

## HAC President leaving

Mickey Norton, for more than 25 years a dominant force in Huntington's sporting scene, has decided to pack up his belongings and head for Castlebury, Florida.

Norton, 45, presently the president of the Huntington Athletic Club (HAC), said that the main reason for his decision to move is the opportunity that a warmer climate provides. He said that the idea of a 12 month per year sports season appeals to him.

Norton, crippled at the age of 13 because of polio, took to organizing and teaching amateur sports early. His father founded the Huntington YMCA, and young Mickey worked in his spare time at the Y while going to school. After graduating from Hofstra University, Norton worked full-time with the YMCA.

In 1958 Norton, still only 24 years old, started the Norton Athletic Club. His program included one of Long Island's first sports summer day camps, as well as year-round programs in baseball,

softball, football, wrestling and basketball.

Competition was the cornerstone of Norton's activities at the YMCA, the Norton Athletic Club, and the HAC. Although it is frowned upon by many today, competition "is inherent in life and the earlier you prepare the kids for it the better off they'll be," Norton said.

The desire to teach youngsters the competitive aspect of sports led Norton to break away from the YMCA in 1972, where he had been associate executive director since 1967. That year he founded the Huntington Athletic Club, which is in a good overall posture to this day.

When he arrives in Florida, either in late July or early August, Norton plans to organize an athletic club similar to the ones he worked with in Huntington.

He has already developed contacts there with the Castlebury mayor and several sports promoters.



## Mike Lee Reports

### SPINNING THE SPORTS WHEEL

Over 20 years ago a group of fellows who had been boys together in the manifold activities of the Greenpoint YMC, decided to form the G. Kelson Young Association in memory of the man who had been like a father to them as boys' work secretary from 1908 to 1917 . . . the 22nd annual reunion dinner of the Young Association will be held Tuesday night at the Greenpoint night with a reception at 6 o'clock and dinner at 7 . . . members will come from all over with 73 still residing in Brooklyn, 166 in Queens and Long Island and 53 scattered over 13 states . . . officers are Wallace D. Cacho, president; Samuel M. White, vice-president; John A. Dauer, treasurer, and Walter E. Meinzer, secretary . . . in addition, there are 15 advisors, including Chester T. Anderson, Arthur T. Beach, Robert J. Bergemann, Joseph Daly, Leroy Holm, Frank J. Koegler, James Vulvena, George D. Parkhill, John Rigby, Frank T. Salzer, Carl A. Schoening, James S. Tedford, and Walter Thompson and presidents emeritus C. O. Bergemann and James Christie Sr.

Fred Hehline, president of the Independent Youth League, a group trying its hardest to keep the kids active in Brooklyn, has good reason to be perturbed and disappointed . . . his reason is the lack of community interest . . . many youngsters have been turned away, just for the lack of adult supervision . . . that's what Hehline needs . . . any of you folks interested in giving some time to this fine organization as a manager, coach, instructor, score keeper, etc., can call Hehline at GL 2-2417 or Emma Hagan, secretary, at AP 7-3553.

Congratulations to George and Helen Kalinsky of Seaford on the arrival of a daughter in Long Island Jewish Hospital, Glen Oaks . . . it's the second child . . . George's cartoon work has appeared in the sports pages of The Press.

The Huntington community has every reason to be grateful to Mickey Norton, for the fine work he does with area youngsters in a varied sports program . . . I thoroughly enjoyed spending the evening with this enthusiastic family group at the recent awards night at the Huntington Town House . . . as I told the group if service to the community is the rent you pay to God for your presence on earth, then Mickey has lifted the mortgage . . . Long Island is a far better place to live in because of guys like him

## Weekly Report

By Bob Zellner

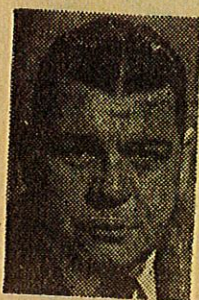
When the Norton Athletic Club of Huntington holds its annual winter sports dinner at the Huntington Town House Tuesday night there will be a double reason for celebrating.

