

Village of Scarsdale,

My name is Roger Lobo. I am a 2000 Scarsdale High School graduate and was a Scarsdale resident from 1995 through 2006. I am writing to you in full support of renaming the Crossway field complex to Rippy Philipps field.

I moved to Scarsdale from Los Angeles, California, in 1995, and let's just say that the move was a total culture shock for me. I had a hard time adjusting to the New York culture, sports teams, and it is for the first time in my life without neighborhood friends. After a long anxious summer, my parents finally got me off the couch and told me that they had signed me up to play youth football through the Scarsdale Recreation department, and my first practice was going to be at Crossways field. I thought at the time; finally, this is my chance to make friends and do something I love. By luck and possibly some divine intervention, there was this outstanding, young, and energetic new coach named Rippy that met me as I got out of my car with a warm welcome. I did not know it at the time, but it was his first year coaching youth football in Scarsdale, something that he has continued to do through today. After that first practice, which did not play out as it had in the movie in mind, Rippy sensed my concern and pulled me aside, and told me that the team needed me and he was happy to be my coach. That single act of kindness from a new volunteer coach made all the difference, it calmed my anxiety and helped me see that I did belong in Scarsdale and everything was going to be fine. Fast forward twenty six years and everything turned out just fine and the members of that team were groomsmen in my wedding and lifelong friends.

I share this story because this is just one small example of who Rippy is and shows the impact that this man has had on my life. He did not have to pull me aside after that first practice and encourage me and more importantly make me feel welcome but that is just who Rippy is. He lives for Scarsdale football but more importantly he lives for helping young men make the hard transition from boys to men through the foundation of sport. Over the years, I have watched Rippy selflessly be there for countless former players and give them exactly what they need to transition into successful men. While he is rarely quiet or short of opinion, is always humble, truly selfless and has always been there for his former players. What is even more impressive is that he remembers all of us and if needed will lend a helping hand or coaching moment no matter where we are in life. I look forward to the Scarsdale High School golf outing every summer to reconnect with Rippy and give him an update on my family and hear about his current teams. It is my way of saying thank you to Rippy and more importantly giving back to a program that has given me so much in return.

I can think of no better way to start to honor the impact that Rippy has had on so many young lives than to rename Crossway field complex in his name. He has dedicated so much of his life to Scarsdale youth football and the town it would be the least that we could do to pay his volunteerism forward. I cannot separate Scarsdale and Scarsdale football from my memories of Rippy and I see the same every summer in the eyes and stories of his former players.

I now coach youth football teams and I can honestly say that I use Rippy as my model coach. In modeling Rippy, I know that even if the season does not end with a winning record I will be successful in creating a warm environment that will help my players grow and develop!

I hope this letter of support helps the village understand how much Rippy has positively impacted my life and I hope that the village moves forward and pays his years of service forward and names the Crossway field complex in his honor.

Ross Lobo