

Wolfan, W. B.

EXECUTIVE

4

PP2
PP13

November 25, 1975

Dear Bill:

I'm sorry that my terrific schedule has prevented my writing to acknowledge your last letter with which you enclosed your feature on Island Park. I hope you will understand.

Your feature is certainly most flattering to me--and naturally I like it very much! I'm glad the UPI has shown an interest in the story and hope you will submit it.

As you know, I share your great feeling of affection and gratefulness to Mart, Van Wingen, Cliff Gettings, Pop Churm and the others. I treasure the memories of those good old days.

Thank you again and very warmest personal regards.

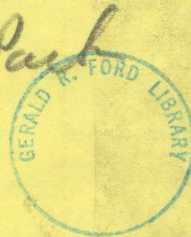
Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Mr. W. B. Wolfan
Chicago Transit Authority
Room 734
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, Illinois 60654

GRF:ml

60 Re. Feature article on Island Park
and The good old days



CENTRAL FILES

85
Oct. 20

ML
Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

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I was very happy to receive your acknowledgment of receipt of the quarterly magazine with the Soldier Field story.

I have just completed and am enclosing a copy of the Island Park feature, based upon personal recollections and those of Dick Zylstra. I hope to have a picture of you and Dick from his album and I do have one of my own from your Michigan career. The University of Michigan Club of Chicago furnished an excerpt from the Michigan Alumnus, 1932, which I have inserted in the story and I also am quoting from a letter I received from George Halas.

I have received a feeler from UPI, the wire service, for the story, and if you like it I will submit it for national publication.

I feel that the growing up days in Grand Rapids were so important that they should never be forgotten because of the great benefits from sports. I know what athletics did for me. I always wrote as I felt and my feelings were and still are that everything we learned from Mart Van Wingen, Cliff Gettings, P.L. Pop Churm and the others were the right ideals. I always tried to convey this in my sports articles on football, basketball track and the other sports. And men like Paul Goebel, instrumental in my own life, deserve everything a person can say about them as human beings with a genuine interest in mankind.

Sincerely

W.B. Wolfan
W.B. Wolfan

Public Affairs
Chicago Transit Authority
Room 734
Merchandise Mart
Chicago, Ill. 60654



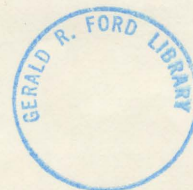
ISLAND PARK

— — — The White House Remembers

By W. B. Wolfan



(Bill Wolfan has known President Ford for many years. He is a native of Grand Rapids and on one occasion played against Ford in a junior league basketball game. Wolfan reported some of Ford's high school games when he joined the Grand Rapids Herald as a 17-year old stringer correspondent. He later became assistant sports editor of the newspaper and after World War II was with CBS Radio News, Chicago for 20 years.)



"I can never forget Island Park, and like you, I doubt very much that I ever will"--letter from President Ford, Jan. 1975)

By W.B. Wolfan

When President Gerald Ford was 15 years old, he played a lot of football at a place called Island Park.

Its memories have a very special meaning for the man in the White House because to Ford, Island Park represents another time and place when football was king and life's principal worry was South high school's upcoming game on Saturday afternoon.

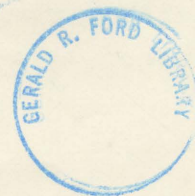
In the 1920s, Island Park in Grand Rapids was a very primitive football field situated on the banks of the Grand River which flows through the heart of the downtown section of the city where Ford grew to manhood.

The field was a groundskeeper's nightmare. There were no drainage facilities. When it rained, the water lingered in the form of mud puddles and the rain would saturate the playing field in a matter of moments. The deep mud obliterated the yard lines, and player jersey numbers were undistinguishable. The roof of the grandstand leaked, and rickety wooden bleacher seats were an ever present menace to spectators.

Some of ~~2000~~ Jerry Ford's greatest moments in football took place at Island Park, including one high school game between South and Davis Technical on Sept. 29, 1929.

A torrential downpour just before game time had turned the gridiron into quagmire. Only a bare handful of fans were on hand, risking pneumonia to witness the contest.

Modern pressboxes were yet to come. It was football in the rough, not only for the athletes, but for a junior sports writer barely a year older than the young men playing on the muddy terrain.



