full swing. The team, ever opportunistic, mingled right in with the assorted guests ("Gee, Mary's date looks a little old doesn't he?") and had free run at the buffet until a CSC replacement bus arrived. A quick stop was mandated by the abandoned vehicle to pick up their equipment and the cases of fluid replacement in the back. Thoroughly "over-served" by this time, the team resumed its journey north with many stops for beer recycling purposes including the obligatory one into Quechee Gorge. The bus overshot (purely by accident they claimed) Castleton and ended up across the NY border (think drinking age) at a restaurant in Whitehall. Wyman: "The thoroughly snokered coach stood on a table and the rest of the restaurant was treated to him blowing his whistle and ordering us to run laps around the place. We were never invited back." Nor did they ever pay their bill.

There is no CSC lacrosse team photo hanging from the restaurant's walls.

Wyman had Harry Loyzelle as his 9th-grade geometry teacher in Rutland. He learned about lacrosse at the US Naval Academy but was sent home (his words) after his junior year whereupon he launched his CSC career, assisting Skip Spensieri on his first college goal. After graduation he coached for a few years before taking up officiating. Later he moved to the Boston area for a Masters program and advanced through the referee ranks: worked the North-South game in 1985 and the NCAA Tournament in 1986. He moved to New Orleans as the 90s

began and was instrumental in launching NILOA in 1990 as its first President. Rob also helped US Lacrosse and its relationship with officials as it became the national governing body of the sport. After working the 1998 World Games in Baltimore, the ever peripatetic Wyman had refereed in 30 states and three countries.

In the 1970s Woodstock would begin formal high-school play (1977) under the direction of ex-Williams College defenseman Charlie Gibbs whose picture graced the cover of the 1966 NCAA Rulebook/Guide. Gibbs practices law today in Charlestown, SC. Lyndon State College joined the collegiate ranks. Ex-UMASS player Dick Mahoney started refereeing as did Paul Trono who only recently retired from officiating.

#### VERMONT REFEREES 1978

Bob Abrahamson  
Gerry Gingras  
Harry Lozell  
Paul Trono  
John Auld  
Cap Chenoweth  
Dick Mahoney

During the 1980s the Vermont contingent grew considerably. West Point grad Dick Renfro would later become a NELOA President 1987-1989. New England College alum David Hague launched his career in the 1970s refereeing games in WMASS, EMASS, NH, and CT before he moved to the Green Mountain state and became well known on the national circuit. In his formative years he even served as coach at Nathaniel Hawthorne College where games were played at night with two lights: attached to a telephone pole at midfield. David was instrumental in helping Vermont referees such as Paul Trono, Walt Lattrell, Rob Bliss, and myself negotiate the maze of college officiating. He worked several NCAA tournament games including a stint as the CBO on a semi-final before moving to Ohio in the mid 1990s where he continues to referee at the NCAA Tournament level. David currently serves on several national US Lacrosse Committees.

George Cook, a Department of Corrections Officer from Rutland, began working games in this decade and has accumulated more "war stories," perhaps, than any single referee in New England. Space limitations preclude mentioning more than a few stories for the well-known and respected Cook.

George's first Div.I college game was in front of Dick Garber: UMASS at BC in a televised night tilt. Early in the game the BC goalie retrieved the ball from the back of the net and handed it to the deer-in-the-headlights Cook and added, "Ref, you can blow your whistle now and signal goal. They scored." A few minutes later Cook ran by Garber who asked, "This your first DI college game, son?"

"D-d-d-d-oes it show, coach?"

"You're doing just fine," noted the ever-gracious Garber.

George used to dehydrate dangerously during games. On a trip back from the Queen City Tournament in Burlington one hot summer day with Hague and Mike O'Malley, George started to cramp badly in the car. Clad only in boxers, George asked them to stop and let him out, whereupon he went down in a heap with cramps just behind the car alongside busy Rt.7. Twitching in pain, he asked his partners to start stepping on his legs to ease the terrible cramps. They obliged. Really flopping by now, George demanded they do it harder so the lads really started to work on him as Cook moaned and flopped like a just-landed trout alongside the road. George is of Thai/African-American descent and to passerby it looked like Rodney King revisited in Vermont: two white guys pounding the hell out of a defenseless black guy on the ground. Calls started pouring in to the State Police and several cruisers arrived before explanations could be offered.

Several years ago George was the referee at a Williams College game. His partner was a recent transfer from another part of the country. Early in the game the partner threw his flag. As play continued spectators noted that the official's flag was following him around the field. Hop-hop-hop just like an Energizer Bunny behind the official as he ran the field waiting for the scoring opportunity to end. The Williams bench started to howl with laughter and Coach Renzie Lamb, not in a great mood with his team for their slow start and unaware of the bouncing flag, yelled at them to get their minds on the game until he, too, saw the bouncing flag. Finally the play ended. George ran over to the official and asked him what the hell was going on. His partner said he always had a string from his belt to his flag so he could reel it in easily after a penalty. George reminded him that he was not deep-sea fishing and told him to put the string away. Later in the same game, Williams player Sam Webster (son of Plymouth State Coach Dave Webster) came flying out of the box and inadvertently collided with George. Boom: down went Cook faster than Sonny Liston in Lewiston, Maine. Out cold. The trainers took a look and called the ambulance which came onto the field and loaded George onto a stretcher. His last words as they put him in the ambulance and closed the doors were, "Don't let Roy take away my game tomorrow!"

The opposing coach, Hartwick's Roy Whipple, turned to Lamb and said, "Too bad about that guy..."

"What's really too bad," interrupted Lamb, "is there went our only ref today!"

One July morning George was driving his sporty black Probe down to the Glastonbury Tournament in Connecticut. He stopped to get gas where Rt. 121 meets Interstate 91 in Rockingham. He went in to pay for the gas, returned, and found his car gone. Looking up, George saw his car on the I-91 overpass heading north. George ran in to call the state police. After a few miles on I-91 the thief reached under the seat and discovered George's weapon and his Dept. of Corrections police badge. Hmmm..maybe this wasn't such a good idea. As the police helicopter descended on the poor wretch, George's only worry was that the guy had thrown out his ref gear bag. George never did make it to G'Bury that day. Nor did he make it the next year: a tree fell on his house Friday evening just before the tournament began and George spent the weekend with a chain saw, not a whistle.

## VERMONT REFEREES 1992

Bob Abrahamson  
Don Annino  
Gene Barrows  
Rob Bliss  
George Cook  
Tom Collins  
John Earhart  
Eric Evans  
John Finnigan  
Kevin Gilligan  
Gerry Gingras  
Buff Grub  
Dave Hague  
Terry Harlow  
Steve Heath  
Walt Lattrell  
Joe Menoff  
Harry Loyzelle  
Paul Quintal  
Jamie Stewart  
Paul Trono  
Chas. Van Winkle

St. Michael's College went varsity in 1983 and Johnson State would field a club team in the 1980s before going varsity in the early 1990s. But the real growth in Vermont during the 1990s was at the high-school level. As mentioned, the first official Vermont State Championship was in 1992, and each year brings more and more schools into the sport. Today, there are over 20 schools participating at the varsity level, most of them in the Burlington area. In 1993 the Vermont Lacrosse Officials was incorporated with a constitution and by-laws and today there are 36 dues-paying members. They meet several times during the spring and the final meeting is social in nature: a beer mug is awarded to that official recounting the best "war story" from the previous season about a fellow official. The uncrowned champion of this annual ritual is Mike O'Malley of Rutland who either tells the funniest story each year or is the subject of the winner's tale.

But we must not leave Vermont without at least one Joe Menoff story. A top soccer referee, Joe lives in Castleton and is a CSC graduate who played in the early 70s with the current coach Tom Manovil. Roy Condon usually avoids sending grads to work their alma mater's games, but he must have been stuck because here was Joe at Castleton with Rob Pfiesser from Maine. Two-man game. What must be mentioned is that the field is just beyond the huge back wall of the gym. It was a spirited game that went into OT. Here was local native and CSC grad Menoff on the crease as the game's final play unfolded. Attackman drove toward the CSC goal and goes

into the air...jumped?...deliberately left his feet?...ball flew into net as the attackman ...Stepped?...jumped?...into the crease. Joe paused, looked quickly around, blew his whistle and gave the fastest "goal" signal in officiating history before sprinting off the field faster than Carl Lewis and disappearing behind the wall of the gym. Pfeiffer, benchside, was besieged on all sides. Totally surrounded. One team was in wild celebration while the other was screaming, "He jumped in the crease. He can't do that!!!"

Pfeiffer finally extricated himself and headed for the gym still followed by a hornet's nest. As the crowd receded behind him, he approached the corner of the building whereupon Joe's head slowly looked around. "Rob, did you get my coat?"

#### WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS (WMASS)

While the number of schools playing the sport and the number of referees in WMASS does not match those of other New England areas, it may be argued that this section of New England produced the most influential men who would have the greatest impact on refereeing in the entire region for the rest of the century. Three men in particular, Dick Garber, Vin LoBello, and Don Johnson, emerged as the 1950s ended and their leadership in ensuing years would prove invaluable in promoting officiating.

Not many schools in WMASS pursued the sport as the 1960s began. Since Springfield College dropped the sport from 1952-1970, only three colleges were active: Williams, Amherst, and UMASS. Prep schools Deerfield, Mt. Hermon (later called NMH), Williston, and Lenox were all the assignor had to worry about west of the Pioneer Valley. The New England assignor in the early 1960s was Harold "Bill" Wyman, a teacher/coach at Mt. Hermon School who assumed his duties from Allyn Stillman. Wyman, a graduate of Middlebury College, worked at Mt. Hermon from the fall of 1940 through the spring of 1969. In 1946 he started coaching the school's lacrosse team. The 5'7" Wyman, with his steel-rimmed glasses, also coached soccer. Ralph "Tim" Craig (see NH section) would play both sports under Mr. Wyman. Wyman would assign for only a few years until Vin LoBello took over in 1963. Wyman passed away ten years ago.

It is perhaps highly ironic in a narrative about New England officials to state that the person with the greatest influence on referees was not a referee or an assignor or a rules committee member, but a coach: Dick Garber of UMASS. His legacy is astounding when you consider the number of prominent referees who trace their beginnings in the sport to Garber: Johnson, Noble, Pozzo, Sutcliffe, Kidd, Ellingwood, Sgan, White, Simonds, Chambers, Mahoney, Joe Doyle, Crawford, Maguire, and Condon to name a few.

No, Garber did not start lacrosse at UMASS in 1954. Anatomy teacher Ben Ricci, a graduate of Springfield College who played under coach Vern Cox, led the first team while Al Goodyear coached the 1955 squad. Ricci resides today in Amherst. Dick Garber's first varsity victory would come in 1956 on a team with a middle line of Don Johnson/Lynn Sutcliffe/Russ Kidd. Garber would go on to amass 300 career victories (his last was refereed by Parker Simonds, Paul Keating, and John Bellows) and three coach-of-the-year honors while leading his "Garber's Gorillas" to numerous NCAA tournament appearances before retiring in 1990. Sadly, he would die a few years later of bone marrow cancer at the age of 66.

Garber was described as a gentleman's gentleman: one of the nicest people one could ever hope to meet and certainly it was a privilege to work one of his games. We could use a few more Dick Garbers today.

One of Garber's best friends in the lacrosse world was Vin LoBello of Northampton who served as Chief Referee for New England from 1963-1983. Bruce Crawford calls LoBello "the most influential referee in New England." As Chief Referee in the mid 1960s LoBello assigned referees to every lacrosse game in the region. During his tenure, NELOA became the largest group of lacrosse officials in the country. It wasn't until the early to mid 1970s that he started delegating the prep/high-school to area assignors in the various states. One of the pillars of NELOA, LoBello conducted clinics, printed "Tip Sheets" for refs, came up with NELOA scorecards and arm patches, devised the first ratings cards and, most importantly perhaps, fought to have the "big" New England college games worked by New England officials rather than imports from New York and Baltimore (see Whitey Burnham's comments in the 1960s section). In the early 1970s New Englanders LoBello and Don Johnson retreated to Frenchy Julien's camp in Maine one winter weekend, and together with Jim Bedell, Fred Eisenbrandt, Matt Swerloff, and NFL referee Bernie Ullman, created the first Procedural Manual For Lacrosse Officials.

