



Athletics at Hofstra and on Long Island:

An exhibit that highlights some fun facts, interesting historical items and photographs of teams and individuals in our sports history.

Root, root, root for the home team!

All materials from Hofstra University Archives and Long Island Studies.



Hofstra Pride: Athletics at Hofstra University





Women's basketball team, 1936, note the name on the bus: Hofstra College was associated with NYU until 1939.



Women's championship basketball team, 1939-40.

Helena Mroczkowska Dow, was not only an Olympic fencing champion, but she flew planes! A member of the class of 1940 she was involved in student government, but it was her fencing prowess that brought her to national attention. She was a member of a remarkable Olympic family; her husband fenced in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin and was captain of the 1948 US Olympic fencing team. Helena fenced in the 1948 Olympics in London and her son, Robert, fenced sabre in the 1972 Olympics in Munich. It is believed that they are the only “Mother-Father-Son” trio in any sport in US Olympic history.





The wrestling squad of 1945-46 went undefeated although they didn't organize as a team until two years later.

In the 1950's
Hofstra played
baseball games at
Ebbets Field
against St. John's.
The Dodgers left
town after the
1957 season and
the demolition of
the stadium
began in February
of 1960. This
photo from 1951.





The first time cheerleaders organized at Hofstra was in 1947, this squad from 1952 wears traditional saddle shoes and Hofstra sweaters.

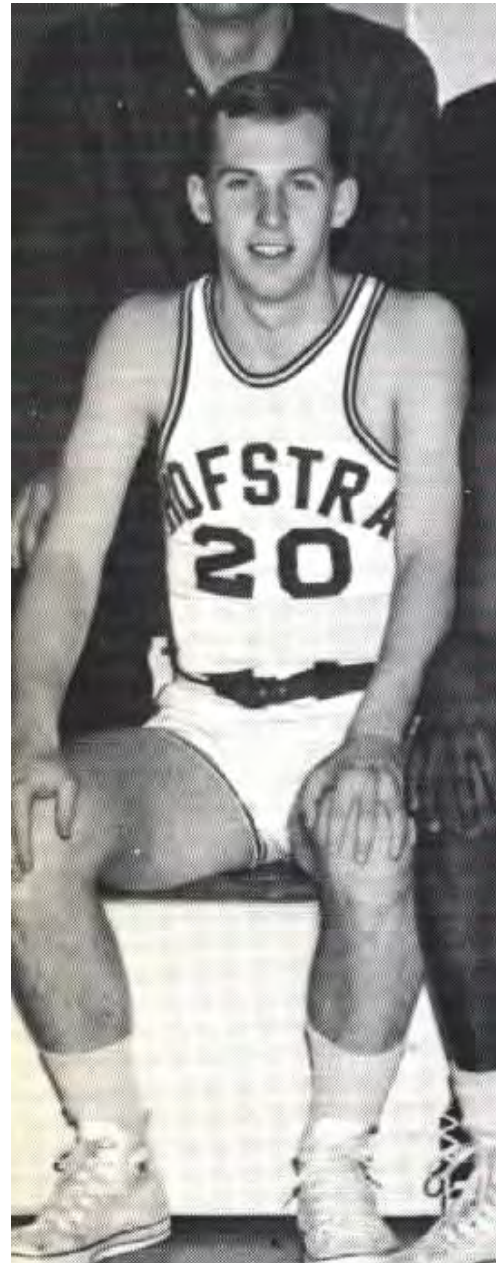


1950's lacrosse players with future Hofstra president James Shuart, at right.



Hofstra football team known as the "tiny twenty," in 1956. At one point in the season, injuries reduced their number to 13, which was two players above the minimum.

Stephen Dunn was born in Forest Hills, NY on June 24, 1939 and is a member of the class of 1962. Dunn earned his BA in History and English but was also a key player on the basketball team, which had a record of 25-1. Dunn went on to play professional basketball for the Williamsport Billies in Pennsylvania for one year and then worked as an advertising copywriter in New York City. Dunn is best known as a Pulitzer Prize winning poet!



William Shea was a trustee of Hofstra in the 60's. He often invited Hofstra members to come out to Shea Stadium which was named in his honor.



Continu Studios

William Alfred Shea

SHEA GALLOP CLIMENKO & GOULD

330 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

AREA CODE 212
NO 1-3200
CABLE ADDRESS
HOLMANO

WILLIAM A. SHEA
W. ROBERT GALLOP
JESSE CLIMENKO
MILTON S. GOULD
ALLAN KRAMER
BRUCE A. HECKER
JAMES J. A. GALLAGHER
BERNARD D. FISCHMAN
BERNARD J. RUGGIERI
MARTIN I. SHELTON
ALLAN J. PARKER
RALPH L. ELLIS
ROBERT J. RUBEN
GEORGE DE GENARO
IRVING JACOBSON
CLAYTON D. HOLLINGER
WILLIAM SCHURTMAN
SHELDON D. CAMY
SAMUEL W. INGRAM, JR.
FREDRIC J. KLING
JOHN J. McDERMOTT

March 25, 1969

Dr. Clifford Lord
President
Hofstra University
Hempstead, Long Island, New York

Dear Cliff:

April 3th - Opening Day again for the
Mets. Would like to invite you, or your pinch-
hitters, to join the annual ceremonies. We know
the Mets cant finish 9th again, but we can hope for
some improvement.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

