

Jim Brown Sr. Inducted into LaSalle High Sports Hall of Fame

By David Latva

Jim Brown, Sr. was more than an outstanding athlete at LaSalle High School (LHS). Mr. Brown was one of the biggest Saints fans. Behind the scenes, he worked hard to improve the quality of athletic programs at the school.

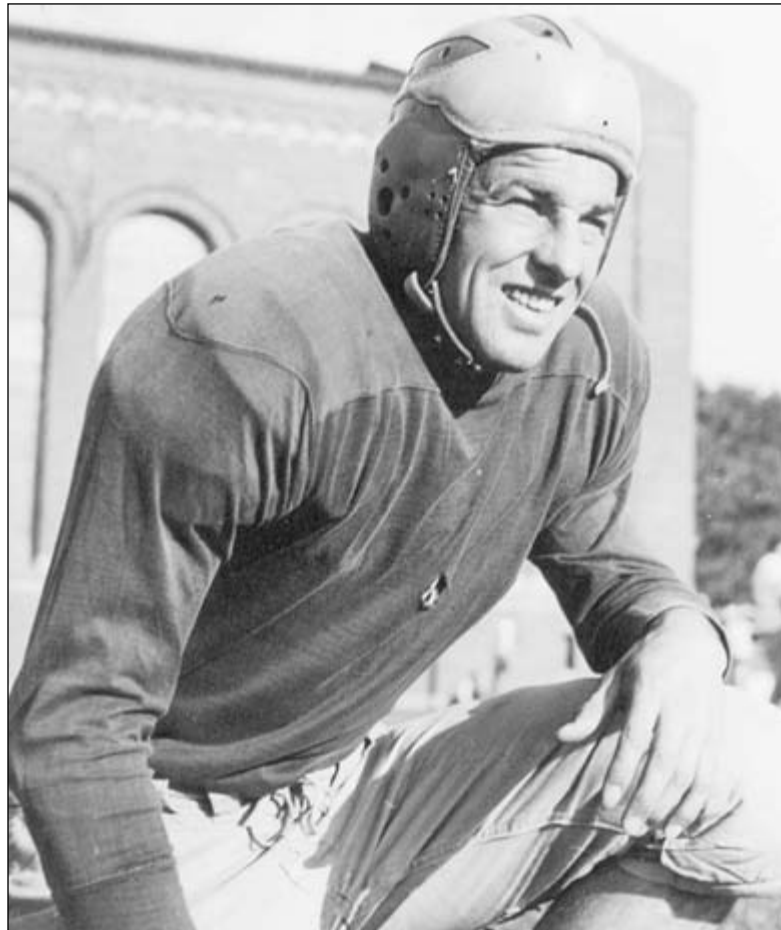
Mr. Brown, a St. Ignace resident, died September 1, 2008, at the age of 87. In October, he will be posthumously inducted into the LaSalle High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Brown played four years of football and basketball for the Saints and was on the independent baseball team in the area before his graduation from LHS in 1940.

He then enrolled at the University of Michigan. Freshmen were not allowed to play college football, but were still part of the Wolverines program and were used on the scout team against the varsity. Seniors on the Michigan team in the fall of 1940 were Wolverine greats Tom Harmon and Forest Evashevski. The team was coached by Fritz Cryslar.

Mr. Brown played halfback/quarterback for the Wolverines in his sophomore season (1941) before spending the next two years in the U.S. Navy. He was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1946, but didn't play football in his final two years.

Mr. Brown and his wife, Dorothy, known as "Sis," have 11



Jim Brown, Sr. in his sophomore season at the University of Michigan during the fall of 1941. (Photograph courtesy of the Brown family)

children, Ruth, Barbara, Jane, Susan, Sally, Caroline, Prentiss or "Giz," Jim Jr., Bob, Paul, and Andy, who all were graduated from LaSalle High School.

Mr. Brown served more than 35 years on the St. Ignace school board as president. During that

time, he was instrumental in placing the first lights at Saints Field in the early 1950s, along with his brother, Prentiss "Moie" Brown, Jack Ryerse, and Mel LaChapelle.

In the late 1960s, the football field needed a new surface, and



The St. Ignace Saints 1939-40 basketball team completed the season with a 10-5 overall record. The team includes (front, from left) Norbert Coveyou, Walter Elmerst, Jim Brown, Sr., Charlie Shedewin, Hugh English; (back) Dell Ahlich, Bob Morin, Drayton LaChapelle, and Coach Paul Koski.

Mr. Brown and some others stepped in.

"We borrowed the sod cutter from the St. Ignace golf course and cut sections of sod, one to two feet wide," said Giz Brown. "After all the sod was cut, new sand and black dirt was placed

and the sod was replaced, giving St. Ignace one of the best fields in the area."

The James Brown Scholar-Athlete Award was established at LaSalle during the 1980-81 school year. Each year, one male and one female athlete receive this award

in Mr. Brown's name.

Mr. Brown was a tough and fierce competitor on the football gridiron, basketball hardwood, baseball diamond, and golf links, but just as much, his heart was dedicated to the St. Ignace Saints sports program.

Saints Girls 2nd at Chiefs Invite; Sarah Cullip Places First, Nicole Elmlblad Second



The Saints' Sarah Cullip (left) finished first and Nicole Elmlblad placed second at the Cheboygan Invitational.

By David Latva

The St. Ignace placed four girls in the top 10 and the Saints finished second behind the host Chiefs during the Cheboygan cross country invitational Tuesday, September 15. Sarah Cullip continued her early season strong effort with a first place finish, and

Nicole Elmlblad came in second.

Girls team scoring: Cheboygan tallied 39, followed by the Saints with 55, Mackinaw City 104, Cedarville 108, Inland Lakes 110, and Sault Ste. Marie 130.

St. Ignace: Sarah Cullip, 1st in 20:46; Nicole Elmlblad, 2nd in 21:38; Chelsea Swope, 7th in



Kristina Heilman was the top Mackinaw City runner in the girls division, with a sixth place finish.

23:39; Kristen Olsen, 10th in 24:23; Heather Beaudoin, 35th in 29:06; Lauren Goldthorpe, 38th in 29:39; Samantha Radecki, 40th in 29:51.

Mackinaw City: Kristina Heilman, 6th in 23:33; Hailee Paquet, 19th in 25:18; Courtney Wallis, 20th in 25:55; Tierney Bell, 23rd in 26:38; Hannah Morse, 36th



The start of the girls cross country meet at the Cheboygan Invitational Tuesday, September 15.

in 29:12; Taelar Steward, 42nd in 33:30.

Cedarville: Erin Currie, 5th in 23:11; Tara Smith, 18th in 25:15; Keely Gough, 24th in 26:42; Mary Eberts, 27th in 27:09; Janaan Meyers, 34th in 28:26.

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The Trojans' Erin Currie (left) placed fifth and Tara Smith 18th.

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