

As a young boy, Dad used to "...watch the old guys play bocce on the courts they made on the empty lot next to our house."

Growing up, we never even heard of bocce ball! But in his later years, Dad started to play this Italian pastime sport. He and Virgil Petrocchi, Forest Viglione and Mike Folena formed a team they called "The Capital Boys". Just like in golf, he was a natural, and frustrated his teammates with his accuracy. But they didn't really mind because they were winning all the time!

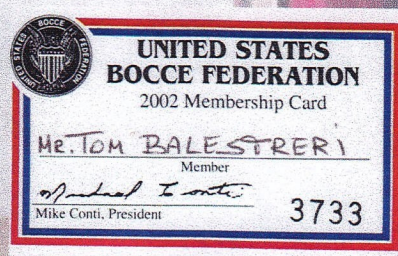
They started out playing on the old courts at East Portal Park. Then the city notified them that the courts were going to be torn down. So, Dad and his buddies took it upon themselves to make improvements to the courts and soon, more and more people started to play. The city then decided to let the courts remain and even helped with more major improvements, like a roof.

Eventually, more teams and leagues were formed and the popularity of the sport grew. East Portal Park became the hangout for folks who loved to play bocce. Dad really got a kick out of "women" eventually playing the sport and lots of "young guys".

He played in the fall, spring, and summer leagues and in any tournaments that were held at East Portal for quite a few years. If he'd had a bad night, he would come home in a terrible mood. Mom would try to tell him, "It's only a game" but he'd still growl about it all night. If he did well...he was all smiles. He brought home many trophies and medals and Mom put them on the mantle in the family room so he could see them and remember his glory days! Ironically, this is the last note Dad wrote to Mom (Honey)...of course, it was to tell her he was going to "play bocce". →

*Honey & Joyce
I want to
play Bocce*

There is a plaque at the courts in East Portal Park with Dad's name on it as one of the past members.



Top Picture: Even though Mom tried, Dad never wore anything but those khaki pants, that light golf shirt and those old, brown shoes with the soles he sanded down so they were perfectly flat. NEVER!