The affair honors the many youngsters who took part in the basketball and other activities during recent months, and it will also pay homage to Edward M. (Mickey) Norton, who has been a one-man dynamo in conducting and supporting athletic affairs for youngsters from six to 16 years of age.

Mickey has been named Program-Youth Director of the Huntington Township YMCA and it is hard to think of a finer appointment. It all goes back to the founding of the Huntington Y, when its first director was Edward V. Norton—the father of Mickey.

That was back in 1946, and it was a common sight to find Ed Norton at every type of youth activity. Trailing along with him was young Mickey, getting a solid background in how to serve

youth. After Ed's death, Mickey worked for the Y, then went on to found the Norton A.C. and later added a summer day camp for boys and girls. He continually developed team programs, starting with tiny grade school students—and he proudly followed their careers as the boys went on to college athletic fame. The programs have been notable for their restraint from heavy winning pressures. Mickey recruited a group of sound coaches whose first concern was the youngsters. Winning, of course, is always important, but teaching the boys and girls that it is not ALL-important was a key to the activities.



Bob Zellner



## Mickey Norton Leaves Y For New Huntington Post

Mickey Norton, program director for the Huntington Township Y.M.C.A. for the past five years, has resigned to devote his time to the newly-created Huntington Athletic Club. The Huntington A.C. is a non-profit organization dedicated to serve the people of Huntington — boys, girls, men and women — through sports and recreation.

Norton started at the Huntington Y in the mid-50s while still attending Princeton University. His father was the first executive secretary for the Y which started locally in 1946. Ed Norton also served as Huntington's Recreation Director in the 40's and 50's.

After graduation, Mickey went into Y work full time as program and physical director. He left to start the Norton A.C. Day Camp in 1957. This highly popular venture operated in Greenlawn, Elwood and Fort Salonga until it was sold in 1967 when Mickey returned to Y work.

During his five-year stay at the Y, Norton was instrumental in building a program that mushroomed from 1,800 members in 1967 to over 5,000 today. He organized and ran teams and leagues and instructional programs in baseball, softball, football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, boxing, lacrosse, soccer and track.

The Huntington Athletic Club will be active in all these programs, adding new dimensions as it grows. Its Board of Directors is composed of many of Huntington's leading citizens and they will play an active role in helping the Huntington A.C. serve the people of their town.

The first activities scheduled for the Huntington Athletic Club will be in baseball, softball and soccer. In mid-spring announcements will be made regarding the Huntington A.C.'s summer kid wrestling and summer basketball for ages 10 through unlimited.

The Huntington A.C.'s baseball for boys will be a two part program — 1. The Little Guys League with divisions for boys 6 through 14, playing once or twice a week from Memorial weekend to the second week in August; 2. varsity teams in the 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 and 16-18 years age brackets to play in the Inter-County and L.I. Federation leagues.

Soccer will include a Little Guys league for boys 10 through 14 plus a varsity team which will compete in the L.I. Junior Soccer league.

Softball will have four different age groups involved, all in slow-pitch. The girls, ages 8 through 15, will play in the Batting Babes League, once a week throughout the summer. The men and women will each be involved in a two part program — the Huntington A.C.'s own leagues, plus a varsity team in each to represent the Huntington A.C. in Huntington, Suffolk County and Long Island A.S.A. leagues.

A special teen-age league will be formed, playing a doubleheader each week, the same as the men's league.

Registration for boy's baseball, girl's softball and boy's soccer will be held today and the next two Saturdays — at any of three different locations:

Suburban Furniture, Main Street, Huntington Village, opposite the Bank of North America; Huntington Sports Center, Jericho Turnpike, South Huntington, just east of Route 110; and Beachview Lumber, Jericho Turnpike, in East Northport, between Larkfield and Elwood Roads.

Players may register on any of these three days between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. All sign-up and tryout information will be given upon registration.

For information on entering teams in the men's, women's or teen softball leagues, call 266-3636, 427-7934 or 423-5007. Organizational meetings will be set up within the next two weeks.