



# HISTORIC BRIGHTON

CELEBRATING OUR TOWN'S HISTORY AND  
EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT BRIGHTON'S PAST

Volume 16

Summer 2015

Number 3

Newsletter and Journal

## Sports and Recreation in Brighton

Our Sports issue represents a collaboration. It was Peggy Byrd's idea and she and Town of Brighton historian Mary Jo Lanphear collected most of the text, illustrations and links. We have an introduction by Mary Jo and a letter from the Brighton Recreation Director Rebecca Cotter. A special section by Leo Dodd can be found on pages 2 and 3, based on Leo's research into early Brighton sports and recreation.

### Introduction

A century ago, the daily lives of Brighton residents involved farming, brick making, and small service businesses. Recreation was confined to an occasional Sunday picnic and sports were of the sand lot type in the years before Little League. Brighton High School wasn't established until 1928 so there were no organized sports for teenagers in the early 1900s.

Brighton did not have its own public parks. Corbett's Glen was owned and operated by Patrick Corbett; it did not become town-owned parkland until 1999. After 1888 Brighton westsiders had access to the city of Rochester's South Park, later named Genesee Valley Park, but the lack of public transportation at that time made it less accessible. Rochester's Highland Park that evolved from a donation of land by Ellwanger & Barry was closer and more accessible for Brighton residents if they had the time to visit it.

Leisure time for the average Brighton resident was dependent upon occupation. In season, farming was all-consuming and demanding of the farmer's time. The Monroe Avenue brick works and other nearby factories operated on a six-day week. It wasn't until the 1920s that the Saturday half-day became common.

Contrast the above with the 2015 Town of Brighton's Summer Recreation and Parks brochure! The programs, playgrounds, and classes provide something for everyone, every day of the week - volley ball, soccer, field hockey, swimming, even fencing and ice skating for young people. Adults can play tennis, dance, take a trip or a boating course, and lift weights. And Brighton has parks: Brighton Town Park, Meridian Center Park, Buckland Park, Corbett's Glen Nature Park, and Persimmon Park. There's also the Lehigh Valley Trail on the west side of town and soon there will be Brickyard Trail near the Twelve Corners, the latter a tribute, perhaps, to the brick makers of a century ago whose work time took so much of their lifetime.

Mary Jo Lanphear  
1 June 2015





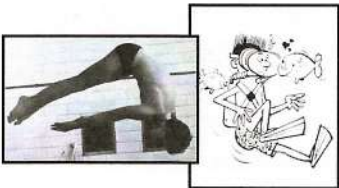
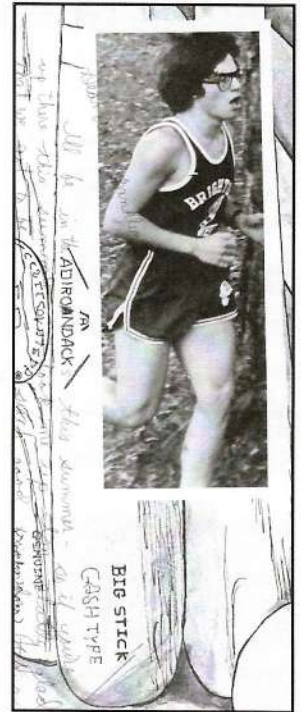
# Leo Dodd presents a history of **Brighton Sports**



Brighton developed as any other American town in creating a sports history, but tis difficult to connect with the records. Competitive sport history had its beginning long before Brighton's birth. Sports originated when humans first found a round object to hit in a hole, played catch with another, or challenged a neighbor to throw farther. Brighton's two hundred year sports record developed within a farming community and moved to a modern twenty-first century town with considerable sports facilities and teams. Many a delight was encountered over the past two hundred years in unrecorded Brighton amateur sports events. The amateur arena, where a game was played for the pure joy of it . . . that was Brighton's best contribution to sports.

Yep! . . . There was a Lucy in every American village, ready to pull the football out just as Charley Brown got ready to kick it.

The records do show that **Horse Racing** was a Brighton interest. Brighton farm boys and girls of the eighteen hundred must have pictured themselves racing their family steed against a neighbor's to the Twelve Corners and back. In 1856 Amos Buckland purchased the celebrated race horse Saint Lawrence that raced at the Vick Park Race Track off East Avenue and probably at the West Brighton Fair Grounds. (History note: The Kentucky Derby has been run every consecutive year since 1875, propelled by America's farming history. Horse racing was one of the first American sports to be organized.