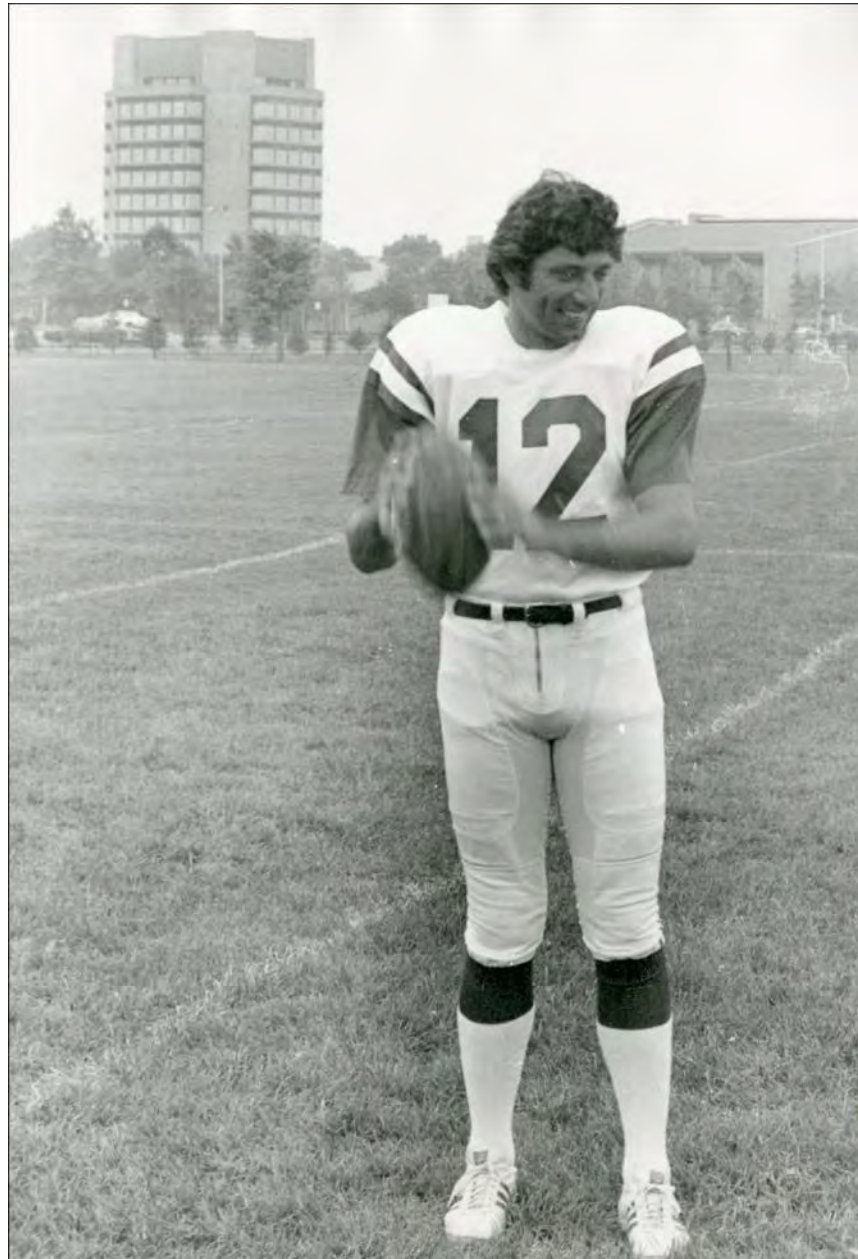
William A. Shea
William A. Shea

WAS:jec



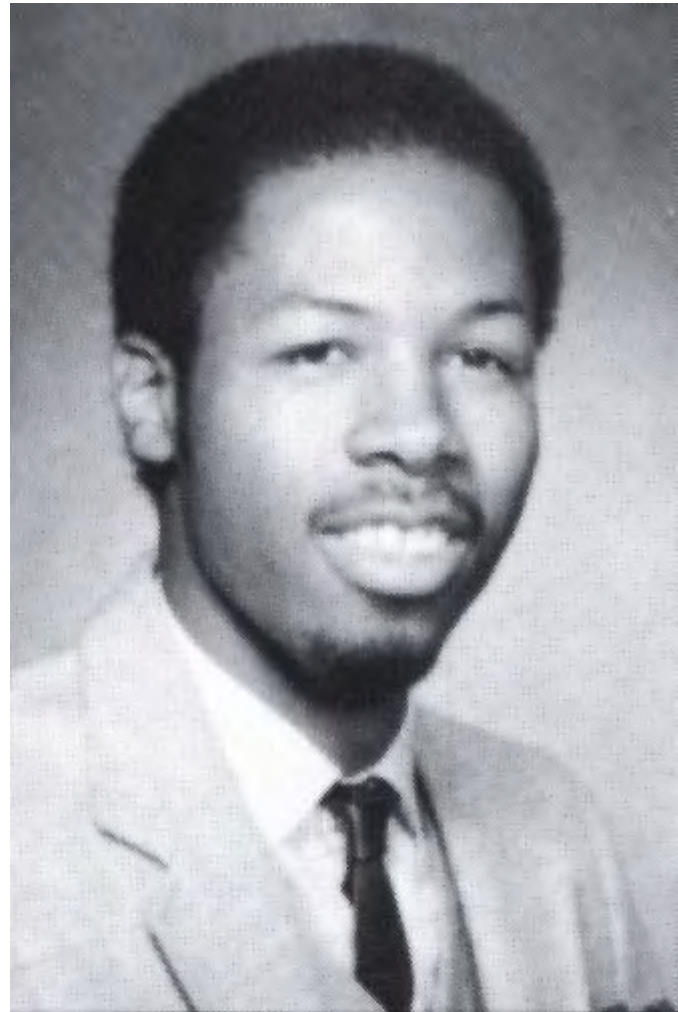
Photograph of
quarterback Joe
Namath of the NY Jets,
1968. Notice Axinn
Library in the
background.