Page 3

An unforgettable sight was that of a mud bespattered Jerry Ford bringing down an opponent with a jarring tackle, then a moment later helping him to his feet.

Ford's blocking helped clear the way for two South touchdowns that day against Davis Technical, and he was the anchor man of a defense that shut out the other team.

Dick Zylstra of Chicago Heights, Ill., a former Grand Rapids resident, was a teammate of Ford at South. He played both halfback and fullback positions on the same teams with the President. And like Mr. Ford, Zylstra has remarkably vivid memories of games at Island Park.

"No one who ever played there could forget it and for good reason. It was nightmare alley for a running back"

"You could not make a cut on the soggy turf without falling down in the mud. Most of the time it was move straight off tackle and hope for yardage. Of course, it helped to have Ford out in front of you-a situation that prevailed for me in the South backfield. But those mud puddles at that field-you could drown in some of them"

Zylstra emphatically recalls the kind of football player that Jerry Ford was as a high school youngster.

"I don't remember Ford ever making a bad pass from center in any of our games, and he played in every one of them".

"He was always a steadying influence on the rest of us.

Any time a reserve would go into the game and make a mistake, it was Ford who was first to give him a few words of encouragement, which helps a great deal when you've missed a block or dropped a forward pass in the secondary.

"We functioned as a unit and that was always Coach Cliff Gettings' objective."

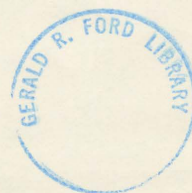
Zylstra moved to fullback in 1929 when the team's star fullback, Joe Russo, was sidelined because he was over the age limit, and that year South had an excellent chance to win the city championship but a 7-6 loss to Grand Rapids Creston high school eliminated the opportunity. Zylstra remembers that the Creston game at Island Park was played on a dry field.

"But that didn't change anything. Even when Island Park had a dry field, its tiny sloping mounds of dirt made the footing very difficult. The dust got into your eyes. I don't think anyone ever realized that the ground should be leveled. You didn't have to be tackled to go down, all you had to do was to take one misplaced step."



"It was the kind of footing best suited to a husky lineman and Ford was big and tough. He loved contact and was seemingly indestructible when it came to injuries. At 16, he weighed close to 190 pounds, and he was a 60 minute football player. In his three seasons as a regular, we won two city championships and very nearly made it 3 in a row, had it not been for that 1 point loss to Creston."

Just before that 1930 season, a problem confronted Ford when his stepfather purchased a new home in East Grand Rapids. The younger Ford children were enrolled in the new school. But Ford sought and received special permission to remain at South, so that he could complete his studies there and graduate with his classmates.

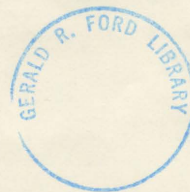


There is a fascinating sidelight to Ford's display of school loyalty. It was told several years ago by Reed Waterman, the late veteran East Grand Rapids high school coach.

One night Waterman received a telephone call from Ford at home.

The young football player said he was calling to tell Waterman that his decision to remain at South was in no way any reflection upon his coaching or his team. He said that he felt Waterman would understand his sentimental feelings about wanting to play his final high school season at South, especially since he was captain-elect.

Coach Waterman never forgot that incident and described Ford's thoughtfulness as one of the most considerate gestures on the part of a young athlete he had ever encountered in more than 40 years of coaching high school athletics.

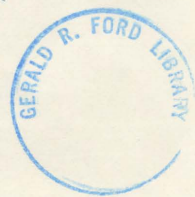


The season of 1930 climaxed the high school football careers of Ford and Zylstra. It was the big year. Zylstra describes the highlights:

"The championship game was between South and Grand Rapids Union on Thanksgiving afternoon. The temperature never got above zero and the field was covered with ice and snow. For the first time we were playing on our own home gridiron, South Field. Island Park had been abandoned with few regrets".

"We played a scoreless tie with Union. Our line had a great day. As I recall it, Ford contributed about 13 or 14 individual tackles despite abominable weather conditions with a raw 30 mile an hour wind blowing across the field."