**Trap and Target Shooting:** After the Civil War (1866), there existed high interest in trap and target shooting. The Brighton Farm Diaries (1872-1878) by James Edmunds, a neighbor to Amos Buckland, documented target shooting on his farm using the twenty-five acre woods. The 1877 diary lists ten visits of the Creedmore Shooters to his woods for shooting competition.

**Croquet:** The Edmunds Diaries also document the playing of croquet. (Note: James Edmunds had a wood lathe which he used to make croquet mallets for family and friends.) The playing of the game is recorded throughout the time period of 1872 to 1898.

**Baseball:** The Diaries contain three references to "a game of ball," but provide little insight as to players, type of game, or any sports related detail. Entries read:



June 13, 1886: "Father, Ome and I went down to Paul's to a Dutch Ball Game."

July 21, 1888: "Went up to Ridgeland to a Ball Play and Pole raising."

August 10, 1890: The boys, Jim and I went down to Rhineharts Lot where some City fellows were playing ball.

Photos courtesy BHS yearbook, 1978



# Leo Dodd presents a history of **Brighton** **Sports**

**Early newspaper construction of Sports Page:** In the 1800s America awaited the telegraph and telephone to transmit timely sports news to newspapers. The Sports Page, our source of documented sports news, did not develop in detail until the 1890s.

**The published accounts of Brighton sports activities in the early 1900s make for sparse reading:**

- 1904 August 25: Brighton vs Fairport cancelled because of rain
- 1907 Brighton defeated the Bayside in baseball: the score was 8-3 at Baseball Park
- 1908 Brighton vs Myrtle leaves baseball at Baseball Park
- 1909 August 3: Brighton 14, Rexford 7 in football
- 1910 June 27: Brighton 9, Bay View 10 in baseball

The teams above are identified by the name "Brighton," but I have no background information to say that this is a group of Brighton residents, or only a team that selected the name "Brighton."

Brighton did play a role as host to the sports games of Rochester area residents. The pictures below establish a visual reference for comparing the Town of Brighton to the City of Rochester. The picture at left is the Bloss Tavern in Brighton Village and at right is the Powers Building under construction in 1865. The city was a crowded area of industry and houses with few open lots available for sports. The adjoining towns being less developed provided access to sports fields. Brighton and Irondequoit were the major contributors of sports fields for greater Rochester needs, linked by the electric trolley system from city to ball fields for players and spectators.



## **Brighton Hosted Local Sport Activity**

*Including such sports as golf, baseball, football, Soccer, polo, horse racing, auto racing, gun clubs*

**Brighton at the start of the twentieth century provided four major land area for local sports competition:**

**Rochester Country Club for golf and polo**

**Sheehan's Field at the Twelve Corners for baseball, football, and soccer**

**West Brighton Fair Grounds for horse racing, auto racing and trap shooting**

**Gas Tank Grounds on Blossom Road for baseball**

In summary, Brighton was a major contributor to area sports, providing an enthusiastic amateur base for all sports, developing teams to participate in sports leagues and providing land to host the game of your choice. Brighton does have a rich sports history!

**Go Barons!**



## Playing 'Vergil Ball' at Natural Education School



in the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, NY

*Two schools in the greater Rochester area were run on the "natural education" principles of Mrs Winifred Sackville Stoner and her 1914 book, Natural Education. This picture was taken in 1916 of the school on Clover Street in Brighton where Mrs. Stoner and her daughter are teaching primary students to play Vergil Ball with a method emphasizing discovery in outdoor settings. From the Stone Negative Collection of the RMSC.*



*James Aspacher, Ben Fuller, Tink McDaniel, fifth graders at Indian Landing School, are joined by members of the RPO for a concert.*

## Yorkers Club Paints Huge Playground Map to Test Historical Knowledge

A unique historical game was designed by two seventh graders at Brighton High School under the direction of a social studies teacher. The students are members of the school's historical organization called the Yorkers Club.

The game is played on a huge 66 by 48 foot map of New York State painted by the Yorkers on the black-top playground of the school.

Four routes, painted in different colors, led to all major historical points in the state. Contestants were given mimeographed (!) clues covered by the routes. When the contestant reached a historical marker, he or she had to answer a question about that point before moving on. The student who answered the most questions correctly was the winner.



*Five junior high students paint a map of New York State on the playground blacktop in the 1960s.*





## Recreation, Parks and Community Service Department

Historic Brighton,

I am happy to participate in this edition of the Historic Brighton newsletter that celebrates recreation and sports in the Town of Brighton.