LoBello was born in 1931 in Northampton and earned varsity letters in three sports, including lacrosse, at Nichols (in 1978 he was inducted into the Nichols College Hall of Fame). His officiating career began in 1952 and LoBello was chosen to work numerous post-season games as well as the annual North-South game. Regina LoBello recalls her husband's first lacrosse officiating experience: Vin came home and just sat down on the back steps in a daze. He had blown an inadvertent whistle which had cost a team a goal and the botched play had really upset him.

Vin never forgot that experience, especially years later when he had to call an official at home after a distraught coach had complained about the officiating.

From 1980 until NELOA ended in 1995, the LoBello Sportsmanship Award was given to a deserving college or university each year in New England. Today, nationally, that award is known as the Ace Adams Award. In October, 1992, LoBello died at the age of 61. He was inducted into the New England Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1997 and his presenter that evening was Don Johnson. Vin LoBello, Jr. received the award for his father that night and a veteran official said to him: "There are only two people in this world that I have ever known that I never, ever heard anyone say an unkind word about. Those two people were your father, Vinny LoBello, and your coach, Dick Garber."

LoBello wore many hats off the lacrosse field: city councilor, businessman, restaurateur, realtor, and coach.

Don Johnson: "In the 1970s when lacrosse became a much quicker game, communication between referees and between refs and the sidelines became more important. Hand signals were a must. Nobody could understand Vinny's signals except Joe Oliva because he gave them in Italian. Vinny knew everybody, from the ADs to the groundskeepers to the secretaries to the

coaches. He was an excellent listener, compassionate, and supportive of his officials." At an Amherst game an older lady yelled at LoBello every time he made a call. "Hey ref, if you were my husband I'd give you poison!" Back and forth LoBello ran all afternoon and the lady continued to blast him. Finally in the fourth quarter LoBello made a call and again the lady screamed, "If you were my husband, I'd give you poison." LoBello stopped, blew the whistle, called timeout, and ran over to the lady and whispered to her: "Lady, if I were your husband, I'd take the poison." Not another peep was heard from her.

Assigning in the 1960s was done around LoBello's kitchen table and Johnson assisted LoBello in this process as Assistant Chief Referee for New England. LoBello's wife, Regina, was actively involved as were LoBello's children. One of them, Vin Jr., became a lacrosse official and today runs the restaurant his father started in Ogunquit, Maine. His daughter was one of the first female trainers at Amherst College.

An interesting anecdote about LoBello was that he often traveled on the UMASS bus to their away games, games which he refereed. Sat right up front with Coach Garber and then ate dinner with the team on the return trip. It was a different era then, an era where lacrosse was more of a family. In fact, in the spring of 1975 Vin LoBello and his younger brother, Joe, both Nichols graduates, officiated the Nichols-Babson game at Nichols. Today, refereeing ethics and policies discourage or prohibit that sort of fraternization and familiarity between coaches and officials and teams. Rare indeed is the game where a ref will be an alum of one of the participating teams. Are we better off today with these practices? Undoubtedly, but there are certainly moments today when that sense of "lacrosse family" from the 1950s and 1960s would be a real breath of fresh air.

It might have been hard from a purely numbers standpoint in the 1960s to find officials for all of the UMASS games who weren't connected to the school in one way or another.

Joe Doyle played for Dick Garber in 1963-64 and began officiating his junior year in college. Doyle: "I took the referee test in a PE class taught by Garber and passing it meant you could do any game. The only way to work into the college games was to work with Vin a few times and with Don Johnson a few times." Later he would coach football at Williams and in the spring he would often referee Williams College lax games. One game Williams' entire defensive unit consisted of Doyle's linebacker crew from the fall. The game began and they kept calling and appealing to Doyle: "Coach! Coach! Coach!" Doyle finally had to stop the game and remind them that today they had to call him "Sir" or "Mr. Referee."

One of the giants of New England lacrosse officiating was Don Johnson, a former Massachusetts Elementary School Teacher of the Year who still lives in Amherst where he worked in the school system for over 35 years. One of his pupils would be Ted Garber, Dick's son, who would go on to coach at UNH, UMASS, and Avon Old Farms School. After his playing days under Garber at UMASS, Johnson's first game was with Ted Smith (deceased) in 1961 at Deerfield. By the mid 1960s Johnson was assisting LoBello with New England assignments and by the early 1970s he was the WMASS assignor for the rapidly expanding secondary-school scene, a position he would hold until Paul Keating assumed those duties in the late 1980s. Johnson retired from refereeing in 1991. The Don Johnson Sportmanship Award for WMASS is given to a team each



year in Don's honor.

From 1970-1973 Johnson served as NELOA President. He worked the 1974 North-South game held in Atlanta that year, his first experience with the 3-man game. Later he would work NCAA tournament games in Maryland and the 1976 NCAA semi-final held at Brown. In 1980 he refereed Cornell at Harvard, alone (his partner had gone to the wrong field). Johnson: "I put a non-playing member of each team at each end line with a towel to wave when it went out of bounds and I ran goal line to goal line all game long. I was exhausted, but it went okay."

Another game, at Westfield State under the lights, was memorable. Johnson: "A huge fog bank rolled in and you couldn't see the other end of the field. The players were chippy all night long and finally I stopped play and announced a 5-min Officials Timeout. The coach said there was no such thing as a 5-min Officials TO, and I told them there was tonight or he and his team could get on the bus and that would be the end of the game. We called the captains together and told them we were going to call everything, even the slightest of fouls. We made it through the game and then I discovered I had locked my keys in my car."

Ray Marr refereed for 27 years and was an active member of NELOA who dedicated the 1989 roster book to him for his service over the years.

Charlie Niedzwiecki, "Charlie Alphabet" as he was affectionately called by his friends, began officiating lacrosse in the 1950s and continued for almost 30 years until his untimely death in 1987. An active soccer and basketball official as well, Charlie had some of the fastest hand signals and quickest explanations of calls in the game. One game, he had his teeth knocked out by the ball. The NELOA Insurance policy, however, only covered "natural" teeth. Charlie was out of luck until the NELOA Board intervened and got him some money for new bridge work. Joe Oliva: "Don Johnson and Charlie Alphabet were like Abbott and Costello. Don was cool and calm while Charlie got very animated."

#### WMASS REFEREES 1968

Harold Blackmore  
Dick Carney  
Ben Cole  
Joe Doyle  
Charles Drewes  
Bob Foote  
Peter French  
Don Johnson  
Charles Jankey  
Pete Johnson  
Wilbur Landry  
Baldwin Lee  
Joe Lobello  
Vin LoBello  
Grant Longley  
Ray Marr

Ed McMahon  
Gerald O'Connor  
Harold Parker  
Doug Rowe  
Chas. Niedzwiski  
Dwight Scandrett  
Ted Smith  
Bob Sullivan  
Carlton Staples

In 1970 Longmeadow HS began its yet unmatched tally of state high-school championships (Craig Brown was one of the tri-captains) and the secondary school lacrosse scene grew exponentially: Amherst, Berkshire, Cushing, Cranwell, Lenox, NMH, Deerfield, Wilbraham, Williston, Winchendon, and Monument Mtn. were soon joined by Westfield, Cathedral, and E. Longmeadow a few years later.

North Adams State hockey coach Jim Ellingwood had been an All-American lacrosse player at UMASS in the early 1960s before he began his officiating career in WMASS. Ellingwood was a trainer and JV lacrosse coach at Williams College before going to North Adams. The 1986 NELOA roster book is dedicated to Ellingwood who died in 1985.

Paul Keating grew up in Fitchburg and attended Fitchburg State for a while before joining the Marines for a stint in Vietnam. Later, he finished his studies at UMASS and did his student teaching at Amherst Elementary School under Don Johnson who recruited him for lacrosse officiating. Hard to believe, but in those early officiating days Keating had long hair and one of Johnson's sons nicknamed him "Starsky" after the popular tv show "Starsky and Hutch." Imagine this: a long-haired Keating arriving for a game with a long-haired Dave Hague who arrives in a VW Microbus and dog who then welcome a long-haired Craig Brown, their third for the game. Those were the Flower Power Hour days.

In the later 1980s Don Johnson relinquished his WMASS assigning tasks to Keating who would also serve as NELOA President from 1989-1991. Paul assigned for 11 years before giving up those duties recently to Craig Brown. In the fall Paul coaches the St. Peter-Marian's girls soccer team which goes deep into the state playoffs each season. An avid sportsman, Keating has climbed in the Andes as well as completed two Mt. Washington Toll Road running races. At the first WMASS meeting each spring, Paul would arrive in a complete frazzle, having just completed the assignments. He would not be in the greatest of moods. In his speech to the refs before handing out the assignments he would stress the commitment it would take and the duties the job entailed. The underlying message was woe to anyone turning back one of these assignments.

That would be just the signal for me and Dave Rist in the back of the room to raise our hands to ask if we could switch our jayvee game assignments for April 27 to April 11...just to see Paul have a meltdown before our eyes.

Rist and Keating are enough fun alone, but together they spell trouble. Each one spurs on the

other. Did you know there's a street fair in Springfield on our way home? How about that chili cook off in Wilbraham? Why, don't you know it..we're right in front of Mike's bar in Northampton. It'd be impolite not to just stop in... and before they know it it's 12 midnight after a game. Then they go home and tell their wives that it was the other guy's fault. "Rist made me do it, honey!" "It was all Paul's fault, dear!" A picture of this duo adorns the wall of the Purple Pub in Williamstown, MA.

Chip Keeney, who would serve as NELOA Sec./Tres. from 1987-1995, began officiating in the mid 1970s as well. Keeney: "Paul Keating did his first game with me. I was a seasoned pro because it was my second game. We got through even though Paul had a 'Fro' in those days. In my first game I was 'written up' because I was late. I showed up at the Berkshire School field early and the other ref informed me that he forgot his shirt. I had a second shirt which was back in the car about 10 miles away. By the time I got back with his shirt, I was late for the game. Guess who got blamed?

"Then there was the game at Assumption where Assumption was way ahead. An Assumption kid yelled a signal and all the Assumption kids flopped down a la Saturday Night Live doing the worm. The other team was clueless. The kid with the ball, puzzled, walked toward the defenseless goal and fired a shot. He missed.

"My first big game was Yale at UMASS, both teams ranked in the top ten. One of the first times a 3-man game was done in WMASS. Beautiful day, thousands in the stands and on the hill. I was head ref. I went to start the game, put the ball down for the faceoff, stepped back and blew my whistle. Nothing. The pea had stuck. Had to start the game again.

"Craig Brown and I did a game at Williams. Took separate cars. Game time and no Craig. I started the game and finally Craig showed up. He had run out of gas in Savoy, run to a farmer's field in his uniform and bought a gallon of diesel fuel to continue his journey. Would have loved to see that guy's face when a guy in shorts and striped shirt was breathless at his door." Bill Tognieri played high-school lacrosse on Long Island before his four-year career at Springfield College 1973-1977.

In 1978 he refereed his first game, alone, at Deerfield. Tognieri: "After the game a guy gives me an envelope. I got to my car and opened it. CASH. What a great thing." Bill serves as the rules interpreter for WMASS and runs the clinics for newer officials every two weeks prior to the WMASS meetings. In recent years he has garnered several NCAA tournament assignments. Springfield lawyer and Longmeadow resident Craig Brown has served the New England lacrosse community in a variety of ways.