"The teams were evenly matched and it was a battle of opposing lines because frozen hands couldn't pass the football. But Ford did not bobble the ball once during the game. He was centering the pigskin right on target, but we just couldn't gain consistently on that glazed ice. He was the team leader on the field--All City 3 years in a row, and captain. It was always encouraging to see him up front when were pushed back inside our 20 yard line. "



"I played alongside Ford for four years starting with our freshman year in the ninth grade when we were members of the reserve squad. Then we moved up to the varsity the following season, and after that Jerry was a fixture in the center position."

"By tieing Union, we finished the season as co-champions, but later the Michigan high school athletic association ruled that Union had used an ineligible player against us, so they forfeited the game and we ended up as undisputed champion of the city league and also claimed the state Class A prep title."

In that final game, Ford was assigned to stopping the powerful off tackle plunges of Union's 200 pound fullback, Frank Cook.

And by his performance that bitterly cold Thanksgiving Day, Ford earned all-state high school honors."

Zylstra is a regular at the annual reunion of South's 1930 team. He says his biggest thrill came at the White House when he visited more than 5 and one half hours with the President.

Zylstra also notes that the president was a 3 sport athlete in high school. He played guard on the basketball team and was a shot putter on the track squad. He was good enough to win college freshman numerals in basketball.

But football was always No. 1 with Ford and it led him the University of Michigan.



Ford had an ardent supporter in Grand Rapids in Paul Goebel, All conference end and captain of the Michigan Wolverines in the early 1920s.

Goebel had been a teammate of Michigan football coach Harry Kipke on Fielding H. Yost's football teams. Later Kipke became head coach at Ann Arbor and it was Goebel who recommended to Kipke that young Ford was the kind of young man who would do credit to the university both on and off the field.

Ford more than justified Goebel's confidence in him, according to a report that was printed in the May, 1932, issue of the Michigan Alumnus magazine which stated:

"Gerald Ford '35 of Grand Rapids was awarded the Chicago Alumni trophy at a meeting in the Michigan Union on May 12. Although All-American centers are not uncommon at Michigan, Ford, a husky tow-headed youth, is the first center to ever win the Alumni trophy, awarded annually at the conclusion of spring training to the newcomer showing the greatest improvement, best attitude, regularity in attendance and promise for next year's varsity!"

"The presentation was made by Meyer Morton of the University of Michigan Club of Chicago, a Big Ten official. The announcement of Ford as winner of the trophy drew enthusiastic applause from the more than 60 assembled athletes with whom his selection was a popular one. The Grand Rapids youth is 6 feet tall and tips the scales at 187 pounds"

In 1934, Ford was chosen most valuable player by the Wolverine varsity. He is one of the very few Michigan athletes to win most valuable player awards in both freshman and senior years.

In 1935, Coach George Halas of the Chicago Bears sought to sign up Ford for the Bears of the Nagurski era. The Bears had defeated the College all-stars, 5 to 0, at Soldier Field and Halas had taken a good look at Ford of Michigan.

Halas tells the story:

"The Chicago Bears bid for Jerry Ford exceeded a 50-dollar per game offer by the Green Bay Packers Curly Lambeau. Ford turned us down with the explanation that he intended to go to Yale for his law degree and that he wasn't interested in pro football."

"But in retrospect I can tell you that Jerry Ford had the size, speed and mobility and obviously the reflexes that are part of a quick, sharp mentality, so he most assuredly would have become an excellent big league lineman."

Thus a decision not to play professional football by a young collegian changed the course of American history. Football--Island Park, Michigan Stadium, Soldier Field--all part of yesteryear for Gerald Ford.

And he dearly treasures those memories.



Wolfan, W. B.

Checked by Gift Unit

EXECUTIVE

GI 2
PP 2

October 10, 1975

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for your nice letter with which you enclosed the CTA quarterly containing the story about Soldier Field. I haven't had an opportunity to read the article yet, but I know it will be most interesting and bring back many fond memories.

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness. I'm looking forward to receiving the story about Island Park. Please say "Hi" to Dick Zylstra when you see him.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Mr. W. B. Wolfan
X Chicago Transit Authority
Merchandise Mart Plaza
P. O. Box 3555
Chicago, Illinois 60654

GRF:ml

60 CTA Quarterly

RECEIVED

OCT 14 1975

CENTRAL FILES



CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MERCHANDISE MART PLAZA • P. O. BOX 3555, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654 • AREA CODE 312 - 664-7200



October 6, 1975

President Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing the latest issue of the CTA quarterly magazine which contains a story about Soldier Field and when you played there for the all-stars in 1935. The other article which I sent you earlier was in our Transit News.