We have a rich history of providing quality, affordable and diverse programs. From meager beginnings with a 2 page flier to our current thirty-six page brochure, we continue to grow and develop along with the community. We value all Brightonians from the young to the young at heart. You'll find preschool activities, aquatics, sports, camps, after school classes, dance, senior programming and a variety of special events including the Summer Concert Series.

We work with Historic Brighton and the Brighton Town Historian to utilize our landmarks such as the Historic Buckland Farmhouse where we hold activities and classes as well as special events on Memorial and Veteran's Days.

Our Recreation Program brochure is mailed to Brighton residents three times a year. It can also be downloaded at [www.townofbrighton.org/rec](http://www.townofbrighton.org/rec) or pick one up at Brighton Town Hall, the Brighton Memorial Library or Brighton schools. Registration is available online, in person or by mail.

Thank you for helping us to make Brighton a healthy, fun and fit Community!

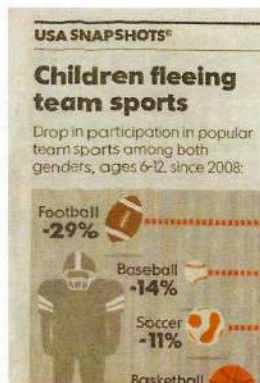
Rebecca Cotter  
Recreation Director



Carmen Clark, 1976  
Director, Brighton Recreation

**A Recreation Department was established about 1969. The program grew so fast that it became necessary to purchase a house next to the Brighton Town Hall to house parts of it and young people themselves took the initiative and responsibility to place a swimming pool on the grounds.**

**A recent sports survey showed that today's children are not playing team sports in the same numbers as they had in the past.**



**Playground notes :**  
The grand total of almost 15,000 Brighton children attended the playgrounds by 24 July 1953. This included swimming activities, softball tilts, baseball games, tournament week in checkers, croquet, tether ball, foul shooting, horses, and tin can golf.

### News From The Brighton Playground

The grand total for playground attendance at Brighton No. 1 School, hit a new peak for the period ending July 24, of 14,858 children. Total for the week was 3100. The swimming groups totalled 1445 for the week, with the combined playground and swimming activities, 3772 for the week of July 20.

Softball tilts with Fairport gave Brighton three winning teams, with Team A, 6 to 3; Team B, 21 to 18; and Team C, 4 to 0.

In the baseball game with Greece, Brighton came out the short end, 5 to 2.

The annual Field Day sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Brighton winds up the season's activities, and according to Director Robert Collins, is scheduled for Thursday Aug. 28. Kiwanians will be on hand all during the day, to present ribbons and prizes for games in which all the children will participate.

**Tournament Popular With Playground Kiddies**

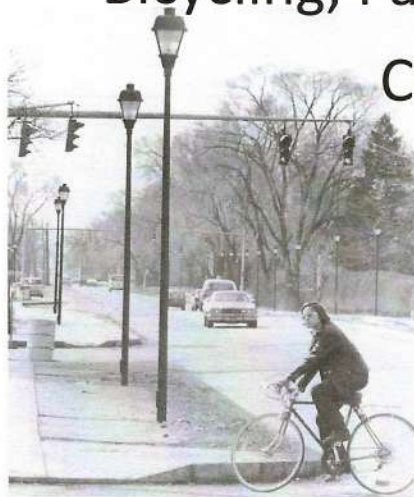
Tournament Week champions for last week were as follows, Checkers: 7, 8 and 9 ages, Carol Jackson, Kenny Dreishach; croquet, Henry Garfield and Carol Fannon; tether ball, Stevens Ross and Mina Falt; foul shooting, Dick Gould and Mina Falt; tin can golf, Steve Ross.

For the 10, 11 and 12 groups Checkers, Chuck Grundman and Clara Harrison; croquet, Mike Krieger; tether ball, Stewart Balkin; foul shooting, Chris Cary; tin can golf, Chuck Grundman, horses Ritchie Ide. In the 13, 14 and 15 age group Checkers, Gary Sperry and Ann Crow; tin can golf, Jim Fannon; croquet, Jim Fannon and Ann Crowley; foul shooting, Jim Fannon; horses, Jim Fannon and Nancy Fannon; tether ball, Jim Fannon and Nancy Fannon.

About 300 took part in the tennis meet.