Brown: "I was introduced to lacrosse in the winter of 1969 of my junior year at Longmeadow HS by science teacher Bill McCullough who started the program. Dick Garber showed a film of the North/South game to an assembly of boys in the auditorium." (ed: probably the 1967 game hosted by UMASS and starring Rob Pfiesser of Maine). Brown captained Longmeadow's club team in 1969 and was one of the captains of the team that defeated Winchester in 1970 in the first state championships.

Brown played at Dartmouth for two years before knee surgery ended his playing career. Knee troubles would later cut short a fine officiating career as well. Brown: "In 1977 I returned to WMASS after law school and Chip Keeney suggested I try officiating to stay close to the sport. I took the rules test in March, 1978 along with Rich Rusiecki. Andy Meffen administered the test and advised me that I had barely passed. I began working college games in 1980, before I was really ready. In 1982 I worked my first 3-man game with Army at UMASS on a beautiful sunny April 29th, my birthday. I was the referee, which meant at the time I stayed on the single side the entire game in front of 10,000 spectators. Joe Oliva and Ron Pozzo were my partners. Both teams were nationally ranked, and I was scared out of my wits."

Brown would ultimately work five state championship games as well as the ECAC Championships four times. In the mid-80s Brown served as chairman of the WMLOA and helped incorporate NELOA as a Massachusetts nonprofit corporation to avoid potential liability concerns. Today, Craig assigns all WMASS games, a job he inherited from Paul Keating in the late 1990s. He is also the chief architect of the new WMASS chapter of US Lacrosse. His son plays defense for the current Longmeadow Lancers team, so referees are aware that at least one parent watching the game knows the rules!

#### WMASS REFEREES 1978

Bill Ames  
Joe Doyle  
Jim Ellingwood  
Bill Glennon  
Dave Hague  
Don Johnson  
Paul Keating  
Chip Keeney  
Vin LoBello  
Ray Marr  
Andy Meffen  
John Morris  
Chas. Niedzwiski  
Kevin O'Connor  
Ambrose Orlando  
Ray Suzor  
Joe Pescitelli  
Bill Tognieri  
Mike Vargas  
Bob Winston  
Will Landry  
Ted Smith  
Craig Brown

A close examination of the 1978 Official Lacrosse Guide reveals a team picture of the 1977 Massachusetts state champ Longmeadow team which went 19-0. And a close examination of

the picture will reveal attackman Joel Castleman in the lower left corner with a full head of unruly hair (sitting, as we all knew he would be, right next to the coach). Joel's father took the picture. Joel went off to Colby College where he set single-game scoring marks for the lacrosse team before returning to WMASS for coaching stints at both the high-school and college levels. Turning his attention to officiating, Joel would rise rapidly through the ranks and earned several NCAA tournament games in the late 1990s.

WMASS meetings the past few years have been highlighted by frequent Tognieri-Castleman "discussions" concerning a rule or procedure. If you can keep alert during the entire dialogue, you're bound to learn something. Heaven help their third partner when Joel and Bill are on the same game: the pre-game may be the most exciting moment of the afternoon.

Following Joel by a year in attracting recognition as a high-school player was Joe Nassar, an All-Western New England selection out of Westfield HS in 1978. Joe currently referees football as well as tending to his duties as WMLOA Sec./Tres. David Godin joined the WMASS group in 1980 after playing lacrosse for a year at Springfield College. David currently works at Suffield Academy, just across the border in Connecticut, and annually hosts the joint CT/WMASS rules interpretation meeting each spring. David has also worked in the NCAA tournament.

#### WMASS REFEREES 1992

Mike Abbatessa  
Craig Brown  
Joel Castleman  
Bill Cumming  
Joe Doyle  
Jay Farrell  
Mike Ferrarini  
Dave Fournier  
Dave Godin  
Mike Grabowski  
Lance Haberin  
Leo Janus  
Paul Keating  
Shawn Keating  
Chip Keeney  
Dennis Lawlor  
Andy Meffen  
Richard Paige  
Chas. Peterson  
Dave Rist  
Rich Rusiecki  
George Shaheen  
Bill Tognieri

Belchertown's Mike Whalen started refereeing in 1986 in NH, but moved to WMASS in the early

1990s. Whalen: "My first game was at Derryfield 3rds. I had never seen a lacrosse game and had no clue what the offense or the defense did. Every time my more experienced partner made a call I moved in quickly and nodded as if I knew what I was doing. Really, I was just watching what he was doing so I could copy it. My next game I was alone and had no idea what to do on the faceoff. The guys went down to face and I stuck their sticks together and balanced the ball on the sides of the plastic (gingerly I might add). After a few faceoffs the down man said he had never seen my method before. To which I replied, 'That's how I do it!' After the game the coach tried to show me how to do it. Assuring him that he was incorrect, I committed his demonstration to memory, thus prolonging my officiating career."

Today, in 2000, 40 referees comprise the WMLOA Association with Michael Grabowski, President.

### EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS (EMASS)

EMASS holds a central position in any discussion of New England lacrosse officiating. More schools in this area started earlier than those in other sections and today the number of public high schools, prep schools, colleges, and clubs playing the game far exceeds the number for any other New England region. Thus, in a Darwinian way, more games needing officials will generate more officials and a larger pool of officials produces more great officials.

In 1960 no public high schools were playing the sport in EMASS. That changed in 1964 when Winchester started a club team and seven years later they would go undefeated and win the state title over Longmeadow, 10-2.

A key referee in EMASS in the early 1960s, David Harrison, still practices law as a Judge in Gloucester, MA. He played at Tufts from 1952-1955 and earned All-New England honors. Harrison: "There were no divisions in colleges in those years. Jim Brown's Syracuse team came in to play us one year." (Frank Samuel would referee this game: see NELOA section) Harrison began officiating in New England in 1958, then refereed for two years in Philadelphia. Upon his return to New England he was tapped in 1963 by new Chief Referee Vin LoBello to assign all the secondary-school games throughout New England: varsity to thirds, Deerfield to Loomis to KUA. Harrison: "Every Tuesday and Friday night I was on the phone all night making sure games were covered. In 1970 I got married and I told Vin that my new bride would kill me if I continued assigning so I gave it up that year along with lacrosse officiating." Harrison recruited heavily from the football officials' pool in those days to get more lacrosse officials. His uniform when he started was a red hat, red flags (later red-and-white flags), knickers, long-sleeve wool striped shirt, and black-and white socks. Soon after Harrison relinquished his assigning chores, LoBello divided up the secondary-school assigning duties by region.

Winchester's Jack Noble played football at UMASS in the mid 50s and coach Dick Garber encouraged him (and other football players) to play lacrosse in the spring. Joining Noble on the lacrosse field were future referees Don "Red" Johnson, Bob "Bo" White, Russell "Captain" Kidd, Ron Pozzo, Matt Sgan, and future Middlebury Lacrosse and UCONN soccer coach Joe Morrone. Noble won the first "Snake Beater" award given to the UMASS player who accumulated the most penalties during the season. The award was later dropped because team members would

actually try to win it! (see Captain Kidd below) After an All-NE career at UMASS Noble would coach at Tufts and Harvard. Noble: "I began officiating in 1958 and often coaches would ref on their off-days. Tim Ring did so at Tufts for years." Ring coached at Tufts from 1938-1964 and was Chairman of the NCAA Rules Committee in 1954, the year he coached the North squad to a 13-11 victory over the South in the All-Star Game.

Noble worked the 1980 NCAA Quarter Final, Harvard at JHU.

There was a shot on goal and then a cannon went off. Everybody stopped and looked at the refs who shrugged and yelled, "Play on." Whereupon the goalie looked down, found the ball between his feet and proceeded to pick it up. The next year, 1981, the NCAA disallowed cannons or explosive devices. Noble: "I remember when they switched from red penalty flags to yellow ones. We had no source for gear in those days so we stole the yellow cloth napkins from local restaurants." Retired, Jack lives in Winchester.

Hockey player Ron Pozzo was lured to lacrosse by Garber and Ben Ricci and played for the team from 1956 to 1958. As a UMASS student, he refereed his first game at Mt. Hermon in 1958. He wouldn't officiate again until 1966 when Russ Kidd, his ex-UMASS teammate and then hockey and football coach at Canton HS, got him interested. From 1969 to 1975 Pozzo also coached lacrosse at Needham HS; they won the state title in 1973. Pozzo: "In the early days all the big games in New England were handled by New York or Maryland officials. Through the efforts of NELOA, Vin LoBello, myself, and other officials, we now handle all the games in New England. Dick Garber and Cliff Stevenson of Brown University were early backers of NELOA for recognition."

In the late 1960s or early 1970s Vin LoBello could no longer handle all the assignments for the fast-growing New England region. He then created area assignors. Pozzo became the prep-school assignor for EMASS and Rhode Island and held that position until the mid 1980s. This past year marked Pozzo's 34th as an official and he calculates that he has done between 1200 and 1500 games in his career including four Massachusetts state finals and a NCAA playoff game in Baltimore in 1978. A past president of NELOA (1975-1977), Pozzo was the recipient in 1992 of the Andrew Kirkpatrick Memorial Award by the US Lacrosse Coaches Association for service to the game of lacrosse and since that year the Ron Pozzo Sportsmanship Award has been given to the EMASS secondary school coach who meets certain criteria. Recently, Pozzo was elected to the NE Lacrosse Hall of Fame. In 1989 Pozzo retired after 20 years as Guidance Counselor at Needham HS.

Perhaps Pozzo's most poignant lacrosse moment came in 1980 in Durham, NH when he refereed UMASS at UNH, pitting his former coach, Dick Garber, against his son, Ted Garber, a ball boy for UMASS during Pozzo's playing days. Bill Coleman (also working the game): "When the UNH team came onto the field from the locker room, they had special T-shirts on over their game jerseys and on them in big letters were: BEAT DAD."

Still another of Garber's protoges, Russell "Captain" Kidd, began refereeing in 1957 and continued through 1972. He now resides in Amherst after retiring from working at UMASS. Another winner of the Snakebeater Award, Kidd was Senior Athlete of the Year at UMASS in

1956 and recently inducted into the UMASS Athletic Hall of Fame. Kidd: "1956 was the first year you could leave your feet to bodycheck someone. As a football/hockey player I had a ball doubling those attackmen dodging in from the side. What fun! A big change in the 50s was that players not involved with the center faceoff had to stay behind the restraining line (see Tom Crump in Maine section). It used to be a six-player collision on the faceoffs. What fun!" Kidd started officiating out of Portland, ME for one year then moved to Brockton and, later, Canton. He was LoBello's testing chairman for new officials in the later 60s and the EMASS contact man for rule changes. Kidd: "When I started I wore an old pair of Boston Red Sox uniform pants that I swiped while trying out for Hearst baseball. My flag was an old red/white football sock. I first saw a plastic stick (screw-on) at Andover Academy in 1967. A kid from Melrose had the stick and won every faceoff. As an official I saw nothing wrong with it."

Following his officiating days, Kidd helped Garber coach at UMASS, assisted with the hockey team, and was UMASS' head soccer coach from 1976-1981.

