



# THE CHSAAP CENTRALITE

## Newsletter

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Class of 1968

Date: December 2016

Issue: 002

### ***CENTRAL KNIGHTS APPEAR IN STATE DIV. 1 SUPER BOWL.....***

The 2016 Central Knights football team appeared in the R.I. Interscholastic League Div. 1 Super Bowl game vs. the Portsmouth H.S. Patriots on Sunday December 4th at Cranston Stadium.

Division 1 in the RIIL this year was separated between 'A' and 'B' sectors, with the semi final losers meeting in the Div. 1 Super Bowl and the winners advancing to the overall State Championship. After defeating South Kingstown, 22-14 in a quarterfinal playoff, Central lost a 'semi final' game vs. La Salle from the 'A' sector, but then advanced to the Division 1 Super Bowl vs. Portsmouth which had lost to Bishop Hendricken ('A') in the other semi final. Hendricken toppled La Salle for the overall State Championship.

### ***EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE A MOVIE SCRIPT, A CENTRAL FOOTBALL CAPTAIN ACTUALLY MARRIED THE CAPTAIN OF THE CENTRAL CHEERLEADERS.....***

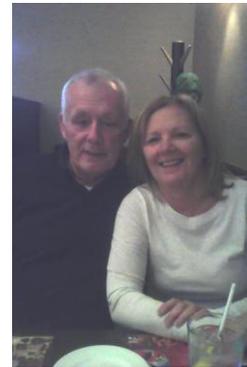


***PAUL AND JAYNE O'BRIEN. THEN AND NOW!***

And it all began with the Central Class of 1969. Paul O'Brien played guard for the Central Knights football team that topped the Cumberland H.S. Clippers for the State Class B title, 20-7 back in 1966. It was a rough game and Paul remembers that a few members of the Cumberland team had to go to the hospital!

Despite excellent performances by Central quarterback Malik Monteiro, receiver Demetrius O'Connor, and running back Prince Mallay, head Coach Peter Rios and his Knights had a difficult time in containing Portsmouth's all-purpose backfield star Sean Coyne who ran for 248 yards and scored four touchdowns. Due mostly to Coyne's heroics, the Patriots took the contest by a 51-28 score.

However: congratulations to this year's Central football team for making it as far as they did especially as a new member of the very tough RIIL Division 1. We're expecting even greater things next year!



The fine Central teams of 1966 to 1968 included Art Fiore at center, John Iozzi at quarterback, running backs Jimmy Nelson, and Leon Benton, wide receiver Phil Clinton, kicker Bill Gerring (whose family had moved to Rhode Island from England), defensive backs Bobby Miles and Jimmy Braxton, tackles Joe Tavares and Leon Cayce, guards Frankie Chiello, Sheron Reed, Tommy

Howarth and, of course, Paul O'Brien. The head coach of that era was Tom Caito, whose staff included Dick Zotti, Ray Gemma, who also coached Central baseball, and Jimmy Adams, who also coached Central basketball and had played pro football for the Providence Steamrollers in the early 60's.

Jayne Scungio was the captain of the Central cheerleaders. Her cheerleading crew included Tony Marie Harris, Cheryl Fisher, Wanda Gomes, Patricia Baker, Sharon Holvey, Margaret Delage and several other lively members.

A sad event led to the first extended amount of time that Jayne spent in the company of Paul O'Brien. Central football player Leon Benton had passed away suddenly at the age of 17, shocking the entire school and local community. Paul and the other players were headed to the funeral and Jayne also wanted to go. Paul gave her a ride to the funeral and afterward they headed to the old Pullman Pancake House on Broad Street for a bite to eat.

Paul and Jayne's unusual 'first date' led to many more

and they were married in 1971. They both have great memories of their years at Central including those of the faculty in those days.

Jayne remembers French teacher Mrs. Proper, who 'properly' preferred to be greeted in French and Miss Rose Fogarty, who was an exacting math teacher. Paul has memories of Mr. 'Tony' Carmone, a very demonstrative social studies teacher who gave exciting renditions of historical facts. He also remembered school counselor Mr. Ralph Campagnone, athletic director Mr. Wesley Webb, who would talk sports anytime and Mr. Charles Hewitt, a thoroughly dedicated English teacher.

Paul loved the study of electronics and made it his career. Jayne went on to nursing and is currently a nurse at the Hasbro Children's Hospital. It's an All-American story of the football player marrying the cheerleader! And it all happened with Central grads Paul and Jayne O'Brien back in '71. Paul and Jayne are now the newest members of the CHSAAP! They are Charter Members # 87 and #88!!

### ***CHSAAP GALA FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND SET FOR MAY 6TH!.....***

At the CHSAAP December meeting, Gala Committee Chair Debbie Cockfield reported that exciting plans for the Annual Gala for the CHSAAP Scholarship Fund are coming together! The event will be held on Saturday night May 6th at the Imperial Room of the R.I. Shriners, located at One Rhodes Place in Cranston off Broad Street.

Menu items for the sit down dinner will be selected soon, D.J. Brad Pierce, will provide the entertainment and notable

### ***CONGRATS TO ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JONATHON MENDELSON!.....***

Back on December 21st, the Rhode Island Association of Secondary Principals named Central's assistant principal Jonathon Mendelsohn the Rhode Island Assistant Principal of the Year! Jonathon's dedication and hard work in making Central a greater place is most appreciated by Principal Julia Carlson and the Central student body. Congratulations to Jonathon Mendelsohn from the CHSAAP membership!

Central alumni guest speakers will be featured.

The Gala will be a great opportunity to meet with Central grads from past classes and to contribute to 'now and future' Central students planning to attend college. The Central Class of 2016 had more students planning to go to college than any class in the school's history! More details on the Gala in our next Centralite Newsletter.

And speaking of the CHSAAP membership, thanks so much to those who have made their financial contributions to the CHSAAP's 1st Annual Scholarship Fund Appeal! Please review your Scholarship Fund Appeal letter. If you haven't already done so, make a contribution and Happy New Year to all from the CHSAAP!

***SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY MAY 6, 2017.***

***OUR FIRST ANNUAL CHSAAP SCHOLARSHIP GALA AT THE SHRINERS AT RHODES***

***CONSIDER RESERVING A TABLE OF 10 OR MORE FOR YOUR CLASSMATES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS. LET'S MAKE THIS A HUGE SUCCESS!!***