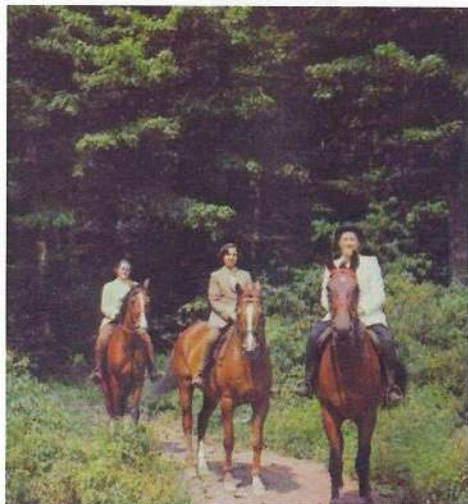
# Bicycling, Parades, Horseback Riding, Basketball, Cheerleading, Playgrounds



Home Acres parade



Horseback riding at Cobbs Hill (above) and in Ellison Park (below): According to the Rochester Herald of 9 July 1922, "two men, one in uniform, are shown riding on one of the many bridle paths at Cobbs Hill. The nearby Armory on Culver Road was a horse artillery, and horses were rented to civilians on weekends for rides in the park."



## Arnie Risen Played for the Royals

He lived for many years on Clover Street in a ranch house just a few houses north of the Brighton #3 fire hall at Blossom & Clover. Another Royal, Bobby Wanzer, lived on Alaimo Drive off Penfield Road.



Men in cars preparing for endurance run to Syracuse, ca. 1910. They started from the Brighton town line on East Avenue. The trip to Syracuse took two days in rain that turned to snow



BHS Basketball left and above



Mercy High Cheerleading Squad, ca. 1962



Evans Farm Parade, 1984

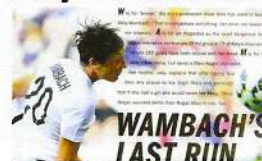


Olympic torch through Brighton: a man in a running outfit carries the 1996 Olympic flame aloft through the brighton portion. A woman in running gear and a man on a motorcycle accompany him. The flame eventually landed in Atlanta in July 1996.



Town officials at new playground, 1984

## Mercy High in Brighton dedicates field to Abby Wambach





# Scouting, Bowling, Swimming, Pageants, Little League



Little League commissioner and Brighton Swimmers



Above:  
Harley School  
pageant, 1991



Left:  
Senior bowling

Football charging machine, 1953



Brighton Town Pool

## Brighton Swimmers Win 5th Victory In Meet With West High

Brighton High School's swimming team posted their fifth victory in a 41-34 decision over the West High team of the Interscholastic League in the Brighton pool, Jan. 20. Because of regatta examinations, the scheduled meet Friday, Jan. 23, with Marshall High was cancelled.

Brighton took first place in the following: 100-yard breaststroke, E. Lewis; 150-yard individual medley, E. Lewis; 100-yard medley relay, Hanford, Dewey, Spengler, Tim; 200-yard freestyle relay, Calahan, Matthews, Lakeman, E. Lewis; Time 1:53.



Mr. Arthur E. Harris, principal of Brighton High School, is much pleased with the new official Boy Scout calendar just presented to him by Explorer James Moyes and Scout Carl Hood.

Boy Scout calendar



CHARGING MACHINE, first won by B.H.S. Coach Jim Dever. It is coaching the freshmen and can be balance pressure according to the hardness of the runners.



Girls sports team and trophy, ca. 1975



Brownie Troops Nos. 226, 387 and 459 put on an informative program for Pittsford Grange Feb. 21. They gave their flag ceremony, told the Brownie Story and sang Brownie Songs. Troop No. 226 has been making "sit-upons" which they plan to use when they take hikes as soon as the weather gets warm. Troop No. 459 has made a poster for International Friendship and has learned songs from different countries.

Troop No. 465 brought plants and set up drawings to make the Scout room look more attractive. Each girl has been looking up the nationality of her ancestors and is trying to learn about the countries from which they came, as part of the International Friendship program. They took a trip to the Art Gallery and will soon work on their Dramatics badge.

Troop No. 19 is busy making plans for the direction of their new center, Mrs. Gordon Monroe and her assistant, Mrs. Evans Forsberg. Troop No. 95 is working on their

Paul Roxin in front of the "Norseman" at the World's Fair, 1986



Paul Roxin: Geriatric Pilots Association, Brighton Symphony, Brighton Light Opera, author of One Foot on the Ground



Alan Hershey, football star





From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

Tall and thin Graham Parsons, captain of the Rochester Gun Club team, located in Brighton, aims at a distant target, ca. 1913.

Right: A Brighton Garden kicks off a new D & C newspaper series.



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

New temporary kennels for the Rochester Gun Club were located on Edgewood Avenue in 1924. Seven dogs are watching as photographer Albert R. Stone snaps their picture.