#### EMASS REFEREES 1968

Don Allard  
Dave Babson  
Bob Baldwin  
Dave Barton  
Don Begin  
Pete Brady  
Grant Carrow  
John Cooke  
Jack Couture  
Mike Denihan  
Jack Diamond  
Bob Dickson  
Tony Donovan  
Bob Edmonston  
Don Emerson  
Ed Freeley  
Marty Glennon  
Walt Glinski  
Dave Harrison  
Bob Hewitt  
John Hartnett  
John Karchenos  
Russell Kidd  
Bill Lannon  
Bill Lanigan  
Bob Livingston  
Jim Long  
Dave Marsh  
Horace Martin



John McDonnell  
Ray Mullaly  
Dan Murphy  
Dick O'Brien  
Fran Pelosi  
Ron Pozzo  
Bill Quinn  
Doug Rowe  
Hal Ryder  
Frank Samuel  
Matt Sgan  
Dick Sykes  
Bob Sylvia  
Jim Tedesco  
Bob White

By 1971 the following prep and public schools played lacrosse in EMASS: Beverly, Brookline, Concord-Carlisle, Framingham North, Governor Dummer, Lawrence Academy, Lincoln-Sudbury, Milton, Needham, Newton South, Noble-Greenough, Andover, Rivers, Roxbury Latin, St. Marks, Tabor, Thompson Academy, Winchester, and Ipswich would begin in 1972. Boston College debuted in 1972 while Boston State (later UMASS Boston) started in the late 60s.

1968 UMASS freshman Roy Condon started lacrosse in the PE Skills Class. In 1969 he played crease defense with a wooden stick on the undefeated UMASS squad. Injured in 1970, he reffed a couple of high school games for Chief Referee Vin LoBello living nearby in Northampton. Due to his refereeing basketball and lacrosse, he lost his last year of playing eligibility. Condon: "In 1971 during my senior year, my car broke down the day of a scheduled game. I cut my last period class and thumbed from Amherst to Winchendon. I made it. My mother drove from Watertown (70 miles) and after the game we went to Fitchburg for supper at my sister's. Then my mother drove me back to UMASS (30 miles), and then she drove back to Watertown (another 90 miles). Bottom line: I was the second man on a jv game and earned \$17.00. I sometimes recount this story when a ref tells me he has car trouble." One would hope that Roy sent the \$17 on to his mother.

In 1983 Roy refereed his first NCAA playoff game and worked his first NCAA Final in 1985. At one playoff game, Yale at Navy (Yale coach Waldvogel was on the Rules Committee), Crew Chief Condon inspected the field prior to the game and discovered illegal goals. He and the grounds crew drove a pickup truck all over Annapolis with a tape measure trying to find legal goals. Condon: "They had been using girls' goals that were white and 2" pipes. Two points that frosted me. This was a Saturday and they had played a first round game there on Wednesday. After we found two legal ones the head of the grounds crew told me, 'The coach said you'd probably have a problem with the goals that were there.'"

Since the early 1900s red-and-gold memorial flags had flown from the goals at Johns Hopkins University to commemorate those JHU players who had died in world wars. Condon was the referee (a Yankee) who removed them. In 1988 Condon was on the crease for the first Air Gait:

Syracuse at Penn. "One of the greatest calls in lacrosse to allow both Air Gait goals," noted Renzie Lamb. Bruce Crawford and Warren Kimber were also working that game. Recent District 2 emigre Matt Palumb, now living in Hadley, MA, tended Syracuse's goal that same game. In 1990 Condon was the Team USA Referee for the World Games in Australia. In 1996 when the Silver Anniversary Team for the NCAA tournament was selected, Roy Condon was chosen as Referee. Condon: "I was very fortunate. In many ways I rode LoBello's and Johnson's coattails: they did all the hard early work for New England refs."

Current Winchester High coach John Pirani, a player on Winchester's state winning team in 1971, began his head coaching career at Winchester in 1989. Pirani: "Roy Condon officiated our game with Lexington. In those days I chewed a bag of Redman tobacco...I mean I finished an entire bag by game's end I was so uptight. Well, I was intimidated by the presence of the Great Condon and I knew that I was being judged as much as the game was. I was on my best behavior, but pretty animated, pacing and jogging up and down the box. Roy was working the near side and the ball was cleared. I focused my attention to the end line and Roy was at my back running toward the box. Perfect Condon mechanics. Perfect Condon uniform, hawklike focus and imperially slim. I spun and simultaneously spit a huge brown wad...right on Roy's impeccable white shorts. He was furious and I was thunderstruck. I spent the rest of the half trying to find towels and a bucket of water; the game by then was secondary."

In the spring of 1974 Roy assisted Ron Pozzo with the prep school assignments and later with the high-school game assignments. In the winter of 1983 the NELOA executive committee appointed Condon Chief Referee for the district. Condon: "There were maybe 45 secondary programs and 45 college/clubs I assigned." He continues with this assigning today outside of his Athletic Director duties at North Reading HS. As with most assignors, Condon receives a game fee from each school for services and he covers all expenses. College assigning fees come from the USILA. The job has increased in size and complexity over the years. Next year, 2001, EMASS secondary-school assigning will be split with three assignors overseeing different regions.

As Chief Referee or, later, NILOA College Assignor, Condon's presence at games often raises the fear of God in the hearts of referees who look up in the second period and see the familiar figure with a clipboard scribbling furiously. Some refs to this day spend more time "seeing if Roy is there" than observing the action on the field. At one game, George Cook was asked by a religiously inclined fellow college official about his relationship with the God of Biblical fame. George, knowing his priorities, replied, "I don't know, I haven't heard from Roy in weeks." Jim Carboneau, Parker Simonds, and Bill Ball were working a big game a few years back with Roy observing. Carboneau: "The game had a few negative moments and Roy gave us a one-hour post-game critique. Up one side and down the other for an hour. Finally, I asked, 'Gee, Roy, did we do anything right?'"

"Roy replied, 'You all did a good game. These were just little things.'

"Imagine: 60 minutes of little things!"

One year in time behind Condon's crease exploits at UMASS but just a few feet in space was

Bruce Crawford, a goalie from Long Island who earned 1971 USILA Small College All-American Honorable Mention honors. Crawford's first refereeing stint was in 1973 at Deerfield with Vin LoBello. To date he has had 26 NCAA playoff assignments including one DI Final, two DII Finals, and three DIII Finals. Along the way he has served on NELOA and EMLOA Boards. Bruce was inducted into the NE Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1998. He works today as a real estate appraiser. Crawford was working the bench side at a Parents Day game involving Exeter at Andover. A wide-bodied elderly gent sat in a chair near the Andover bench and was all over Crawford from the first whistle. On and on he complained. Finally, Bruce went over to the Andover head coach and asked if the gentleman was an Andover coach. The answer was no. Whereupon Crawford said the game would not restart until the man had been reseated in the spectator area. After the game began anew, Crawford went by the Andover coach.

"Thanks for the help, Bruce."

"Sure, coach. No problem. By the way who is that guy?"

"He's my Dad."

In the mid 1980s emerged a short-lived ALL Pro Outdoor League. Crawford and his crew were flown to Denver where he worked two games but was paid (his check cleared) for three. Condon, also working that weekend, worked three games, got paid for two and the check came late and bounced. He also had to pay 1/2 of his ticket home because they changed a day game to night and never told anyone and the ticket for a late shuttle was double.

The assistant to Winchester coach Gene Bouley on that first championship team in 1971, Dave Berman, began officiating in 1977 at a prep school game with Ron Pozzo. Berman, now the AD at Winchester, served as President of NELOA in the early 1990s and has been selected to work the NCAA tournament each year since 1987. Together with Bruce Crawford he has helped Roy Condon with the ever-growing EMASS high school assignments each spring.

Braintree's John Hill played lacrosse in 1970 at Appleton Academy in New Ipswich, NH before going on to play for BC.

One of the highlights of his BC Eagles days, where he captained the 1974 squad, was rooming with future football television reporter Leslie Visser who parlayed her Boston Globe newspaper job into a position at CBS Sports. Hill's first flags were thrown at Tabor Academy in 1975 with Ron Pozzo. Over the years he has worked 17 NCAA Tournament games including a DII game in 1995 with Crawford, Ted Murphy, and Skip Spensieri, and a DIII title game. In 1992 Hill was selected for the Under-19 World Games and two years later refereed at the World Games in Manchester, England. Since 1990 John has been the District 1 NILOA (now MCOC) rep, the US Lacrosse Chief Clinician and International Clinician. Hill: "Before 1990 the lacrosse world was very small. No interchanges. No roster books. Nobody knew who did what game. There was never any official training for officials." Hill's clinician duties have served to address that last concern with yearly LAREDO Clinics at Vail and Texas A@M as well as his creation of ZLAX Referee Camp at UMASS each summer where aspiring refs receive instruction. Few referees have done more to raise the level of officiating than John Hill. Hill continues to play defense on

two Grand Masters teams where he is known as a "Clearing Machine."

I worked a game last season with Hill and Dave Pinciario in the pouring rain at UVM where they hosted Tony Seaman's Towson squad. In the final minute of a clear Towson victory a Towson player was pushed from behind chasing a loose ball right in front of me and a soaking wet Seaman. Perhaps tired of listening to Seaman as I had all afternoon or perhaps from incompetence, I called nothing as the UVM player scooped up the ball and headed for the other end of the field. Always one to be in position, you know, I sprinted from in front of Seaman to the far goal line as the coach went absolutely ballistic. Hill was the new trail coming into the box as Seaman screamed, "That guy is a cheater!!!" Hill threw his flag. "But John, I didn't call you a cheater, I called that guy a cheater," (pointing in my direction). Hill tried to pacify him a bit as he assessed the penalty. I looked at the clock and with less than a minute to go I prayed the ball would stay in my end and I could sprint off the field and head for the locker room. No luck: a quick turnover and there I was in the box with Seaman as the clock ran out. He gave me an earful as I gathered the coats as fast as I could and fled across the field to Hill and Pinciario laughing so hard they almost couldn't walk.

Pinciario and Hill left me off in White River Jct. where I-89 from UVM meets I-91. I asked them if they knew how to get back on I-89 to Boston. No problem, they assured me, The Cheater. Well, the last I saw of them was heading down I-91 laughing and telling Cheater stories. It wasn't for another hour that they figured out that the Connecticut River did not flow to Boston nor was Mt. Ascutney a mountain in New Hampshire. Who knows what time they got home.

In the summers John assigns referees for the Concord Summer League and the Cape Cod League while Jim Carboneau does the league out of the Fessenden School.

Which brings us to Jim Carboneau, one of the great characters in all of lacrosse. Captain of his Holy Cross lacrosse team in 1974, Carboneau began officiating the next year. His record on the field matches his contributions to the sport off it. Jim has worked NCAA tournament games for 12 straight years including the Div. 1 Final in 1992. He was NELOA's rules interpreter for several years. A founding father of NILOA, Jim edited that group's first mechanics manual and has served that group as well as the more recent USL in a variety of capacities. But these dry "facts" don't do justice to any Carboneau experience, especially the number of laughs after a game. Last summer Jim was in Vail where he assigns the officials for the Vail Elite tournament. In the final game, Jim came into the box as the trail. At the other end of the field a defender checked Casey Powell and Powell's helmet came flying off and rolled along the ground with Powell still in possession of the ball. No flag. Whereupon the whistle blew to stop play (for safety reasons). Powell's bench all glared at Carboneau and one said, "What are you gonna do now, ref? Give him a penalty for playing without his equipment?"

Three years ago in Vail, during a LAREDO training session, Jim was recounting an incident in a game that day to the assembled referees-in-training that gathered in the evening to critique the day's events; the topic in question was dealing with complaining coaches. One of the referees was Deb Welch from Ohio, one of the few female referees for men's lacrosse. A coach had been all over Jim in one game. Complain, complain, whine, whine, etc. He thought Jim was doing a screw job on him. Jim turned to him and said, "Coach, I didn't travel 2500 miles just to f \_\_\_\_

you!"

The ever-quick Welch replied, "Uh, Jim, I don't think I could get away with that comment." The room broke up.

Dartmouth's Rick Sowell, who is black, was in his first year coaching at Dartmouth a few years ago. Sowell is very soft-spoken most of the time and sometimes it's hard to hear him call for a timeout. Dartmouth was wearing white in this home game. Jim was the trail running down in front of Sowell when he called for a timeout. Jim heard him and whistled the play dead. Then, in a voice the whole stadium could hear, he yelled, "TIMEOUT BLACK!" as he pointed right at Sowell.