Jets practiced on
campus from 1968-
2008. At that time they
left NY for MetLife
Stadium in NJ.



Willie Brown

Willie Brown came to Hofstra to play basketball and he had several notable attributes; he was born in Macon, Georgia, was six feet eight inches tall and he was an exceptional rebounder. In addition, he was a deaf athlete playing for a Division I team in the NCAA. Brown was named Deaf Athlete of the Year in 1984 as a high school student and held his school's record for points scored with 2,016. In 1985, as a Hofstra student he was the top shot blocker through the first nine games of the season. His experiences opened the doors for other deaf athletes.



Willem Hendrik
“Butch” van Breda
Kolff coached for
Hofstra University
from 1955 to 1962.
He also played in the
NBA for the NY
Knicks and coached
the Lakers, the
Pistons, the Phoenix
Suns and other pro
teams before going
to the Women’s
Basketball League
and then back to the
college level where
he finished out his
career at Hofstra in
1994.





Head piece of the Hofstra duck mascot
used in the 1980's.



Wayne Chrebet graduated in 1994. He began his pro career with the NY Jets that same year. Right, 1996 photo Wayne Chrebet ('95) receiving first Young Alumni Achievement Award.



Hofstra mascots, Kate and Willie Pride, with NY Governor George Pataki, 2005.

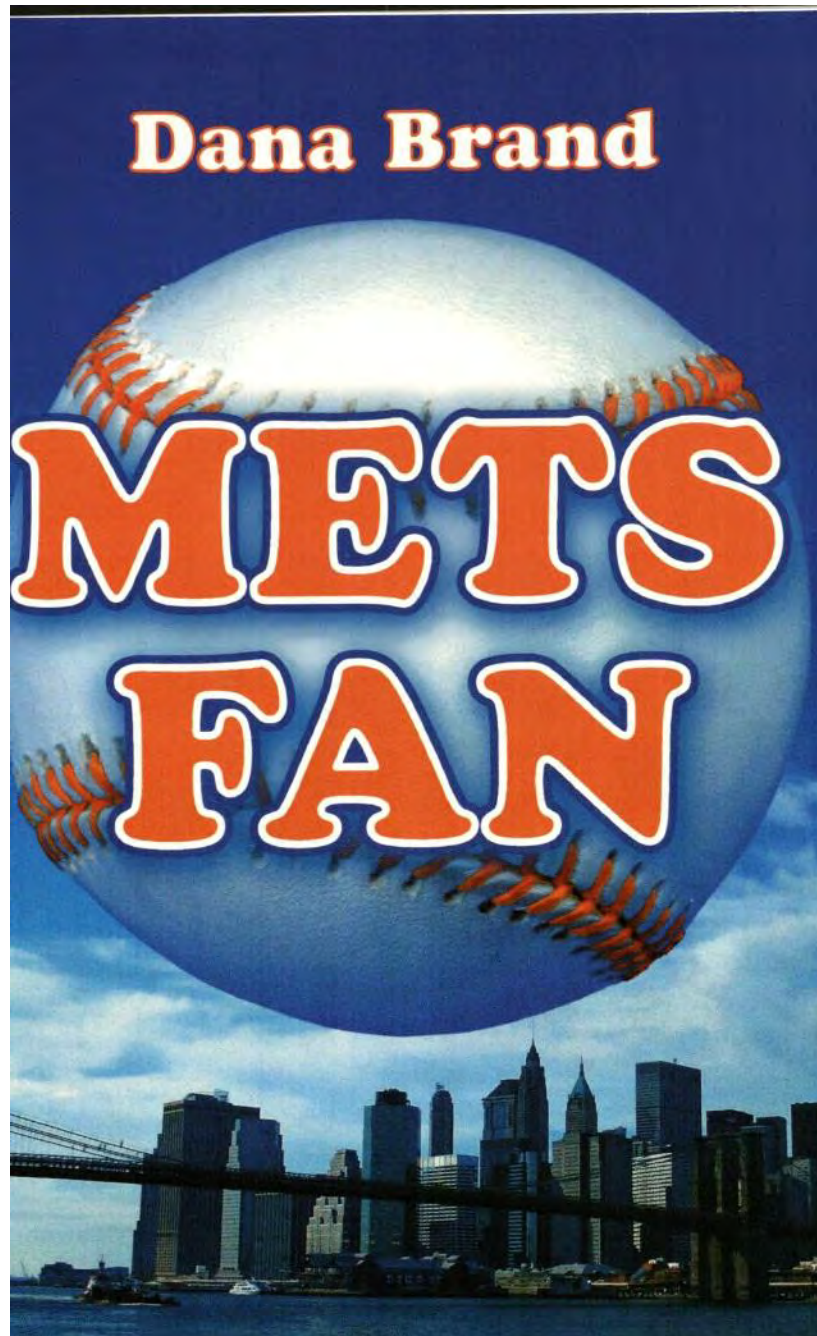


Mascots Kate and Willie Pride take their vows when Kate Middleton and Prince William were married in 2011.



First outdoor installation of astro-turf at Hofstra's stadium took place in 1968, this photo shows the resurfacing of the artificial field, 1970's. When Hofstra switched to Balsam Turf in 1988 it was the first outdoor collegiate stadium to do so.

