

# Norton A.C. Offered Opportunity For Generation Of Local Athletes

By Peter Abelard

You walk into a meeting room which is filled with many familiar faces. You spot a person that you haven't seen before - or have you? The resemblance is haunting, the facial features spark recollection, but you just can't place where or when.

All of a sudden it hits you. Take away 30 years, 30 pounds, add some hair, and put a "Norton A.C." T-shirt on the man standing in front of you and you finally remember. How the years fly by.

Back in the 1960s, Norton A. C. Bobcats or Tomcats T-shirts were as common on the main streets of Northport or Huntington as the ones today that say Nike or Pearl Jam. Norton A.C. stood for the "Norton Athletic Club," founded by Edward "Mickey" Norton, a man, who, in his time, single-handedly did more for scholastic sports in every corner of Huntington Township than any school district or Town program ever could have dreamed of accomplishing.

Dozens, hundreds, perhaps thousands of

youngsters learned the games of football, baseball, softball, and basketball under the auspices of Mickey Norton and the Norton A.C. During every season of the year, Norton teams played on fields and in gyms all over the Town of Huntington as well as on the grounds of the Athletic Club itself which was nestled within the wooded terrain of Fort Salonga off Bread and Cheese Hollow Road. And, back in the days before women's liberation and state mandates, no one did more to promote athletic participation for young women than did Mickey Norton.

Family sports dynasties such as the Forte's, Pettit's, the Brush's, Fromkin's began with Norton programs. Individual stars like Tommy Joyce, Frank Loeffler, Bob Ottewill, Darrin Berger, Harry Waller, Bob D'Angella, Todd Jamison, Marge Scheiddinger, Kay Henning, Bonnie Robertson - and many others - blossomed under the guidance of Mickey Norton.

Schools without freshman teams, such as  
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## Sports Briefs

Former Huntington resident Mickey Norton has been inducted into the Seminole County Sports Hall of Fame. Other members of hall include Red Barber, former voice of the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Yankees and Tim Lincecum of the Chicago White Sox.

Since moving to Florida in 1978, Mr. Norton has been an organizer, director, fundraiser, coach and leader in youth activities such as Little League baseball, Babe Ruth baseball, Pop Warner football and ICFB basketball. He is also the coach of a men's softball team and women's softball team and the Orlando Luther High School girls varsity and junior varsity basketball teams.

His son, Eddie, coaches varsity football at Oviedo High School and basketball at Rollins College in Winter Park. He also volunteers with many groups with his father.

This is the fourth hall of fame induction for Mr. Norton. He was inducted into the Long Island Metro ASA in 1976; the Huntington Township Softball in 1978; and the Suffolk County Sports in 1993.

He was a resident of Huntington for 30 years, graduating from Huntington High School and Hofstra University after two years at Princeton.

## Norton AC Has Rich History

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Huntington High School, were targets of unrelenting pressure from Norton and his local newspaper column ("Athlete's Alley") that they find the funding necessary to start such programs. At the height of his ire, he would refer to the "District 3 Board of Suffocation."

Mickey Norton, who moved from Huntington to Florida in 1978, was recently inducted into the Seminole (Florida) County Sports Hall of Fame, joining the likes of sportscaster Red Barber and baseball star Tim Lincecum. It is really not surprising to read about how Norton has continued his good works down in Florida, as "an organizer, director, fundraiser, coach and leader in youth sports."

Although he was honored with induction into the Huntington Softball Hall of Fame as well as the Suffolk County Sports Hall of Fame, Mickey Norton never quite received the official accolades and appreciation he truly deserved from his hometown. Like many other controversial and visible activists, people either loved or resented Mickey Norton; there wasn't much middle ground. He spoke his mind without reservation and stepped on toes as necessary when it was to

The bottom line is that there is no way to calculate how many lives Mickey Norton positively affected by getting kids off the streets and into athletic competition, or how many lives became productive

or focused because he gave them attention and direction. Regardless of his subtle-as-a-train-wreck approach, he deserves our thanks, belated as it might be.

Thanks, Mick...