Uh-oh. Hey, but the mechanics were perfect.

#### EMASS REFEREES 1978

Jim Attaway    Dave Barton    Steve Batzell    Paul Beard  
Dave Berman    George Boudreau    Pete Brady    Bob Brooks  
Bill Crowe    Brian Callery    Jim Carboneau    Roy Condon  
George Cataldo    Bruce Crawford    Bill Crowe    Larry Davis  
Paul Devieau    Mike Denihan    Dan Deteso    Mark Deteso  
Tony Donovan    Bill Elliott    Frank England    Don Freeley  
Bill Gately    Mark Harrington    John Hill    Paul Howard  
Marshall Hunt    Paul Husted    John Jordan    Chris Kinchla  
John Karchenes    Tim Kinchla    Bill Lanigan    Bob Maguire  
Colin Macdonald    Bob Malay    Frank Manning    John Martin  
Horace Martin    Gene McCarthy    Bill Miller    Dan Murphy  
Larry Myatt    Jack Noble    Jim Panesis    Ron Pozzo  
Paul Powderly    Bill Quinn    Mike Ryan    Tom Smith  
Mike Schaffer    Dick Shannon    Matt Sgan    Ralph Taylor  
Andy Thompson    Jim Tighe    Mike Williamson    Bob White

Norwell's Fran Doyle started refereeing lacrosse in 1985. Doyle: "My first six games were by myself. Then I did my first game with another official at Lincoln-Sudbury with Bill Miller. I am still following Bill." Doyle worked the state finals in 1995, and tried out for the world team in 1993 at Rutgers and in 1997 at Princeton where he was the first alternate for the 1998 World Games. In 2000 he turned down his first NCAA tournament game due to a prior commitment to referee the USLIA Championships in St. Louis where he refereed the finals.

Track coach and Arlington resident Bob Maguire also worked the 2000 USLIA Championships with Fran Doyle. Maguire started lacrosse at UMASS under Dick Garber. "I played on the same team as Bruce Crawford. Only Bruce played; I mostly sat. Jack Noble got me started with officiating in 1973 and I worked all the big games he couldn't: Shady Hill, BB@N jayvees, Derby Country Day (just about the same schedule I get now)." In the 1980s he dropped out of officiating to coach track well enough to be elected to the MA Track Coaches Hall of Fame. There are only a handful of referees you want by your side when a game gets dicey and coaches

get hot under the collar. Paul Keating is one. Bob Maguire is another. As Billy Bally once said about Bob: "Maguire doesn't suffer foolish coaches gladly." At a recent Hartford-Towson game, Towson coach Tony Seaman was hopping mad about something and Maguire was in the thick of it throwing laundry. At a break in the action, Maguire's partners came over and offered to run in front of the bench for a while until Seaman cooled off; a respite most of us would take if offered. Not Bob. "No way. I'm staying right here. I'm getting a 1 on my rating anyway so I might as well stay here and enjoy it."

#### EMASS REFEREES 1992

Jordan Adair Peter Altieri Bruce Anderson Tom Benson  
Ken Aubuchon Dave Berman Gene Binda Alex Blane  
Carl Buckley Jim Carboneau Scott Chin Roy Condon  
John Connors Ray Comeau Ted Cote Bill Cully  
Bruce Crawford Jim Curran Stewart Curran Tom Darrin  
Al Decker Mike Denihan Fran Doyle Jim Doyle  
Frank Fergola Len Finamore Walt Fitzgerald Greg Fraser  
Ray Grady John Hill Dave Homs Tom Keller  
Steve Kelley Tom Kevorkian Tim Kinchla Paul Kolman  
Fran Manning Bruce Marshall Bob McLachlan Bill Miller  
Jack McMurray Jethro Mills Dan Murphy Steve Noble  
Jim Panesis Tom Paton Calvin Perry Todd Pierce  
Larry Piatelli Peter Pollock Jim Potts Ron Pozzo  
Bill Quinn Jim Rourke Paul Sainato Bill Sangster  
Mike Schaffer Steve Sisak Ralph Sneiderman George Starr  
Peter St. Clair Tom Stefanini Jim Stowell Harry Taft  
Fran Tarpey Jim Tighe Steve Washburn Steve White  
Mike Williamson Rob Wyman

Tom Keller played for Renzie Lamb at Williams and has directed the Sun Coast Tournament in Florida each March. His Chief Referee has been Jethro Mills.

Today, in 2000, there are over 115 EMASS officials serving an almost equal number of schools. Throw in jayvee and thirds contests and the math doesn't compute. Some games simply cannot be covered.

#### NEW ENGLAND LACROSSE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

NELOA began its 45-year run in 1950 and before it ended would grow to become the largest regional lacrosse officiating group in the country. The organization served several purposes. First, it was the official voice of a rapidly expanding group in its dealings with coaches' organizations and national and regional officials' organizations. This role must be emphasized for it's clear in talking with New England old-timers that the New England area was considered "second tier" by the Maryland and New York lacrosse hotbeds and NELOA's efforts changed that perspective. Secondly, NELOA helped elevate the level of officiating through clinics and tip sheets, mentoring, etc. Thirdly, it provided means for officials to communicate with one

another via the annual mimeographed referees/colleges/secondary schools lists which grew into the NELOA roster book by 1975. Finally, the organization enabled its members to officially honor prominent referees and those who contributed to the sport of lacrosse as well as schools and colleges adhering to the ideals of good sportsmanship. From 1980 on the Vin LoBello Award was given to colleges while the Russell Andrew Award was given to secondary schools starting in 1972. Perhaps what is most sad about NELOA's demise is that this regional recognition of officials and school programs, although now done state by state, grows ever more distant to today's referees; the link to the past, if you will, has been severed. One role that NELOA assumed was establishing officiating fees. Here's a sample:

1967	1977	1988	2000
College	\$25	\$40	\$60 \$115-160
25c/mi.	12c/mi.	20c/mi.	mileage
HS	\$20	\$32	\$41-45 \$48-60
no mileage	no mileage	some mi.	some mi.

#### NELOA Presidents

'50-'53: Phil Burleigh EMASS	'53-'55: Bob Mortenson MASS
'55-'58: Allyn Stillman MASS	'58-'60: Nellis Cochran MASS
'60-'63: Frank Samuel EMASS	'63-'65: Vin LoBello WMASS
'65-'67: Russell Andrew NH	'67-'70: Bob Hewitt RI
'70-'73: Don Johnson WMASS	'73-'75: Joe Oliva N.CT
'75-'77: Ron Pozzo EMASS	'77-'79: Dick Eustis NH
'79-'81: John Nute N.CT	'81-'83: Gerry Gingras VT
'83-'85: Peter Tiernan RI	'85-'87: Bob O'Connell NH
'87-'89: Dick Renfro VT	'89-'91: Paul Keating WMASS
'91-'93: Dave Berman EMASS	'93-'95: Ed McInnis ME

NELOA's first President was Phillip Burleigh, a graduate of Boy's Latin in Boston and Dartmouth 1932 where he played on the lacrosse team. For years he worked as a purchasing agent for Raytheon of Waltham before retiring to Maine where he died in 1985. Bob "Smokey" Mortenson moved to California after his NELOA Presidency.

Bill Coleman: "In the mid 1950s the NELOA meetings were held at the Harvard Varsity Club. Charles Marsters would join us. They were very informal: everyone sitting on tables or standing around."

Ten years later another Raytheon employee, Frank Samuel, currently retired in Bedford, MA, was NELOA's head man 1960-1963. Samuel was graduated from NMH in 1940 where he played the sport. He later attended Northeastern and played for the Boston Lacrosse Club in 1941. His first game officiating was in the early 1950s: Syracuse at Tufts with Jim Brown playing for the Orangemen. (ed: Imagine. Samuel's first experience officiating lacrosse involved the best player in the land playing on one of the best college teams. It would be akin today to taking a rookie and throwing him into the Syracuse-UMASS game!) Samuel's last year was 1972.

Samuel: "Brown played at Holy Cross one year. A HC defenseman made a clean check on a Brown attacker. When the Brown player got up first he accidentally stepped dead center on the defenseman's groin. He began to scream and I blew my whistle.

The HC coach, also a priest, came out and they examined the writhing player. No cup, no jockstrap. They discovered that a large section of skin had been torn away from the poor fellow's penis. The priest/coach turned to me and said, 'Well, it's a good thing the lad wants to be a priest.'"

NELOA Honorary Life Members:

Peter Brady            Bill Coleman    Bo Dickson (deceased)  
Arthur Gregg            Dave Harrison    Robert Hewitt  
Will Hunter (deceased)    Baldwin Lee    John Nute  
Vin LoBello (deceased)    Matt Sgan      John Suleski  
Allyn Stillman (deceased)    Bill Sacherek (deceased)

Peter Brady, now living in Pocasset, MA, taught in Medford and coached hockey during the 1960s; he later coached hockey and golf at Babson in the 1970s. Fellow football official David Harrison introduced Brady to lacrosse in 1964 whereupon Brady became a 3-sport referee: football, hockey, and lacrosse. Brady's best line was "I never made a bad call; I might have missed a few." He uses the same line playing golf with his buddies. He stopped officiating all three sports in 1985.

Trinity College grad Arthur Gregg refereed in the early 1960s based out of the Loomis School in CT. Later he would send in dues from his home base in Bermuda and, thereafter, Pennsylvania. Another UMASS connection (where he played soccer) was John Suleski who refereed from 1962-1975, first out of Hadley, MA and then Woodstock, CT. Don Johnson: "Suleski was a cigar-smokin' beer-drinkin' soccer/lax ref, a great guy. Worked for Valley Farmers Cooperative before moving out of the WMASS area."

Why, then, did NELOA disband? For several reasons, some interrelated. First, with the creation of NILOA in 1990, the college officials now had a governing body that set standards, educated, and established policies: activities that were now being duplicated by NELOA. The assigning regions in New England grew stronger and conducted state clinics and recruiting drives; again, usurping NELOA's role. Finally, finding a central spot to convene proved more difficult as the NELOA membership grew. Driving to Worcester, MA on a wintry early March Sunday morning was difficult for those in the outlying regions.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Granite State opened the 1960s with active lacrosse programs already well underway. Dartmouth, UNH, and NEC on the college level were well established while Phillips Exeter, St. Paul's, and KUA competed on the prep circuit. Soon, Holderness ('61), Proctor ('61), Brewster, Tilton, New Hampton, and Cardigan Mtn. would start lacrosse.



George Akerstrom coached at KUA from 1943-1978. One of his players was Roy Simmons, Jr. ('54 grad) who would play with Jim Brown at Syracuse (coached by Simmons' father) and then, later, coach the Orangemen to numerous national titles. Akerstrom lives today in southern NH and recalls the old days: "Many games were one-ref affairs and some of them definitely were 'from hunger.' We paid them \$15/game plus some mileage."

Bill Coleman: "In my first years of officiating I had a midafternoon game at KUA varsity with Russ Andrews. I was getting my new company off the ground and was always running late so I had to dress while driving. I arrived in Meriden, saw the game in progress, and raced onto the field while waving to my fellow official at the far end who gave me a quizzical look. At half time, while walking to the benches, he said, 'I didn't expect a second official for this game today.' "How come?' I asked.

"Oh, it's only the varsity games that get two refs and that one's going on over at the other field.' Uh-oh. Poor Russ. And then I had to face Akerstrom."

Colby Bent coached the KUA jayvees before turning to refereeing during the 1950s while living in the Hanover area working for Massachusetts Mutual. Bent recruited J. Thomas Crump as an official in those days before Crump moved to Maine (see Maine section). Bent remains active in Lyme as an alpine racer on the masters' circuit.