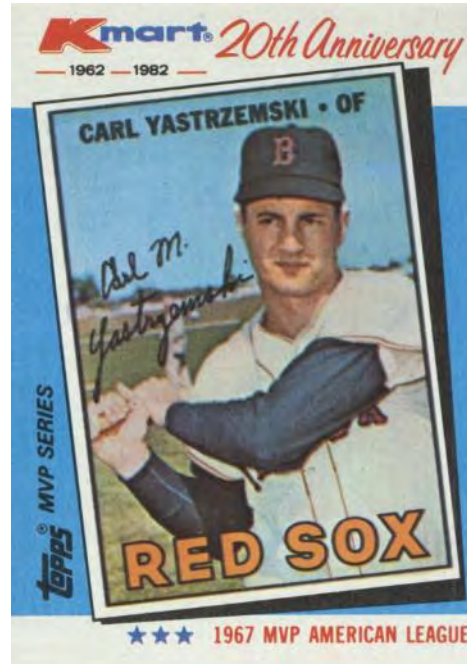
Book written by faculty member, Dana Brand. Brand had just finished his second book, an ode to Shea Stadium and arranged for a Mets conference at Hofstra when he died. The conference which was held in his memory, featured former players and scholars talking about the “love of the game.” As the chair of the English department, Brand was dubbed the “Proust of Mets bloggers,” by Michael Kimmelman of the *NY Times*.



Sports on Long Island



Born in East Meadow, NY



Born in Southampton, NY



Born in Kings Park, NY

Casey Stengel (seated left) who managed both the Mets and Yankees, eating dinner at Rothman's Restaurant in East Norwich, Long Island, 1962.



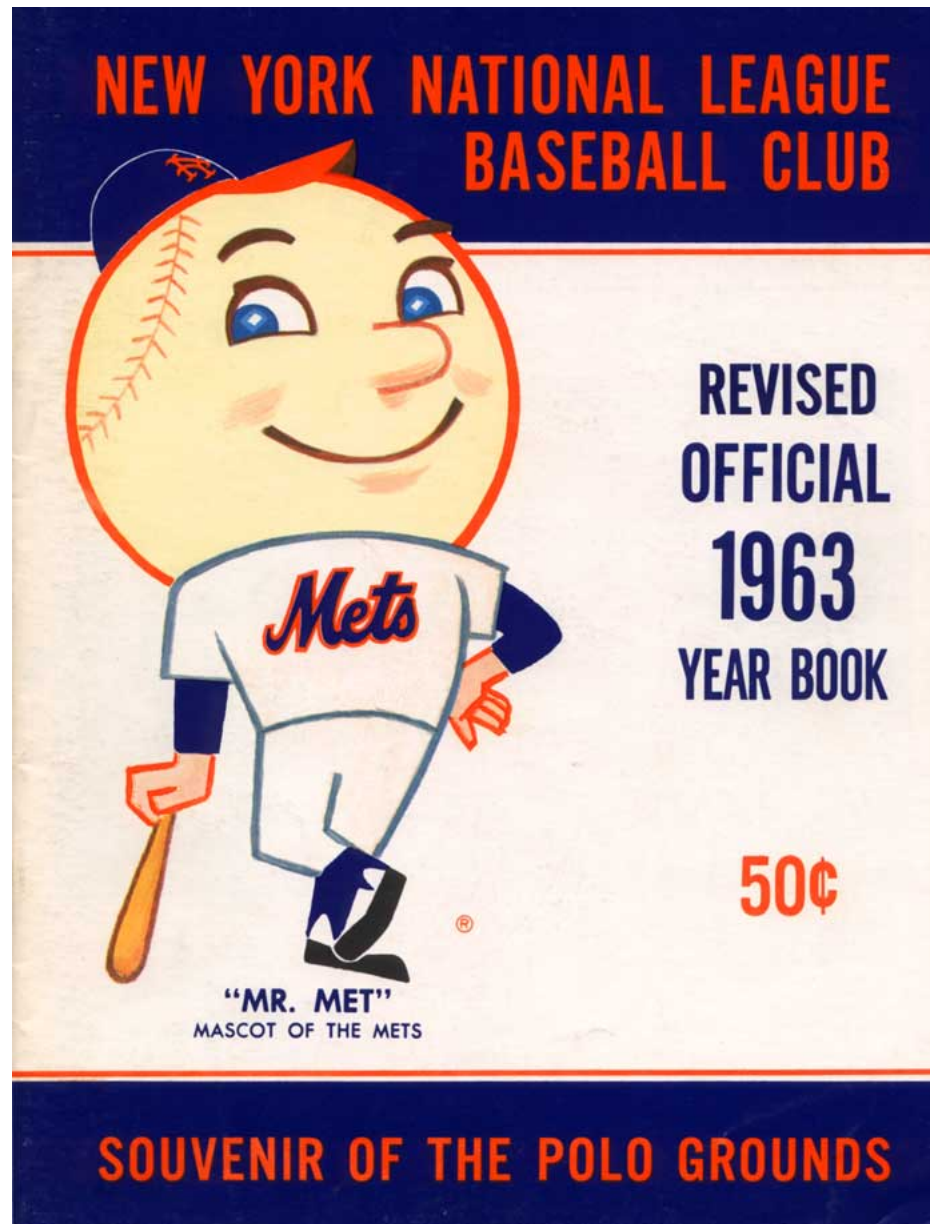
Roy Campanella, who played for the Brooklyn Dodgers and lived in Glen Cove was paralyzed in a car accident. He came to Hofstra to review improvements for wheelchair bound students in 1965. Clifford Lord, President of Hofstra and Bernard Fixler, trustee, look at plans behind Campanella.