The CTA quarterly gets wide distribution to a large and varied list of corporate and other organizations involved in transit. Both publications are produced under direction of my boss, J. Thomas Buck (former Chicago Tribune reporter).

At the moment, I'm working on a story about your high school football, inspired by a letter in which you mentioned Island Park. Dick Zylstra helped refresh my memory with clippings and photos. I'll send you a copy when it is finished.

NOTED

Regards,

W. B. Wolfan
W.B. Wolfan

Public Affairs
Room 734
Mdse. Mart
Chgo., Il. 60654



10-11-75
DATE

Office of the
Postmaster
Room 134
Public Affairs

Name	Date
M. Wicklin	10-17-15

M.B. Madson
Residence

NOTED

A copy when it is prepared.
my memory with original and photos. I'll send you
mentioned in the book. Dick Klymka helped to keep
high school football, played by a letter in which you
At the moment, I'm working on a story about you.

I. Thomas Black (former Chicago Tribune reporter).
are produced under direction of my boss.
organizations involved in transit. Both publications
large and varied list of corporate and other
The C.T.A. directly gets wide distribution to a

you earlier was in our Transit News.
all states in 1932. The other article which I sent
Soldier Field and when you played there for the
University magazine which contains a story about
I am enclosing the latest issue of the C.T.A.

Dear Mr. President:
Washington, D. C.
The White House
President Gerald R. Ford

1975 OCT 8 PM 4 02

WHITE HOUSE
MAIL ROOM

October 8, 1975



CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
300 N. LAKE STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601 • AREA CODE 312 • 554-3300

Wolfan, W. B.

EXECUTIVE

PP13

RE10

PP2

February 5, 1975

Dear Bill:

Stan Scott has given me the edition of CTA Sports which you gave him in Chicago and which contained your report, "I Covered Jerry Ford's First Game Plan--Football." It is a very gracious and complimentary account and I'm very pleased to have it for my personal scrapbook.

At about the same time I received your kind and thoughtful letter with which you enclosed a copy of a letter from Mr. George Halas. Needless to say, it is gratifying and at the same time, very humbling, to receive such generous accolades from both you and George, deserved or not! I'm sending a note to George also.

I wholeheartedly agree that George has always been a great person and his contribution to pro-football would certainly be difficult to match.

No, I have never forgotten Island Park and like you, I doubt very much that I ever will.

Thank you again for your nice letter and for your wonderful article in Chicago Transit Authority. If and when you get to Washington I hope we will have an opportunity reminisce a bit.

Sincerely,

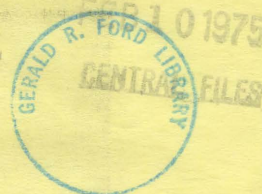
JERRY FORD

X

Mr. W. B. Wolfan
CTA Public Affairs
Merchandise Mart, Room 734
Chicago, Illinois 60654

GRF:ml

60 ne football offer in 1935



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January 10, 1975

Dear Mr. President:

A letter received from Mr. George Halas, founding father of the National Football league, is so outstanding that I thought I would forward it to you.

It is his reaction to the football story I wrote in our company publication, a copy of which was sent to you earlier.

Mr. Halas confirms what I said—that both Bears and Packers wanted to sign you—and that Mr. Pro Football firmly believes you could have made it in the pro league, the days of the Luckmans, McAfees, Osmanskis and the rest. Those were the years the Bears ruled the roost.

George has always been a great person, and without him—well, the pros might never have made it.

Also had a letter from Don Canham who liked the story, too.

Who can ever forget Island Park? Not me.

Warmest regards,

W. B. Wolfan

W.B. (Bill) Wolfan

P.S. Paul Goebel also received a copy, and he suggested that I send the Halas letter to you.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Halas, George S.

EXECUTIVE

PP3

REIO

PP2

February 5, 1975

Dear George:

Bill Wolfan has forwarded to me a copy of your letter to him confirming his story in CTA that you did invite me to join the Bears in 1935. It was amusing and also caused a bit of reflection on "what might have been" had I accepted either your offer or Curly Lambeau's.