Another early NH referee, Ralph "Tim" Craig, resides today on Hilton Head Island. He started lacrosse at NMH 1947-1950 before matriculating at Swarthmore ('50-'52) and then UNH. Craig was one of the many of Barr "Whoops" Snively's players to become referees. Craig officiated out of Durham. Craig: "I was reffing an Exeter-Andover jayvee game one year and an Andover player reached over the Exeter player's head with his stick to dislodge the ball. All under perfect control with no contact. Andover recovered the ball. The parents were outraged by my no call. But the play seemed legal to me and still does. But very, very unusual at that time and at that level."

A neighbor of Craig's on Hilton Head, Londonderry electrical wholesaler and apiarist Don Babin, grew up in south Manchester and attended Bishop Brady before enrolling at UNH in the fall of 1958. He later transferred to Iowa to study bees. A football official at the time he started lacrosse refereeing in 1967, Babin continued through the 1970s. "Because I never played lacrosse, I was at a disadvantage when I started refereeing. My first game was a nightmare at Cardigan Mtn. School. Thankfully the coaches were very supportive. Later, Bo Dickson helped me a great deal." Craig and Babin met on a dock recently at Hilton Head and recognized each other after 25 years away from the game.

One of the top officials in those days was Russ Andrews from Concord who later moved to Exeter and helped mentor new officials such as Dick Eustis. In the early 1970s Russ was sailing a boat down from Maine to NH in the fall when he and two friends drowned at sea. NELOA, beginning in 1972, honored Russ with an award given to the secondary school in New England displaying the best sportsmanship during the season. Judge David Harrison: "Russ was one of the premier officials of the 1960s."

Jaffrey's Bill Coleman played three years at RPI and his undefeated 1948 team toured England that summer and represented the United States in the 1948 Olympics, playing in Wembley Stadium. Six years later, Coleman started officiating in New England. Vin LoBello: "Bill probably worked more 'big games' than any other New England official." Dick Eustis: "Bill was the first official from our area to work the national championship tournament games." Bill rarely made it through a game wearing his hat; invariably it would be tucked into his pocket by the end of the first quarter. Coleman refereed for 36 years and is an Honoray Life Member of NELOA. He splits time today between Maine and Jaffrey, NH.

The early 1960s brought the "UNH Connection" to NH and NE officiating. Dick Eustis played there from 1958-1961 and participated in the North-South game his final year as an All-American. He became the first NH assignor in the mid 1970s, about the time he assumed the duties of NELOA President. Bob O'Connell: "Dick is legendary for being a 'Play On!' official and back then he and Bo Dickson were Lax in NH." Vermont's Harry Loyzelle swears to this day that Dick sewed his flag to his belt. Dick lives in Exeter and still referees. Bill Coleman: "NH has had a lot of great referees and in the old days I've worked with most of them: Andrews, O'Connell, Babin, and Dickson. But in my estimation the outstanding referee in NH and one of the best in New England was Dick Eustis. Always calm, steady as a rock, knew the rules, and knew how to apply them without ruining the game. Whenever I had a game with Eustis I knew we'd leave the field with everyone satisfied, even the losers."

A teammate of Eustis' at UNH and one of his best friends was Robert "Bo" Dickson. Dickson earned All-American honors as well at UNH in 1962 and also played in the North-South game. Teaching at Exeter and Pinkerton followed as he started officiating. He would quickly become one of the top officials in New England. While officiating at UNH one day, Dickson responded to an irate coach who stepped onto the field to challenge a call: "Watch it, coach. You're stepping on my field." In 1976 Dickson became president of Amoskeag Beverages and his refereeing days drew to a close. Bo died in 1998.

Finally, from those early 60's UNH teams, was Lou D'Allesandro who played attack. Lou is still active today in NH politics.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE REFEREES 1968

Russell Andrew	John Auld	Don Babin
Ernie Bastianelli	Bill Coleman	Lou Allesandro
Dick Eustis	Art Farnsworth	Ed Foote
Bruce Gillies	Richard Hopkins	Charles Hunt
Peter Hollingworth	Joe Joseph	Don McKinnon
Ken McKinnon	Henry Roberts	Bob Weeks
Steve Wight	Bo Dickson	

In the early 1970s the first NH public high school started lacrosse, Pinkerton Academy. Plymouth State began play in 1970. Hanover High would take up lacrosse in the 1970s as did

Londonderry in 1979.

The peripatetic Bob "Okie" O'Connell began officiating in WMASS in 1960 and then refereed from 1964-1970 in Connecticut whereupon he escaped (his words) to the Live Free or Die state. Okie had been refereeing a jayvee basketball game at Williston Academy, coached by Vin LoBello. Lobello quickly recruited him for lacrosse and Okie is still going strong today, 40 years later.

Upon moving to NH, Okie was required to attend the NH lax officials' meetings. Okie: "We had 7pm meetings at a guy's house and the guy himself was never present. At 7:13 we adjourned to the local oasis to 'better focus on the issues' and also, just by chance, to watch the Bruins or Celtics. This went on for years and to this day I have still never met the guy who hosted those meetings.

"The Deerhead in Hookset was the official meeting place for NH refs in the later 1970s until we had to find another venue to conduct business because we found out that some people were actually drinking while we were reviewing the finer points of the games just concluded. Then we were flat out refused admittance because Peter Coon was unruly there once too often. But there's no truth to that as near as I can remember.

"Ted Garber was the UNH coach the first year the hanging strings rule (no more than 2") was included with the sticks. In a close game with Middlebury, Middlebury called for a stick check and because the strings were too long, UNH was docked with a 3-min. penalty and Middlebury went on to win a close game. A week later against Harvard, another close one, Garber waited until the final few minutes and then called for a stick check and told the official about the rule. The referee agreed the strings were too long but said, 'I'm not calling that.' Harvard won and a blizzard of bulletins ensued from the national office."

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE REFEREES 1978

Don Babin	Dave Babson	Charles Burch
Charlie Chamberlain	Geoff Coffin	Bill Coleman
Bo Dickson	Peter Coon	Roger Dube
Don Emerson	Dick Eustis	Guy Garon
Bruce Gillies	Bo Hill	John Hopkins
Don McKinnon	Bob O'Connell	George Ports
Robert Reed	Fred Robertie	Craig Rowley
Rod Scheffer	Paul St. Jean	Art Tuttle
Bob Weeks		

John Hopkins (now there's a name that would draw a second look from any coach at a pre-game introduction) began officiating in the early-mid 1970s after a stellar basketball and lacrosse career at Plymouth State.

Vin Perroni was a Scholastic All-American midfielder at Pinkerton Academy in 1974 before going on to play at Plymouth State.

Recruited from the football ranks in the early 1980s, Ray "Razor" Grady would quickly become one of NH's best refs. His first lacrosse game ever was a college game: Merrimack at St. Anselm's with Okie.

Londonderry High football and lacrosse coach Tom Sawyer, a former UNH quarterback and lacrosse player, has been with the NH board for the past dozen years or so.

Exeter's Bill Ball is the current assignor for the state. A highly successful football coach at Exeter HS (where his son quarterbacked the 2000 team), Bill refereed a NCAA semi-final game in Middlebury two years ago.

#### NEW HAMPSHIRE REFEREES 1992

Don Allen	Dave Babson	Bill Ball
Dan Belliveau	Tom Carr	Dick Eustis
Ray Grady	Jack Grube	Lee Gunst
John Hopkins	Ross Krummel	Bill Lanigan
Doug Maynard	Bob O'Connell	Rod Steven
Ed Savage	Tom Sawyer	Dave Shannon
Dave Stotler	Bill Taffe	Mike Whalen
Phil Zankowski		

In the NHIAA's first sanctioned high-school championship in 1993, Pinkerton defeated Souhegan (Amherst, NH) and has won every ensuing title except for one two years ago, won by Nashua. Currently, there are 36 varsity programs in the state served by 40 officials.

#### CONNECTICUT

Due to its location bordering New England (District 1) to the north and Metro New York (District 3) to the south and west, Connecticut may rightfully be excused for having a split personality when it comes to lacrosse. Gradually, over time, the southern "pull" and the northern "pull" manifested themselves with two separate officiating bodies: Northern and Southern Connecticut, much like WMASS and EMASS.

In 1960, however, there was but one group of officials in the state. That year Wesleyan joined Yale on the college scene. Trinity would begin in 1964 and UCONN would field a team by 1968. Fairfield would field a team in the early 1970s. Keep in mind that the Connecticut Valley Lacrosse Club (CVLC) was already well underway by this time: founded in 1956 by Neville Smith and William Eblen.

Loomis began play in 1960 under current coach Jim Wilson-his first year. Wilson: "Cheshire, Choate, and Kingswood-Oxford had teams, but our BIG game that season was with the Deerfield JVs (a 5-2 victory)." Taft ('61), Avon Old Farms ('62), and Hotchkiss ('66) would soon follow suit.

John Bunn and Allyn Stillman introduced Will Hunter (deceased) to lacrosse at Medford, MA HS where Hunter played from 1938-1941. Hunter graduated from Springfield College in 1950 and in 1961 moved to West Hartford teaching physical education at the elementary school level. In 1963 Hunter (assisted by Neville Smith) started the first public high-school program in the state and in New England at Conard High School and a few years later helped to organize the first public high-school championship game (then run by the coaches and much later by the state governing body). From 1967 to 1981 Hunter was a member of NELOA and served as area chairman his last two years.

Joe Oliva's first lacrosse game, the very first game he ever saw, was at the Choate JVs in 1960. His partner didn't show, so Oliva worked the game alone. He had taken the test that year at Holy Cross and Russ Hewitt had asked him where he played because he recorded a perfect score. Oliva told him he had never seen a lacrosse game before. Vin LoBello appointed Oliva to assign CT prep/hs games in 1969. Oliva was NELOA President 1973-1975 and during his tenure the first NELOA roster books emerged. He initiated a state-wide rating card system in 1970. Al Blau: "Joe always hustled on the field but never seemed to go anyplace. His relaxed attitude helped to diffuse many a potential volatile situation. He was also a great guy to go post-game with somewhere." Oliva: "In 1968 we had our break-up banquet at Charlie's. It was a strip bar but the owner said to bring the group on a Monday night because it was slow on Mondays. Little did we know it was amateur night. Our table was the runway." Oliva stopped officiating in 1992 and lives in Rocky Hill.

Bob McHenry played for the South in the 1956 College All-Star game in Geneva, NY. Syracuse's Stuart Lindsay played for the North squad which lost 20-10. A Pennsylvania native, McHenry played lacrosse at Swarthmore HS before matriculating at Washington and Lee. He would later coach his alma mater as well as Lebanon Valley College and Yale (1970-1980). He would revisit the North-South game as an assistant coach for the South in 1960, head coach for the South a year later in '61 (his brother, Bill, coached the North squad), and then in 1965 and 1977 as an assistant coach for the North. One wonders if anyone can rival McHenry's varied participation on so many fronts in this annual affair. The first game he ever officiated was in 1965 in Pennsylvania: a Dickinson-Kenyon overtime affair. McHenry still officiates today and lives in Guilford, CT.

NELOA Honorary Life Member Bill Sacharek (deceased) refereed from the mid 1960s until the mid 1970s. A Springfield College graduate, Sacharek was a life-long resident of Manchester and refereed basketball and football as well as lacrosse.

Working basketball, soccer, and baseball games at the time, John Nute was exposed to lacrosse officiating in 1963 by Kingswood-Oxford coach Joe Perrott, who played at Williams. From 1979-1981 John was President of NELOA and the Western New England Prep School Association has honored him with the John Nute Sportsmanship Award at their annual all-star game. Nute taught in the CT school system for 35 years and now resides in Madison, NH and Florida. Windsor's Al Reed had a heritage to live up to: his father was a lacrosse official in the 1920s after an All-American playing career at Harvard. Reed was a goalie at the US Naval Academy during the mid 1950s and later played for the CVLC in the early 1960s. He refereed for thirty years: 1965-1995. Five years ago he retired from officiating soccer and lacrosse at both the

high-school and college level. He currently resides in Windsor.