Jackie Robinson (standing at podium,) who was the first African-American to play in major league baseball, speaking at an International Brotherhood event sponsored by the Long Island Women's Forum, 1966.

Included in the Long Island History of Sports Collection are such items as programs, tickets and memorabilia, including a 1969 NY Mets' mug and various bobble head dolls.



Keith Hernandez
bobble head doll
given out to fans in
2012.

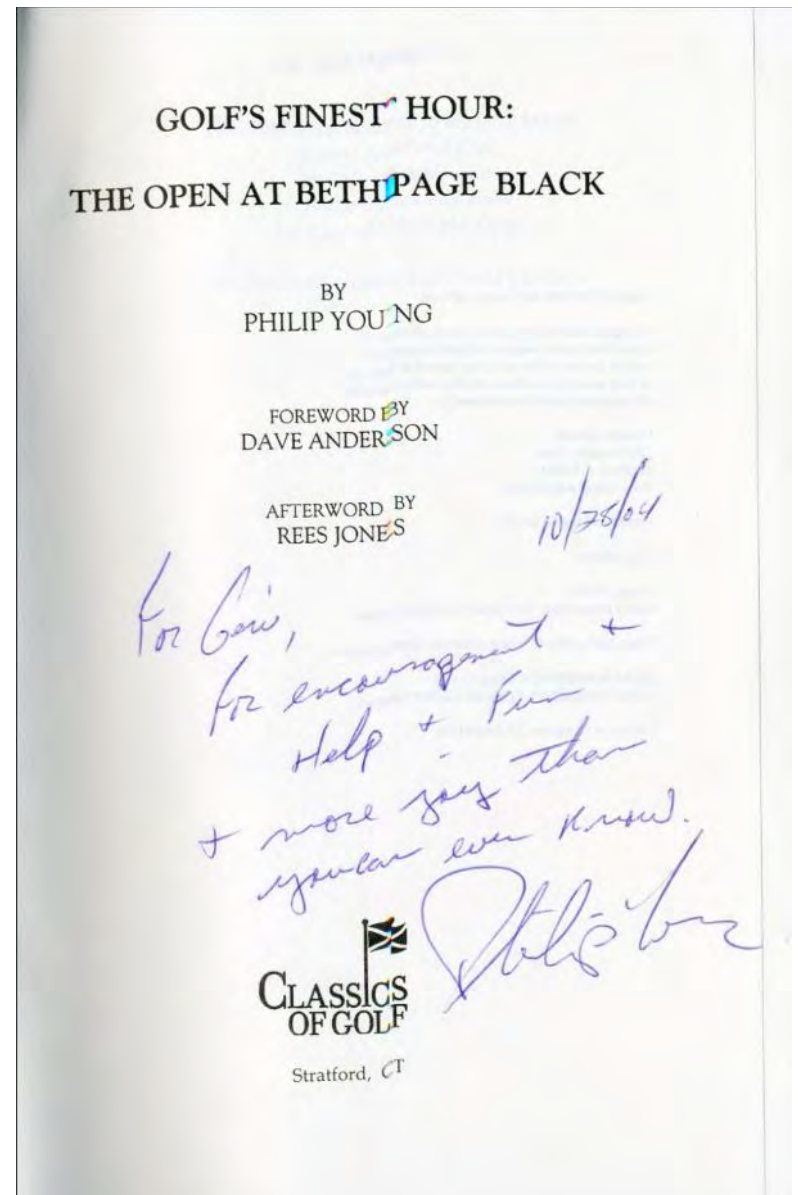
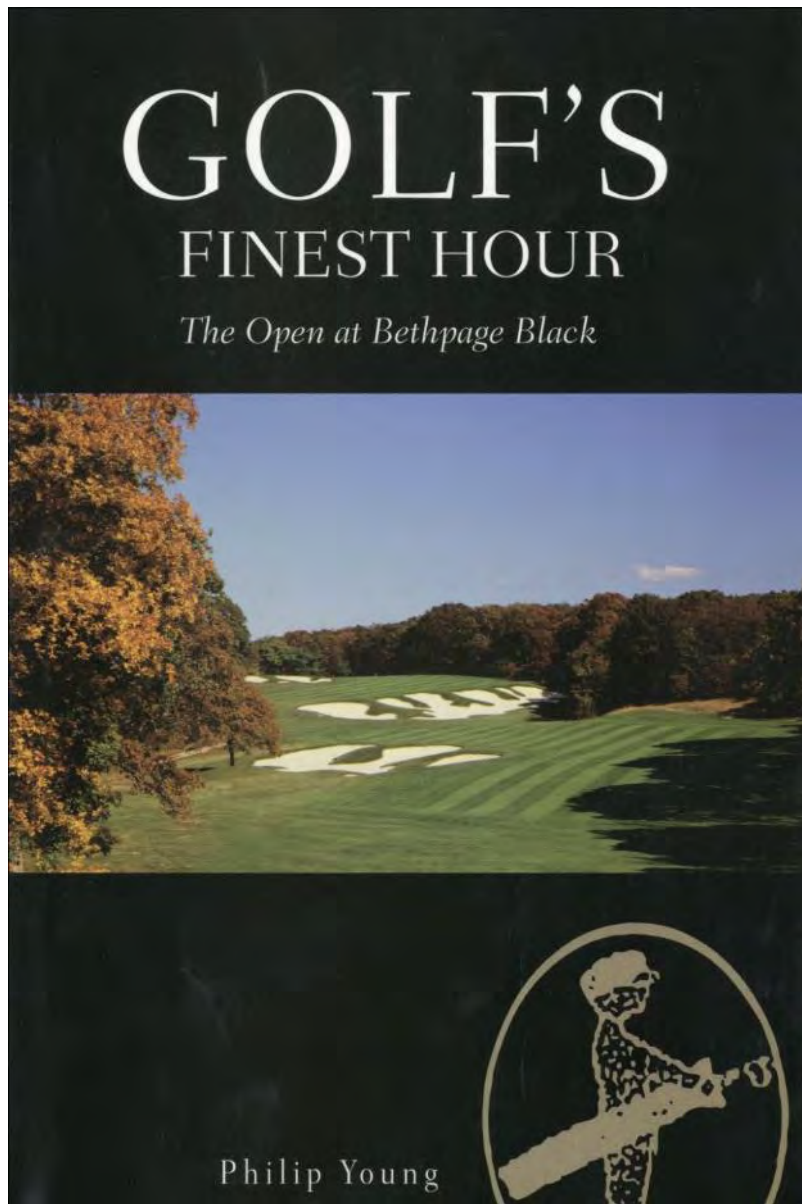