Needless to say, I deeply appreciate your kind comments to Bill. It's wonderful to know that I have the support of "greats" like you and Bill. Only hope I will be able to prove your fine predictions for me.

Thank you again for your kindness and friendship and warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Mr. George S. Halas
Chicago Bears Football Club
173 West Madison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

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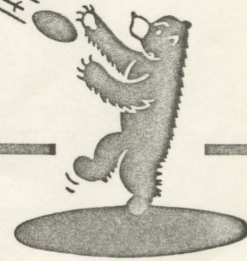
60% offer to join Bears in 1935

FEB 10 1975

RECEIVED

Chicago Bears FOOTBALL CLUB

173 WEST MADISON STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602



January 9, 1975

PHONE: (312) DEARBORN 2-5400

Mr. W. B. Wolfan
CTA Public Affairs
Merchandise Mart, Room 734
Chicago, Illinois 60654

Dear Bill:

Your interesting story is quite correct--I DID make an offer to now President Gerald Ford to join the Bears after the 1935 College All-Star game against our team. I might add that the Bears' bid exceeded the \$50.00 per game offer from Curly Lambeau of Green Bay that you report in your story.

However, Jerry Ford, to use the name that identified him in those years, turned both of us down with the explanation that he intended to go on to Yale for his law degree and wasn't interested in pro football. He was very positive in his response to each of us so it was quite evident that he wasn't angling for any sort of bidding against each other by Curly and myself.

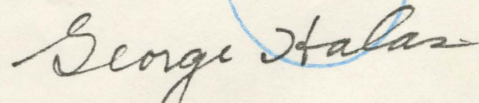
I should explain while the NFL college player draft was proposed and adopted May 19, 1935, the first selection meeting did not take place until the following February 8, 1936.

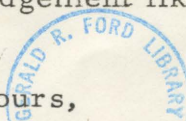
In retrospect, I can tell you Jerry had the size, the speed and mobility and obviously the reflexes that are part of a quick, sharp mentality so he most assuredly would have become an excellent big league lineman.

Now, a little less than 40 years later, he is on the brink of becoming one of our greatest Presidents. He has the unerring touch that the winner must have---and he emphatically will be a BIG winner.

As a nation, we are fortunate to have men of integrity and judgement like President Ford available when there is need for leadership.

Sincerely yours,


Geo. S. Halas



GSH:jd

"I Covered Jerry Ford's First Game Plan--Football"

When President Ford invited high school football teammates to Thanksgiving dinner at the White House, CTA's W. B. Wolfan knew everybody there. And we mean everybody. The accompanying story will tell you why and how. Bill Wolfan is presently climaxing a distinguished career by supervising TV and radio activities in the Public Affairs Department. After breaking in as a sports writer for the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald and serving that paper for 12½ years, Bill entered the army as a private in 1942. He attained the rank of captain and was associated with the wartime Manhattan atomic project and post-war tests in the Marshall Islands. He was cited for press relations work at the Bikini nuclear tests in July, 1946, by the late Admiral W. H. P. Blandy, chief of the joint Army-Navy task force. Wolfan was commissioned and served for 10 years in the air reserve. He joined WBBM (CBS) in 1947 as a news writer, later holding positions as special assignment reporter and news room supervisor in Chicago CBS operations. Wolfan also writes syndicated and magazine articles with Wayne Thomas, retired Chicago Tribune reporter.

THE TIME was Sept., 1929. The place--a football field near the Grand River which flows through the center of my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Lacking drainage, that football field was aptly named Island Park. It was submerged most of the time in deep mud especially in the low lying area along the sidelines. A press box was unheard of--reporters covered the game from the sidelines.

I was 17 years old, fresh out of Grand Rapids Creston High School and had been signed by the only Sunday and morning newspaper in western Michigan, the Grand Rapids Herald, to report high school sports at space rate payments (2 cents a line). A year and a half later, I was hired full time at \$12 per week.

No Astro Turf

One of my very first Saturday assignments was at Island Park and it was a miserable wet afternoon, with the field a virtual morass.

Grand Rapids South High School was playing rival Davis Vocational in a city high school league game. The rain and the mud in no way dampened the enthusiasm of this teenage rookie sports writer.

