

Major Michael I. Levin  
1160 Rustic Willow Lane  
Charlottesville, VA 22911

January 17, 2021

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am writing to you to express my support for naming the football field at the Crossways Athletic Complex "Coach Richard 'Rippy' Philipps Field." While I no longer reside in Scarsdale, I always consider it "home" mainly because of all the wonderful memories I have from my childhood. One of these special memories for me is the joy I had playing football for the middle school team coached by Rippy Philipps in the fall of 1995. Every time I visit home, without exception, I exit off of the Hutchinson River Parkway, turn onto Mamaroneck Road, and as I head to my parents' house - I drive by Crossways Field. And inevitably as I drive by Crossways Field I turn my head to the left and stare at the field for a few seconds. During those few seconds, whether the field is desolate or full with little football players, I dose off into a brief state of pure happiness as I daydream about the memories, friendships, and fun I had on that field. That joy is entirely due to Rippy.

Rippy makes football fun for his players and he made it fun for me. This is obvious based on the number of kids that participate in Scarsdale Youth Football. Rippy also develops his players, turning beginners into fundamentally sound athletes ready to play at the high school level and even beyond. Rippy also teaches his young impressionable players to be gentlemen. I remember it was Rippy that had my teammates and I wear shirts and ties to school on game days. It might seem futile to some, but for a middle school football player, it gave importance and significance for what was to transpire on that field.

Naming this field for Rippy makes plain sense. His love and devotion to his young athletes, his community, his sport, and that field is unparalleled in the community. It speaks great volumes about a coach when his players return decades later with their own sons and sign their boys up to play for the man that impacted them. Rippy is that coach. After serving his community and its youth for over a quarter of a century, it is right that the field we all cherish because of Rippy Philipps, should bear the name "Coach Rippy Philipps."

Respectfully,

*Michael J. Levin*

SHS Class of 2000

SMS Football 1995