"Officiating in the 60s and 70s was a casual and fun experience for me. Schools and officials were learning the game and all were more relaxed and helpful than it is now. For the 70s and 80s many of the better games were assigned based on friendships rather than ability; again, most refs were professional teachers supplementing their incomes. In the 90s the officiating became, as it should, a very formal affair with rules and stricter ref/coach relationships. A much more professional appearance but not as much fun, from my standpoint.

"In the 70s and 80s we had more trouble with disruptive often drunk students attending games on the college level and problems with parents at the high-school level. The 'team foul' that was put in the rulebook helped alleviate this.

"At Marvelwood in the mid 70s I was reffing with a very new official. The game progressed but was stopped frequently with a whistle. It was not my whistle and the new ref said it wasn't his, but I couldn't be sure. So I made up a call to keep the game going. After 7 to 10 of these unexplained whistles I determined that the ex-coach and current headmaster (Bob Botcan) was all over the sidelines using a whistle to stop play for what he thought was an infraction. We finally located him and took his whistle away."

In 1995 Reed received the CLOA award for 30 years of service.  
CONNECTICUT REFEREES 1968

George Brodigan	Will Cheever	Bob Curran
Newell Doty	Bill Elliott	Harry Fisher
Bruce Forbes	Arthur Gregg	Will Hunter
Bill McCullough	John Nute	Bob O'Connell
Joe Oliva	Vin Punzo	Bill Sacharek
Fred Singer	Larry Slattery	John Suleski
Harold Sullivan	Art Tuttle	Clarence Wilcox

From NELOA's beginning in 1950 through 1976 there was one Connecticut list of officials. In 1975 Joe Oliva became the assignor for the state. In 1977 the roster book included the first division between Northern and Southern Connecticut. Joe Oliva assigned the north while Peter Kohut assigned the south and this arrangement continued until the mid 1980s. While Oliva has retired, Pete Kohut continues to assign for Fairfield County to this day.

A football player at Brown, Kohut saw his first lacrosse game there in the mid 1950s. He began officiating in Westchester County in 1967 and today lives in New Milford, CT. Kohut was the CT HS Lacrosse Coaches' "Man of the Year" in 1995 and was inducted in 1998 to the CT Lacrosse Hall of Fame. In 1995 he and John Zinser (deceased) refereed what was probably the longest overtime game ever played in CT. It was a state semi-final game between Darien and New Canaan. New Canaan won in the 7th overtime.

In the early 1970s a group of private schools in the southern part of the state joined with some schools across the border to form the Fairchester (Fairfield County, CT and Westchester County,

NY) League: Rye, Hackley, St. Lukes, Brunswick, and King. By the mid 1970s a coaches-run state championships was underway with the northern champ (often Wilton or Conard) playing the southern champ (often Greenwich or New Canaan).

Connecticut College went varsity in 1978. Its current coach, Fran Shields, is now in his 21st year. His father was a good friend of Vin LoBello when the former worked as an assistant to Dick Garber in the 1960s.

Jack Comporesi of Harwinton saw an ad in the newspaper for lacrosse officials in 1971. Comporesi: "I wanted to do other officiating and get out of basketball and softball officiating." Comporesi would referee until the mid 1990s doing all levels, but most of his games were in CT due to his teaching job. From 1992-1994 he was President of the CLOA.

Glastonbury's Steve Hinchey helped start a lacrosse club at Fairfield University in 1971. Hinchey: "When I played I knew very little about the lacrosse world. When Fairfield played UMASS (Boston club) and won the coach made sure the student newspaper had a headline: Fairfield Beats UMASS. I didn't realize UMASS had a national reputation at the time." In 1974 Hinchey began officiating and for several years was President of the CT Lacrosse Officials Association. Hinchey worked his first 3-man game in the late 1970s when three officials arrived for a Conard game. Hinchey: "Nute and Oliva were there. Joe figured out a 3-man system with the trail parked at the midfield line. We rotated at quarters. When I started we had red penalty flags, then red-white, and finally gold. The rule book used to show an official in bow tie giving the official signals so Parker Simonds and I wore black bowties when we worked Stuart Lindsay's last game as coach for Kingswood."

A funny Hinchey (a dentist) story arose a few years ago when the rules committee wanted to emphasize that players' mouthpieces must cover all the upper teeth. During an equipment check a player's mouthpiece, obviously cut, was declared illegal by Hinchey's crew. The player's coach was irate. "Only a dentist could judge that," the coach complained.

"Coach," said Hinchey as he picked up his flag, "I am a dentist."

Steve currently assigns the officials for the annual Glastonbury summer tournament and serves as a mentor for newer officials in his role as a USL Clinician. His son now plays for UMASS.

Clinical psychologist Bruce Backus has worn many lacrosse hats the past 35 years. Backus: "I am practicing my vocation in conjunction with my avocation (officiating) much more frequently of late." In the early 1960s he played on the first Conard HS teams. After playing a bit (his words) at Penn, Backus returned to play defense for the CVLC in 1966 and did so until 1984, the last two years as player/coach. Backus refereed a few games between 1971 and 1973 and then got a full assignment in 1974, the same year he was on the ground floor as a coach of youth lacrosse in West Hartford. Backus: "In 1978 I got accepted at Oregon for a doctorate and thought my lax career was over. Funny thing, the second call I got was from a fellow grad student who had read my resume and they needed a player/coach for the University of Oregon team. Two great years! Lax 10 months a year! My new bride almost bid me adieu, but I was saved by graduation and a return to the staid, traditional East Coast."

"When it works as a unit a refereeing crew experiences a level of coordination that makes me feel the game could go on forever. One regret I have today is that we as referees are probably not doing enough to keep sportsmanship a part of the game. I don't think we own a great deal of the responsibility, but we can do more by enforcing the rules and keeping a more professional distance from coaches and players."

John Zinser died two years ago but was a northern Connecticut official, working as a football coach at Cathedral High in Hartford, before joining the southern Connecticut board as their NELOA representative. Zinser would be the So. CT Area Chairman for almost two decades. Perhaps the most well-known referee in No. CT working today is the current Area Chairman, Parker Simonds, a 1969 UMASS grad. After graduation Parker played midfield for the CVLC with that same ground-eating stride (Jim Carboneau calls it a fast praying mantis stride) he exhibits today on the field. Later Parker would be instrumental in developing youth lacrosse in West Hartford. In the mid 1970s he and Mike Devins organized the New England Lacrosse Tournament, the premier summer club event of the region. Today it is known as the Glastonbury tournament. Bruce Backus: "Several years ago at Avon Old Farms Parker and I inspected a metal-handle stick which was drilled with hundreds of 1/4" holes (presumably with Dad's drill press). Everything else conformed and neither of us thought about the phrase 'alter or camber the handle' until Ted Murphy lit into us at the next meeting and we realized our mistake, however grudgingly."

#### CONNECTICUT REFEREES 1978

##### Northern CT:

Bruce Backus	Art Bonnier	Bruce Billings
Don Bunnell	Steve Chambers	Will Cheever
Jack Comporesi	Bob Curran	Bill Currin
Tim Daly	Mike Devins	Ken Devins
Tom Fagan	Dennis Fanning	Mark Fucci
Bill Guisto	Bob Green	Bob Hall
Art Hatje	Steve Hinchey	Will Hunter
Howard Kargman	Mark Kurimai	Baldwin Lee
Dan Lodge	Gary Macelhiney	Bill Masci
Bob McGlone	Rick McLaughlin	John Nute
Burt Nast	Joe Oliva	Al Reed
Fran Ring	John Rusnock	Craig Schroeder
Charles Settino	Parker Simonds	Ed Winslow

##### Southern CT:

Baldwin Lee	Al Dobsavage	Jerry Doyon
Tony Gorman	Tom Hardej	Ed Hines
Bob Houston	Peter Kohut	Don Lamberty
Bill Manfredonia	Don Robert	Frank White
John Zinser	Bob Salvinsky	



In 1987 No. CT left NELOA and for three years there was no list of No. CT officials in the book. There was a list for So. CT during this time. Then, in 1990, No. CT returned to NELOA. Whereupon, in 1992 So. CT disappeared from the roster book, never to return. From 1992 on the roster book listed only "Connecticut," but a check of the names and addresses indicated it's really No. CT.

Ted Murphy of Glastonbury, who has refereed several games in the NCAA tournament, came to the Nutmeg state via Baltimore and Pittsburgh. Murphy: "Since I was not an All-American middle from Roanoke College (class of '71) I knew that I wasn't going to play for any of the three club teams in Baltimore. Therefore, I started officiating in 1972. Coming to New England I was surprised that all of the refs carried two flags. I had been taught to only have one flag. Then, I figured out the reason for two flags. In NE, everyone threw more penalty flags!"

Current No. CT assigner (he assumed his duties from Oliva in 1992) David Leete was introduced to lacrosse during his skills classes at Springfield College. David hailed from Williamstown, MA. He later coached at the Hun School in Princeton, NJ from 1963-1967 and played with the New Jersey Lacrosse Club. Leete: "I began officiating in 1970 in NJ as a high-school ref and was fortunate to do several state games in the late 1970s with none other than Warren Kimber." Leete moved to Connecticut in 1980 and has just finished his 30th year officiating.

Eric Farno of Coventry, not to be confused with Eric Evans of Vermont or Eric Rudolph of Georgia, currently works as a biology teacher in the Manchester school system and has recently refereed several Div. III NCAA tournament games. Farno started lacrosse officiating in 1983 to earn a little extra money and his first game was a scrimmage at Newington High in which his partner, Ed Winslow, got hurt soon after the start. Farno finished the game alone. In 1993 Farno and Al Reed accompanied the CVLC on its trip to Australia. Six years later Eric worked the World U-19 Games Down Under. He and several others brought the only officiating film I've ever seen (outside of the annual NCAA clips) to the 1995 NELOA meeting in Worcester.

#### CONNECTICUT REFEREES 1992

Bruce Backus	Tom Butler	Jack Comporesi
Nat Corwin	Bob Curran	Art Custer
John Daley	Mike Devins	Jeff Doyle
Eric Farno	John Flannigan	Bill Guisto
John Hackett	Fran Halish	RS Hall
Art Hatje	Dave Heritage	Don Horner
Dick Kearney	Dave Leete	Jeff Lynch
John Mathews	Peter McClure	Bob McHenry
Culver Modisette	Ted Murphy	Lee Netter
Joe Oliva	Charles Potter	Al Reed
Kevin Riley	Parker Simonds	Van Snyder
Chris Sokol	Pete Stecko	Ed Winslow
Alex Tredinnick		

The first official state high-school championship game under the auspices of the Connecticut

Interscholastic Athletic Council (CIAC) was held in 1995. Today, in No. CT there are 50 schools playing the sport and the high-schools are organized into two divisions based on talent/ability.

## MAINE

Lacrosse teams and lacrosse referees were few and far between in Maine when 1960 arrived. Bowdoin had just started play a year earlier. A UMAINE club team played out of Orono in those days while Colby would start a club team in 1964 (going varsity in 1972). On the prep level, Berwick, Bridgton, Hebron, and Kents Hill were playing in the early 1960s and would soon be joined by Hinckley, North Yarmouth, Gould, and Maine Central Institute before the decade finished.