But one thing is certain--never in my wildest flights of imagination did I dream that a 16-year-old playing for South that day at Island Park, would one day become President of the United States.

That 16-year-old was Jerry Ford, and his fine play at center led South to a 13 - 0 victory over Davis Vocational. He anchored several defensive stands that bottled up Vocational's high-scoring halfback, Ken Burgett.

Later that month, I was given the assignment to report the big game of the year, South versus Creston High, (my own alma mater, led by my friend and classmate, quarterback Larry Eno).

This was the game that cost South the 1929 city title. But Creston gained very little yardage against Jerry Ford's center position. In the Sunday Herald the next day, I praised Ford for his great defensive play.

It was the 1930 season when South captured city and state honors. Ford was chosen as all-state center, which helped bring about his recommendation to the University of Michigan Coach, Harry Kipke, as a fine football prospect.

One of those who boosted Ford for Michigan was Kipke's college teammate, Paul Goebel, who had been a star end for the Wolverines himself. He later became Mayor of Grand Rapids.

In freshman play during Spring practice in 1932, Ford received the Kendall award as the outstanding member of the squad and he moved up to the varsity as a sophomore back-up for Chuck Bernard, Michigan's All-American center.

He played three years of varsity football and was the most valuable Wolverine on the 1934 squad, although Michigan had one of its few poor seasons.

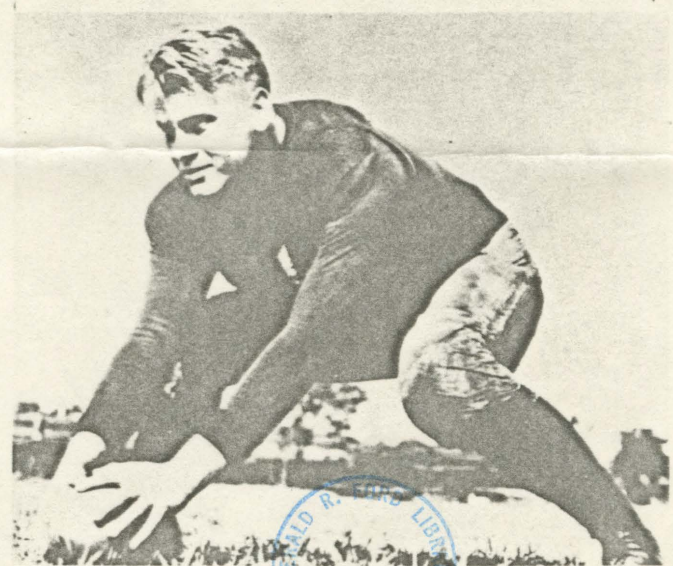
On to Law

Ford told me several years ago that George Halas and Curly Lambeau were interested in him for the pros, but he decided to attend Yale to obtain a law degree so he turned down a \$50 per game offer from Green Bay's Lambeau.

He played briefly in the 1935 college All-Star game, then accepted an assistant coaching post from Yale's head coach, Raymond (Ducky) Pond.

There's another story, typical of President Ford, that was told by the late Reed Waterman, for many years head coach at East Grand Rapids High.

(Continued Page 10)



The President -- when center position was in the Michigan line and WIN was the slogan for the game with Ohio State.

This "School Bus" Carries History To The Classroom

THE UNDERSUNG contribution of black patriots to the 200-year history and progress of our country is being communicated on Chicago streets today through another of CTA's Spirit of '76 buses--the Crispus Attucks.

Attucks was the leader of the protest group which drew the fire of British troops in what is now known as the Boston Massacre of 1770. He was the first to fall and was mortally wounded.

To republicize the meaning behind the name before the bus went into regular service on the No. 63 route on 63rd street, CTA asked the Crispus Attucks Elementary School at 3813 S. Dearborn street to join in a dedication ceremony.

The silver and charcoal gray bus, decorated with large red, white and blue stripes, was driven to the school parking lot for inspection by the school's 1,042 students.



WHO WAS CRISPUS ATTUCKS?



Paul Revere's famous engraving of the Boston Massacre. Attucks, a mulatto, is thought to be the victim at center. (Courtesy, Field Enterprises; lithograph is property of The Bostonian Society, Old State House, Boston)

Crispus Attucks was a fugitive slave who, at the time of the Boston Massacre, was working as a seaman on ships sailing out of Boston harbor.

