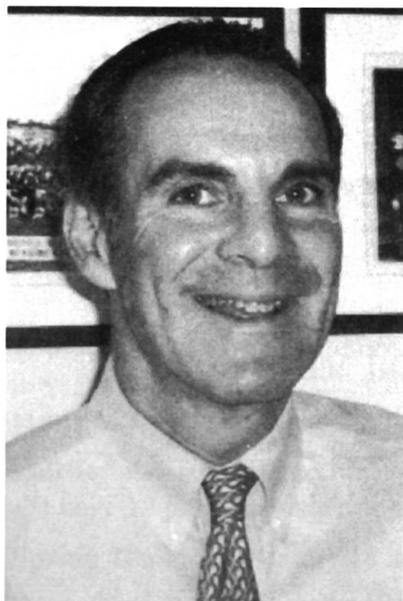


Port Washington Youth Activities

PYA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

JIM BESLITY



In June, 1965, Jim's family moved from Glen Cove to Port Washington. As a 7th grader that winter at Sousa Junior High School, Jim started his PYA career in basketball and learned not to "score out" of a game by reaching 20 points (not a problem for Jim, for he was hardly Michael Jordan, but always one for friend and fellow PYA Hall-of-Famer, Mike Griffin)! That spring, Jim helped Brower's Movers to the PYA baseball championship as a pitcher and first baseman, and also made the All-Star team and played in the Little League tournament.

In 1966, Jim pursued his favorite passion by joining the Port Washington Tigers football team, playing with the likes of John O'Leary and coached by Harvey Cohen. The next year, Jim joined Bob Stuart's Pop Warner team, which finished undefeated, scoring 316 points and allowing only 28 in nine games. One of Jim's best friends to this day, Eddie Graf, was a star halfback on this team. Jim was named Most Outstanding Lineman in the league and was a member of the All-Star team.

At Schreiber High School, Jim acquired the nickname, "The Beast," playing linebacker in football and defense in lacrosse and winning four varsity letters. Under Head Coach Dan Biro, the football team was 14-1 in games that Jim played in, losing only to Mineola by two points in 1970. He led the team in tackles both years, and intercepted two passes in his final game for Port. As a senior, Jim was co-captain of the football team and the recipient of the Coaches' Award. He also received All-Division and All-North Shore Gridiron "44" honors.

Jim played varsity lacrosse and freshman football at Harvard College. He graduated cum laude in 1975, and taught and coached at Friends Academy in Locust Valley in 1976. Jim graduated from Boston University School of Law in 1979, and started his legal career as an attorney in the Civil Division of the Legal Aid Society in New York City. Since 1982, he has worked as an attorney for Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, in positions of increasing responsibility. Currently, Jim is Senior Counsel, Head of Global Privacy and Records Management, and based in Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

In 2004, Jim was inducted into the Schreiber High School Athletic Hall of Fame, along with his friend and high school teammate, Jim Cosolito.

Jim lives in Princeton, New Jersey, with his wife of 23 years, Sandy, who is a homemaker and real estate salesperson. Sandy and Jim have three children: James (17), a junior and three-year member of Princeton High School's varsity swimming team, Justin (12) and Joslen (6). Jim coaches Justin's club lacrosse team, and Joslen's house soccer league team. He is looking forward to coaching Justin's Pop Warner team this fall, and perhaps starting a new Beslity tradition in football. Jim still has ties to Port, as his mom, Helen, continues to work at the Port Washington Public Library, where she has been employed since 1966. In sum, Jim is very grateful that his parents chose to move to Port 41 years ago, so that he could participate in the wonderful sports programs offered by PYA!