Perhaps Maine's first lacrosse referees were Springfield College grads Fred Kosiba of Saco and Albert Nies of Cumberland Mills: both listed on the 1944 National Officials' roster. Later, in the Portland area, Ray Stuart Bicknell, Carroll Huntress, and Seward Brewster refereed in the late 1950s and all three finished officiating by 1963. All of these Maine pioneers must have traveled out of state to do games considering the first team in Maine, Bowdoin, started in 1959. Another Portland ref was Tom Crump, currently living in Portland. Crump developed interest in the sport while enrolled at KUA and later achieved All-American status at Harvard in 1954. Crump: "I like to think that a rule change in 1955 came about because of my play in a game against Princeton the year before. Our coach devised a play whereby when the whistle blew for the faceoff I would race up from the defensive position and body check the Princeton faceoff winner. I hit the middle, Coach Ferris Thomsen's son, waist high and we got the ball and went down and scored. Another faceoff, another Princeton middle because Thomsen had left the game with multiple internal injuries including a ruptured spleen. We pulled the same play with the same result. Over the winter the Rules Committee, chaired by Princeton Coach Thomsen, decided that during a faceoff the attack and defensive players had to remain behind a restraining line until possession. I like to think of this as the 'Crump Rule.'" A word is in order here on the Thomsen legacy. Ferris is in the Hall of Fame. His son Tommy, the aforementioned middle, was a Hall of Fame coach at Denison. Tommy's son Peter was an All-American attackman at Williams in 1979 while another son, Jeff, earned All-American honors at Middlebury before coaching the UVM team until two years ago.

New Hampshire's Colby Bent recruited Crump into officiating at KUA games. Crump: "He knew how much money I was making selling insurance and thought I'd appreciate the extra cash. I don't remember what we were paid but it was respectable. College graduates making \$5000 per annum were regarded as heavy hitters then." In September, 1960, Crump moved to Maine. "I believe I was one of the few officials in Maine which meant I did all the Bowdoin home varsity and freshmen games." Crump stopped officiating in 1962 due to an increasingly demanding work schedule.

The Maine Lacrosse Officials Association was formed in 1963.

Some of the key architects of that group were Lionel "Pete" Morin of Waterville who now resides in nearby Winslow, and Thomas College teacher Larry Glynn. Morin: "We were on our own in Maine and we did our own assigning. I helped get the association started and then I

stopped officiating in the late 1960s due to a heart attack."

Lou Barnes now splits his time between Waterville and Arizona. Barnes worked at the Sentinel newspaper in town. Former Bowdoin Coach Mort Lapointe: "My first season at Bowdoin was '69-'70 and Louie Barnes was the 'official of choice.' No one worked harder or was more loyal to the game than Louie. In those early days we got such a steady diet of the same officials I'm sure they knew our players better than I did." Willis Smedberg: "Towards the end of Lou's lax days, he was not that 'swift of foot.' Louie made a call and the coach hollered, 'How can you make that call from 40 yards away?'

"Louie replied simply, 'Radar, coach.' We all got a good laugh at that one."

#### MAINE REFEREES 1968

Don Aldrich Lou Barnes Lyford Beverage Laurence Glynn  
Peter Gulick Roger Hallee Lionel Morin

Bates started lacrosse in 1978 and in the mid 1970s public high schools Brunswick (near Bowdoin) and Cape Elizabeth would field teams.

Ed McInnis of Winslow, and now Phoenix, AZ, would begin officiating in the late 1960s at the behest of Lou Barnes. He would go on to work for over 25 years, until 1996. For the last 15 years of his career he was the assignor for Maine. From 1993-1995 he would serve as the last President of NELOA. His son, Mark, referees lacrosse as well out of EMASS. Lapointe: "Ed even had to do one of our games in his patent leather shoes."

Maurice "Mo" Corbin was another of the many Waterville area referees; he now lives in Kenneth City, Florida. His start in officiating was 1971 and he would continue for 17 years. In the late 1970s he would serve as Maine's assignor.

Wayne Sanford played for Bowdoin from 1968-1970 and began officiating in Maine in 1978. He has served as the Maine rules interpreter since 1980 and is the current President of the Maine Lacrosse Officials. Sanford: "Officials from more southern places think that if you're from Maine you must be immune to the cold. We just dress appropriately. I remember a game at Boston College on a day with 20-below windchill (20-degree temp. and 40-50 mph winds) when Jim Carboneau and Bill Ball insisted on wearing shorts. Why suffer?"

Rob Pfeiffer quickly turned to lacrosse at Exeter in the spring of 1960 after a broken wrist that winter led to a 1-for-19 start to his baseball career. Pfeiffer would go on to play at Bowdoin, captaining the 1967 team and earning 1967 Honorable Mention All-American honors. Word has it that the men he covered that season, from Hofstra to Adelphi to CW Post (including Tom Postel) never scored. Not a single one. Pfeiffer and current Army coach Jack Emmer anchored the defense for the North squad that year in the North-South game played in 92-degree heat at UMASS.

They shut down the South's Al Lowe and John Heim of Maryland and scored an upset 7-5 win.

Pfieffer: "After two years in Vietnam I played club for Bowie Maryland and played in the North-South Club All-Star game in 1970 on Homewood Field. Oliver North (Iran-Contra fame a decade later) drove me to the game--we were buddies at Quantico and he wanted to see it." In the 1970s Pfieffer turned to coaching, first with the UNH freshmen and then the varsity at Middlebury from 1972-1975. He began officiating in 1976, but took time out for four years to coach at Colby from 1985-1989. Rob recently retired from refereeing after a serious disc operation which precludes much running today.

Kevin Colley purchased his first stick as a freshman at Kents Hill School in 1972, a Brine white plastic stick which he still has today. Kevin remains active as a club player today on the masters circuit.

Willis Smedberg's first year refereeing was in 1976 and today is the assignor for the state.

#### MAINE REFEREES 1978

Lou Barnes Don Bowman Maurice Corbin Bill Eisenhardt  
Larry Jensen Dana Mulhuland Ed McInnis Richard Sykes  
Wayne Sanford

In 1989 a state public high-school playoff system emerged under the MAISAD League and, later, under the auspices of the Maine Interscholastic Lacrosse League.

#### MAINE REFEREES 1992

Howard Beach Kevin Colley Lloyd Coombs Dick Davy  
Henry Dombrowski Paul Dumdey George Dunn Peter Fessenden  
Gerald Goold Gary Gorman Wilson Hess Josh LaPointe  
Tom McCabe Ed McInnis Rob Pfieffer Wayne Sanford  
Willis Smedberg Tod Szczech Gordon Weeks Jeff Weeks  
John Wolfgram

The Maine Principals Association's first sponsored state high-school championships was conducted in 1998. Today, approximately 25 teams in Maine play the sport.

#### RHODE ISLAND

NELOA Honorary Life Member Bob Hewitt's career spanned both EMASS and RI. A graduate of Amherst College in 1940, he started in Natick, moved to Marlboro, and then finally settled in Warwick, RI. Active in the late 1950s and through the 1960s, Hewitt was NELOA President from 1967-1970. He succeeded Judge David Harrison on the Lacrosse Foundation Board.

#### RHODE ISLAND REFEREES 1968

Wayne Curtis Joshua Halpern

Charlestown's Peter Tiernan's first year of officiating was 1978. Five years later he would be elected NELOA President. He would also serve as Chairman of the RILOA and assignor for the state. He would continue to referee into the mid 1990s.

#### RHODE ISLAND REFEREES 1978

Paul Brunelle Mike Coyne Bob Gustavson Russ McGuirl  
Peter Tiernan Dave Wild

In the spring of 1972 KUA student Jon Donahue watched his first lacrosse game: at nearby Dartmouth College. Upon his return to the school he went out for George Akerstrom's team. It wasn't until 1984, however, that Jon started officiating in Rhode Island. Donahue: "Paul Brunelle was the President of the officials group back then and I took the written test in the back of his classroom at Moses Brown while he taught a history class.

There is probably some liability issue now that would prevent that." Jon continues to referee today throughout New England; his job demands are such as AD at the Wheeler School that his focus is the college game as well as the EMASS summer league games.

John Bellows of Pawtucket began in the early 1980s. A few years later he was Sec./Tres. of NELOA and served as RI's Area Chairman from 1989-1995. In 1992 and in 1995 Bellows was selected to be the US Referee at the U-19 World Games in Long Island and Japan, respectively. In both instances he was chosen to referee the championship game. Three years later he worked the World Championships in Baltimore. John has worked numerous NCAA tournament games over the past six years.

One of his more infamous moments came a year or two ago when Syracuse visited UMASS where he worked with Eric Farno and Dave Berman. All three refs were concerned about the unfortunate UMASS tradition whereby spectators throw oranges (Syracuse Orangemen) from the hill overlooking the field. Even though the UMASS cafeteria had locked away all its oranges for the preceding week, the spectators were armed. Sure enough, the game wasn't very old when Bellows took a direct hit from an orange, but not just any old orange. It had been loaded with garlic. Enough already...UMASS hit with an unsportsmanlike penalty.

Joe Schwab of Wakefield, at the behest of assignor Ted Gilmartin, worked his first game in 1980 at Moses Brown School in Providence and is a current college and high-school official.

#### RHODE ISLAND REFEREES 1992

John Bellows Jim Demas John Donahue Ted Gilmartin  
Jim Kittredge Jeff Popham Joe Schwab Andy Souter

The millenium year 2000 brought with it Rhode Island's first high-school championship: Lasalle Academy won this inaugural event. The Rhode Island Officials Association has grown to 34

members, making it the fastest growing body among the New England states during the past decade. Ted Gilmartin is the current assignor and he services 18 schools plus 4 youth leagues.

## POST-GAME

A thorough look back demands, at the very least, a brief glimpse forward. To do otherwise would in some ways devalue the efforts made by so many of the pioneers in New England lacrosse officiating.

Opportunities to officiate have never been greater and will continue to expand. Outdoor (MLL) and indoor (NLL) pro leagues. A growing international game. Burgeoning summer tournaments, especially at the masters level, and college fall ball. Indoor "box" lacrosse during the off-season in every New England state. The tried-and-true NCAA college play (perhaps the only segment of the game that will not grow due to Title IX restraints) augmented by the USLIA "virtual varsity" teams: both with viable national tournaments. Youth leagues. Sanctioned high-school playoffs in every state.

Will there be enough officials to cover all these games? Continued aggressive recruiting for new officials (EMASS runs ads year-round in The Boston Globe) and appropriate training and mentoring for them will go a long way in answering that question.

Given the technology available today, the training of officials will surely experience a revolution. Virtual reality simulators where officials can participate in game-like situations are on the horizon. Want to see how you'd react as the single-side official in a NCAA semi-final? Have a seat as the surround-sound screen begins. Hear the crowd, run the field as if you were there, and make the calls as the plays unfold.

More and better artificial-surface fields will extend New England's lacrosse season. Improved weather-specific referee's clothing will enhance the two hours spent on the field of play. Increased communication (emails/cell phones) will disperse needed information that much more efficiently.

On the debit side, the increased professionalism and jobs-on-the-line pressure will make inroads into the fraternal atmosphere that lacrosse enjoyed and continues to enjoy to a degree today. Inevitably, this will lead to behavior by coaches, spectators, players, and parents that will detract from the game. Lacrosse as family, sadly, will evolve more and more into lacrosse as business.

In meeting the demands for lacrosse in the future, officials would do well to remember three tenets that have guided the referees in this booklet. Referees provide service to the game of lacrosse. In providing that service they not only strive to do the best possible job, they must also act as mentors to those officials following their footsteps. If today's and tomorrow's officials fill these roles as well as the men in this booklet have done in the past, the sport will be well served.

The often-humbled scribe of this history played lacrosse at The Hotchkiss School where he

earned First String All-New England honors as a defenseman in 1968. His one game at Dartmouth was a 32-0 loss to Brown on the freshman team. WMASS assignor Craig Brown and current Harvard coach Scott Anderson would soon rescue The Big Green's fortunes in the sport. His Dartmouth years and the next decade were devoted to pursuing the sport of whitewater kayaking in which he competed at the 1972 Olympics with a 7th-place finish. He began officiating in the mid 1980s in Vermont and serves as Sec./Tres. of the VLOA. He is also a member of the WMLOA, serving as their current Vice-President.