Special Collections maintains an extensive Long Island photograph collection, many taken by local photographer, Robert L. Harrison. Photo of Citifield at night, 2011.

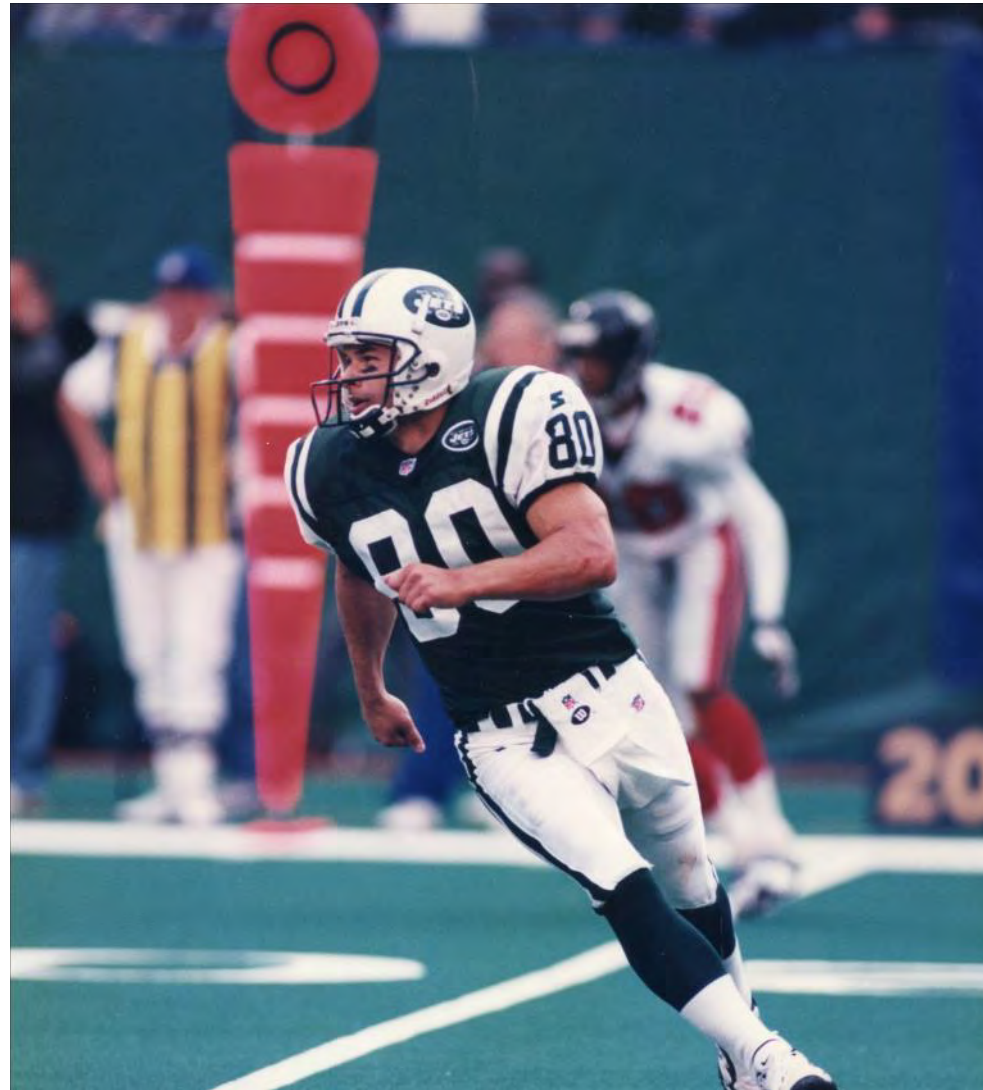


President Gerald Ford (center), Frank Zarb (right), Zarb's son (left), photo 1973.

