

Donna Conkling

From: Lou Henry <lhenry@a2inc.com>
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 12:13 PM
To: Mayor
Cc: Clerk's Department
Subject: Rippy Field

CAUTION: External sender.

Good morning.

I am writing to express my support for the initiative of naming the field at Crossways **Richard "Rippy" Philipps Field**. Though I'd say "**Rippy Field**" should suffice, since I've never known another Rippy. In this town, that single name resonates like Bono or Beyoncé.

A current resident of Scarsdale, I have lived here most of my life and played Raiders football as a member of the class of '89. In the wake of coach Paladino's departure in the early 90's, the Scarsdale football program crumbled. I recall the interest in football waning to the point at which no varsity team could be fielded. There was no light at the end of the tunnel and it was disheartening.

Having witnessed the entire chronology of the unceremonious fall and, subsequent, phoenix-like rise of the program, I can say that one person is singularly responsible for its recovery and eventual excellence: Rippy. He poured his heart and soul into building what never existed before: a robust youth football program. He personally performed the Herculean task of recruiting the town's boys and (as importantly) their parents. In the new millennium, a lot of SHS graduates of the Paladino years were beginning to return to town to raise their families and, recognizing this, Rippy used his familiarity with the residents, relentless positivity, and (let's be honest) suffocating gift of gab to rebuild the program. Since persuading my two girls to play seemed like an uphill battle, my only real contribution was watching my nephews grow up playing in the Rippy era.

Scarsdale has great personnel in place right now...a slew of excellent coaches up and down the line and an impactful Maroon & White but, without Rippy, there never would have been a football renaissance in this town.

Naming a field for **Rippy** is the very least we can do for him and, honestly, it doesn't seem like enough. Who is Mr. Crossways, anyway? He couldn't have done for Scarsdale what Rippy has done. 😊

Best regards,

Lou Henry
SHS Class of '89