



# The Buccaneer Beacon

A publication of the Mission Bay High School Football Booster Club — Volume 1, Number 1, April 2004

## Helping the MBHS athletics program/Scholarships

By Darrell Bruneau

Little has been done to modernize the sports facility at Mission Bay High School since 1953. From the playing field to the press box it's down right dangerous. We've all heard about the school budgets, cut backs, etc. Most do not realize this includes the landscapers who used to keep our fields in playable condition. Today this is maintained mainly by Dennis Pugh, our athletic director and a hand full of volunteers. I have seen Dennis out there on his day off trimming trees, pulling weeds, picking up trash and taking care of the fields.

Mission Bay High School has been passed over year after year when dollars were being doled out to the other school to modernize their sports facilities. This year was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MBHS and we had to rent grand stands for the visitor's side for the Home Coming/Anniversary celebration. Something's wrong with that picture when you compare us to the other high schools in San Diego.

### Semi-Centennial Fundraiser

The Booster Club of 2004 has taken on a mission to raise funds through public donations



College-bound Mission Bay athletes—they deserve better

to modernize our sport facility. This is truly a semi-centennial fundraising effort and the first of this magnitude at MBHS. Our volunteers have made great progress so far. Since January our volunteers have donated over two hundred hours of time toward this end. One major accomplishment is the salvaging of bleachers from Lincoln High School. This effort alone has saved an estimated \$60,000 toward the cost of getting bleachers for the visitor's side of the field. We have also made great progress in the area of pledges toward the new press box. With a total cost estimated at \$168,000 we have pledges of time and money equivalent to \$125,000 just since mid January.

We are asking the alumni to

help us achieve a portion of our goal. We are kicking off a major campaign "By the Foot or By the Yard" to cover the costs of the new sports turf playing surface for our field. We are asking you to purchase a yard of "Sports Turf". This tax deductible donation is \$135 per yard or \$15 per foot. We understand that there are those who cannot afford this and would hope those of you who can afford more will do so. If we average the purchase of one yard from everyone on our list of alumni, we will have the funds needed to install the new playing surface this year.

You are not alone. The cost of the Sports Turf Playing Surface makes up about half of our

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## ... Helping the MBHS Athletics Program

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overall goal. We have a long list of improvements we are working on to bring our facility up to the same standards enjoyed by the other schools in the San Diego district. We are aggressively seeking other avenues of donations to complete this goal. Our campaign includes charitable foundations, large & small corporate donations, various fundraising events and other personal donations of time and materials. We are scheduling meetings with every governmental agency from Pacific Beach Town Council to our Senator Dede Alpert. We are working closely with the San Diego School District from teachers and students at the school to our school board members. We are leaving no stone unturned until we achieve our goal.

If you are still reading this you're probably asking what does this have to do with "scholarships" as referenced in the heading above. When you consider what we are asking of you that equates to about half of the value received in scholarships in just this last season. We had sixteen seniors on our football team and twelve of those received college football scholarships. There are still one or two others being considered and there have been many others over the years.

Assuming similar success in the future you can see the exponential value of your donation for years to come. There is no question the football players scholarship success is due in large part to the coaching staff Dennis Pugh has put together over the last few years.

In the last nine years we've held

three CIF championship titles, were runner up one year and made it to the semifinals and quarter finals in three other years; we've been Western League Champs seven times. All of these titles aside college scholarships may be the ultimate way to judge the success of any sports program.

Most of these coach's receive a small stipend or work as volunteers. Upgrading/modernizing to a safe and adequate, sports facility would certainly help Coach Pugh to retain and continue to attract dedicated and talented coaches to serve our kids.

## Disabled Access Is Shameful!!!

At this point the term "Disabled Access" is an oxymoron. This is one area of improvement that is simply embarrassing.

I can tell you that right now we provide ten wheelchair spaces. I should also tell you that if each space had been used every game last year none of them would have seen a single play. The wheelchair seating is located at ground level behind where the 5'8" to 6'3" players stand along the side lines. It's not possible to watch the game!

With the improvements as planned there will be excellent viewing for all who use a wheelchair and their friends who sit with them.

There will be space for seating the length of the bleachers. We are proud to say this will be the best disabled access in the county when completed.

## The New Sports Facility Vision

By Darrell Bruneau

These sports facility improvements will go way beyond just the football team. This facility is and will be used by the school for all related sports and programs. The field is used by the soccer and track teams as well as the physical education classes, graduation and other public use that has previously been restricted.

Although we are the "Football Boosters" we are also excited with the other benefits this new facility will bring to the high school.

We will need help and volunteers to serve in the snack bar and clean up after the games. These jobs will go to all of the clubs at the school who care to participate.