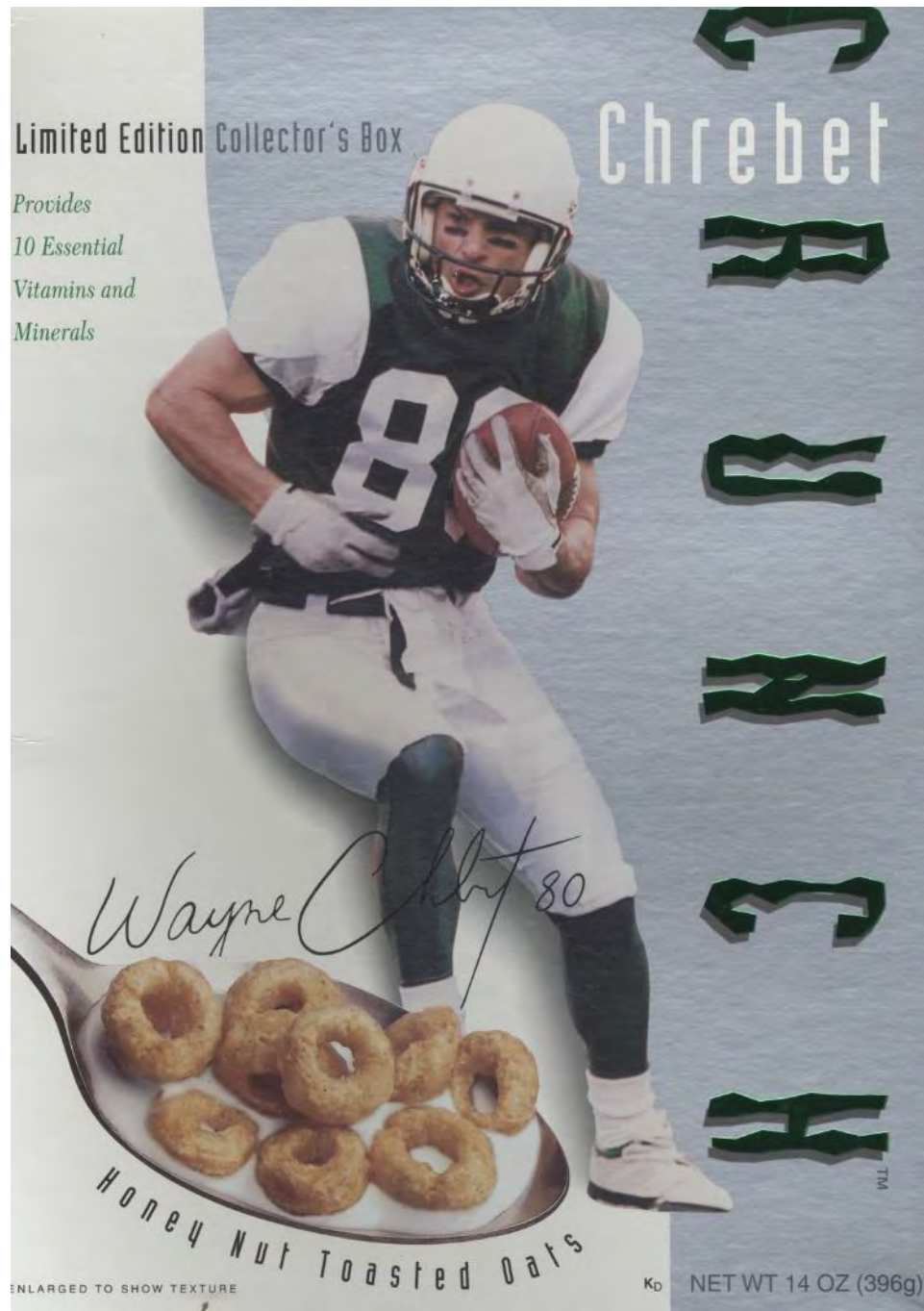


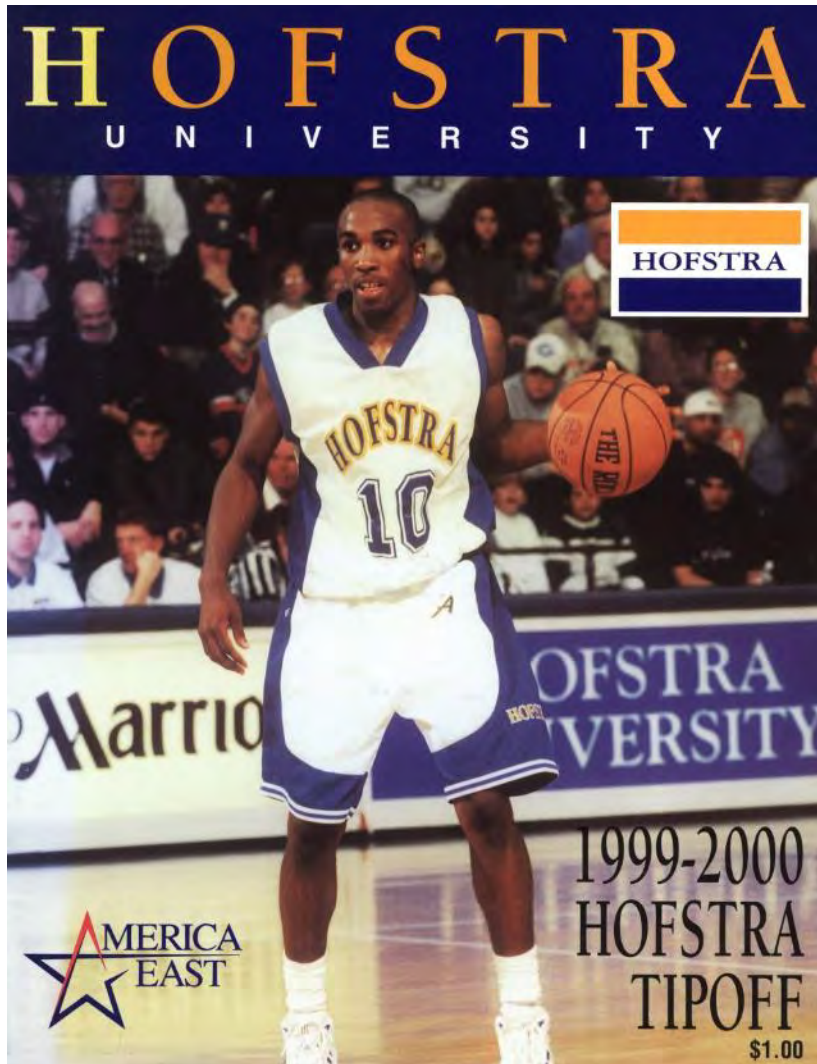
Book jacket and inscription by author Philip Young. Young spent many hours doing research at Hofstra's Long Island Studies Institute.