Through this shipping experience, it is quite likely that Attucks saw first-hand evidence of the burdens imposed on the colonies by Britain's navigation and tax laws.

King George's soldiers were in constant evidence at the Boston wharf areas and in nearby King Street. One day Attucks shouted, "The way to get rid of these soldiers is to attack the main guard." He led a group of unarmed men to King Street to force the troops out. He was shot down.

It was five years before the war for freedom began. However, Attucks' death may well have done much to crystallize the colonists' resistance.

For here was a fugitive slave, 20 years on the run, who was still willing to resist British soldiers with his bare hands. If one would risk his own life and freedom for the freedom of others, it was reasoned, could the colonists do less?

Ford's Game Plan (Continued)

Waterman said that Ford telephoned him one night at home and informed the coach he was making arrangements to stay at his old school, South, although the Ford family was moving to the East Grand Rapids district, and his brothers would go to school there.

He said that the reason for his phone call was to tell Waterman that he felt East had a fine football program and that he would enjoy playing for him, but since he was captain-elect of South that senior year, he wanted to graduate with his teammates. He was anxious to make sure that Waterman knew that this

move on his part was no reflection on Waterman's coaching or the school.

The late East Grand Rapids coach said that this was one of the most unusual and thoughtful gestures he ever encountered on the part of any high school athlete in nearly four decades of coaching.

That was the Jerry Ford of the 1930s, and to those who have known him for years, he hasn't changed a bit.

Earlier this month I talked to Richard Zylstra of Chicago Heights, who played fullback on the 1930 South team with Ford, and attended the White House Reunion Thanksgiving day. Zylstra commented:

"He's the same old Jerry--and prefers to be called that, especially by those of us from home."

Name	Date
Mary Rawlins	4/18/75
H. Higgins	5/27/26

THE UNDERSTANDING contribution of black patriots to the 500-year history and progress of our country is being commemorated on Chicago streets today through another of CTA's Spirit of '76 buses—the Crispus Attucks.

Attucks was the leader of the 1851 group which died in the first battle in what is now known as the Boston Massacre.

To replicate the meaning behind the name before the bus went into regular service on the No. 63 route on 63rd street, CTA asked the Crispus Attucks Elementary School at 3813 E. Dearborn street to join in a dedication ceremony.

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WHO WAS CRISPUS ATTUCKS?

Crispus Attucks was a fugitive slave who, at the time of the Boston Massacre, was working as a seaman on ships sailing out of Boston harbor.

Through this shipyard experience, it is likely that Attucks saw first-hand evidence of the barriers imposed on the colonies by Britain's army and its laws.

King George's soldiers were in constant contact at the Boston waterfront and in nearby King Street. One day Attucks shouted, "The reds to get rid of these soldiers is to attack the main guard." He led a group of mariners then to King Street to face the troops and the war then began.

It was five years before the war for freedom began. However, Attucks' death may well have done much to crystallize the colonial resistance.

For here was a fugitive slave, 35 years old, who was still willing to resist British rule and place with the army. It was a bold move.

was someone, could the soldiers do it.



Paul Revere's famous engraving of the Boston Massacre. Attucks is shown in the center, being pushed back by the British soldiers.

Ford's Game Plan (Continued)

move on his part was no reflection on Waterman's coaching at the school.

The late East Grand Rapids coach said that this was one of the most unusual and thoughtful gestures he ever encountered on the part of any high school coach in nearly four decades of coaching.

That was the Jerry Ford of the future, and to those who have known him for years, the news sounded a bit earlier this month I talked to Richard Sylstra of Chicago Heights, who played football on the 1950 South team with Ford, and attended the White House Reception Thanksgiving day. Sylstra commented:

"He's the same old Jerry—and please to be called that, especially by those of us from home."

Waterman said that Ford telephoned him one night at home and informed the coach he was making arrangements to stay at his old school, South, although the Ford family was moving to the East Grand Rapids district, and his brothers would go to school there.

He said that the reason for his phone call was to tell Waterman that he felt East had a fine football program and that he would enjoy playing for him, but since he was captain-elect of South that senior year, he wanted to graduate with his teammates. He was anxious to make sure that Waterman knew that this