The clubs who volunteer will be able to share in the revenue generated by the snack bar. These shared funds will go to help the other clubs at the school.

The visitors side restroom will also serve the baseball field currently being serviced by a small temporary portable.

The club houses will also be used by the soccer and baseball teams. These club houses will provide room for badly needed lockers.

This is a lot of money and a lot of long over due improvements but the benefits go way beyond just the football team.

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Design and layout by Joanne Romer, Graphic Communications Technology, Mission Bay High School. Gary Miller, Teacher

## After 50 Years . . . It's Time for a Change

**By Tom Yount, Principal**

Mission Bay High School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October, 2003. The campus was a bustling place filled with alumni, as well as friends and family of alumni from as far back as 1957. Many came to the dedication of the new library on the same weekend.

A common theme that was heard over and over again was how much the school either had or had not changed over the decades. For sure, the paint was new, the library was new, and for some even the auditorium was new. Sadly, for all of them, one thing that had not changed were most of the athletic facilities. Especially football. The field, and bleachers are as they appeared when the school opened in 1953. The track is the same sand and decomposed granite that came in a half century ago. Sure, it has been maintained over the years, but not upgraded.

Recent budget cutbacks have hastened the decline in the facilities. The district has cut back heavily in the Landscape and Maintenance Department. The field is not being tended as it should be and as a result the turf is hard and uneven. The center of the playing surface is dished and collects rain and irrigation water. There is hardly a patch of turf that is smooth and level. The result is a playing surface that is dangerous for our kids to play on. In the 2004 – '05 school year Mission Bay will only play three games at home. Teams don't want to risk injury playing on such a poor quality field.

The press box, a later addition dating from about 1975, is in a

state of disrepair to the point that it is no longer safe to occupy. We have no lights and the snack bar consists of a converted shipping container.

Other schools in the district have been the recipients of facility upgrades that Mission Bay has not. Some schools feature lights, artificial turf and tracks as well as quality pressbox and snackbar facilities. Unfortunately, Mission Bay has been largely ignored in all areas of improvement.

In an ironic twist, Mission Bay has for the past several years, before the cuts, has been the one school in the district that had fielded a consistently successful football program. Coach Dennis Pugh was named as the California Coaches Association's Coach of the Year. Yet the facilities are dismal.

We look forward with hope and anticipation to community wide support in efforts to improve Mission Bay High School's athletic facilities.

Go-Bucs!



## The Coach's Corner

**By Dennis Pugh – Athletic Director/Head Football Coach**

We've come to a time where it has become necessary to ask help from all of our alumni, community and supporters to help make our facilities comparable to other programs throughout the County. Let's face it.... Our football facility is horrible. No one wants to play here. We lose valuable revenue each year because we can't play at night. Bottom line is we need to make our facility one that can be appropriate to the quality teams we've had the last ten years. It will also help keep what I consider an outstanding coaching staff together as it tries to build a program that can be competitive each and every year and compete for CIF Championships at the Division 3 Level.

The plan is in place to make our facility on par with the best. We need your help to support this plan. I can promise you this.... With the new facility we'll have a program in which all can be proud to wear the Black and Gold. Recently we witnessed the signing of 12 Football Scholarships by this year's team and a new facility will only help us to continue in the future.

I thank you for your past support and I hope you can help us with this drive towards further excellence.



# Snack Bar & Lights

These two amenities can mean a lot to a school sports program. With the lights in we will be able to play night games. Instead of having crowds of 100 at an average game we would draw closer to 1,000. Parents who have day jobs would actually be able to watch their kids play.

The snack bar serving refreshments would have ten times the income. This revenue is especially important with the school budgets being what they are (slim to none).

The cost to suit up a player runs an average of \$400 per player. Uniforms, training equipment, etc. are all very expensive to replace and maintain.

With new lights installed and

a snack bar the future revenue would be able to keep up with the needs where the school budgets have dropped off.

Our investment in the snack bar would pay for itself in the first season alone.

An investment like this is an important step in the continued success of our sports program.

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# Donation Information

## 100% of your cash donations are tax deductible!

## 100% of those donations go directly to the costs!

This is an all volunteer Booster Club and they have the expertise and commitment to see this project all the way through. Please help restore dignity and continued success to the Mission Bay High School sports facility. We hope you will give generously as this is a "One Time Fundraising Effort." Along with your check please complete the form below for your donation receipt.

MBHS Football Booster Club is a dba of Mission Bay High School Community Foundation which is a not-for-profit corporation in good standing with the state of California. To make your tax-deductible donations, please make your check payable to:

### **"MBHS Community Foundation"**

Mailing Address:

**Mission Bay High School Football Booster Club,**  
3645 Ruffin Road, Suite 330  
San Diego, CA 92123

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