In his first two seasons with the NY Jets, Wayne Chrebet had 150 receptions, which set an NFL mark. By the time he retired in 2006 he had 580 receptions for 7,365 yards and 41 touchdowns. His receptions rank him #2 in NY Jets history behind Hall of Famer Don Maynard. His number "80" jersey is one of the most popular in the history of the Jets.



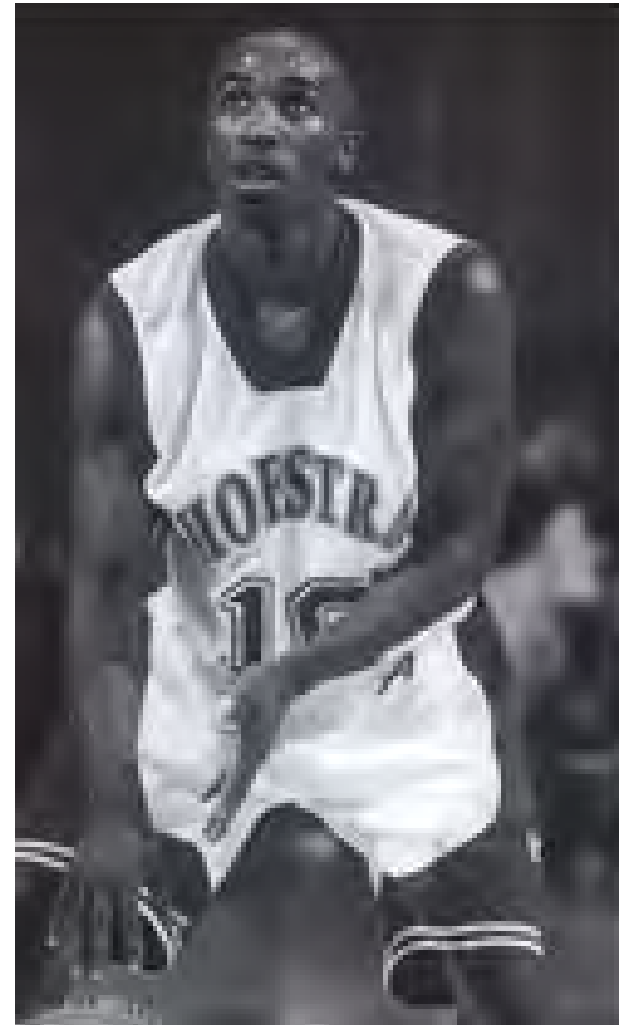
Wayne Chrebet cereal box (without contents) is part of the Hofstra Athletics Collection.





Claxton was hired as a special assistant to Hofstra's basketball coach, Joe Mihalich in 2013.

Craig "Speedy" Claxton, who graduated from Hofstra in 2000, went on to play in the NBA.





Charles Jenkins, graduated from Hofstra in 2011 and then played in the NBA.



In this photo from 1958, Pete Bostwick (a noted sportsman) plays polo at the Meadow Brook Polo Club in Westbury. This item is from the Bert Morgan Negative Collection.

SEVEN EAST SEVENTY-THIRD STREET

RECEIVED
NOV 8 1904

Dear Mr Belmont,

I cannot let the occasion pass without thanking you again for the great pleasure you gave me in this surprising and agreeable trip through the Subway in your special car.

Letter from Joseph Pulitzer to August Belmont (the Belmont stakes is named in his honor) thanking him for a trip on his private subway car, *Mineola* in 1904.

No one who has only heard of the Subway, or has only seen other subways, can imagine the reality of this one. It is a wonderful achievement, in its general scope, as well as in all the elaborately worked out details. I congratulate you

upon having inseparably associated your name with one of the most splendid single events in the history of the City.

With High Regards

Sincerely yours

Joseph Pulitzer



Models at Belmont Park
show off the latest
fashions of the 1940's.



Alicia Patterson with Harry Guggenheim (to her left) at Belmont, 1960. Patterson was a Hofstra Trustee and was instrumental in the University receiving over 110 acres of property from the defunct Mitchel Field Air Base. Guggenheim was also a founder of the New York Racing Association.



Secretariat at Belmont, 1973 before the Belmont Stakes.

Trophies, Cups and Titles: Sports on Long Island

In 2004 to celebrate the wonderful heritage of sports on Long Island, the Special Collections curated an exhibition entitled, "Trophies, Cups and Titles." One of the outstanding features of the exhibit was the Belmont trophy which was borrowed for the duration of the exhibit and which was insured for \$1 million.



HOFSTRA MUSEUM
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Boot signed by
jockey Jerry Bailey
for 2004 exhibition.





Backstretch worker at Belmont racetrack. In 2012, Hofstra Special Collections created an exhibit featuring backstretch worker art.



Photographs of the artwork from the 2012 exhibition are a collection in the Long Island Studies Institute.

There is an abundance of sports related materials in Hofstra's Special Collections. But to paraphrase the immortal words of Yogi Berra, "It's not over till it's over," ... and this exhibit is over!



Yogi Berra, catcher for the NY Yankees and manager for the NY Mets for a decade.