## West Brighton Recreation

As former town historian Margaret McNab wrote in the 1960s, "Brighton today divides easily into three sections, each section following out a main street from downtown Rochester. The eastern part of Brighton relates to East Avenue, the central part to Monroe Avenue, and the western part to the Henrietta and River Roads. As the roads diverge out of Rochester, the gap between the southbound streets enlarges, and this gap of fields and woods has enabled West Brighton to maintain a rustic, resort-like style and a pride and independence in their separation from other parts of the town."

The Scudders were among the earliest settlers—here by 1795. Horace Scudder served as a drummer in the militia and operated singing schools around the neighborhood. These schools were a proper social activity since they strengthened the church choirs. It is said that musician Horace appreciated his exalted social standing and dressed the part, wearing "collars so high he had to jump up to spit."

Cool playgrounds of a vanished era came from ice-cutting. The ice was cut in blocks in winter and stored in double-walled, sawdust insulated sheds for delivery to customers in the summer. The sheds became playgrounds: children would dig through the chilled damp sawdust and scream with glee when they touched one of the cold blocks. The ice also made possible a rare delicacy of that era—ice cream.

In a time when amusements were homemade and distances made others impossible, the Genesee River and Erie Canal were used for swimming and skating.

Young ladies organized the West Brighton Sewing Society in the late 1870s. Long after their marriages and moves into distant areas, the group held summer picnic reunions. Carrying on the tradition of handicrafts is the West Brighton Senior Citizens group.

Drive-in movie theaters, plays at the community college, the fairgrounds of the Western Monroe Agricultural Society, a racetrack, where Strong Memorial Hospital now stands, and a golf course, where the University of Rochester is now, complete the sites once dedicated to recreation.

## Stowell Park, 1995



West Brighton is home to the beautiful and undeveloped Stowell Nature Conservancy on East River Road, and Lynch Woods Park on Crittenden Road. It is also home to the Lehigh Valley Trail, running along a former rail line and connecting East River Road and the University of Rochester campus south to Jefferson Road and beyond.



## Ellison Park, the only county park in Brighton, opened in 1927



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.



From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Rochester, N.Y.

*Huge crowds (right) from throughout the county turned out for the dedication of Ellison Park in 1927. The pagentry included costumed figures representing French explorers and clergy arriving in canoes with Indian guides.*

### The Brighton Town Plan of 1971

*The Brighton Town Plan of 1971 states "community facilities such as parks. . . provide services without which a modern community cannot exist. . .*

*Recreation in all forms is a vital part of man's life. . .*

*Recreation activities require space.*

*There are two types of recreation: active and passive. Passive includes hilltops, wooded hillsides, stream channels, the banks of the Genesee and the Barge Canal which provide relief from development*

*The Youth Service and Recreation Agency provides funds for the operation of school centered programs and services*

*A number of parks are within easy reach of Brighton residents. Monroe County owns three facilities immediately adjacent to the Town: Genesee Valley Park, Highland Park, and Ellison Park [actually in Brighton].*

### Supervisor Bill Moehle Comments on Brighton Parks, 2015

With Spring in the air, more and more of us will be spending time in Brighton's parks. Brighton has a park system that includes scenic trails, playing fields, shelters and fun for all! We have parks in all parts of Brighton, and our Parks Department staff works hard to keep them in great condition, particularly as we recover from the harsh winter weather.

This winter, the Parks Department renovated the kitchen and restrooms in the Carmen Clark Lodge at Town Park on Westfall Road, one of Brighton's oldest parks. The project came in below budget, largely due to the work done by our own workers, and the renovations will make the lodge much more appealing to users. In April at Town Park the annual Kids Fishing Derby is held; this has become a family favorite event, thanks to help from many volunteers, including the Rochester Bassmasters, who welcome the opportunity to share their enthusiasm for fishing with the next generation.

Perhaps the most visible parks in Brighton are Buckland Park, on Westfall Road, and Meridian Centre Park, on South Winton Road. These parks have a full range of active recreation options, with playing fields, tennis and basketball courts, pavilions and trails.

The Meridian Centre Park trails connect with the Erie Canal Trail, and traverse woods and a small meadow with abundant wildlife. Also nearby is the 72 acres of undeveloped land between Elmwood Avenue and Westfall Road, which is soon to be the home of our newest trail, running through scenic land that was home to Brighton's clay and brickmaking industry in the 19th Century.

Heading east in Brighton, Corbett's Glen Nature Park is known as the jewel of the Brighton parks system. Stretching from Penfield Road to Glen Road, off Rt. 441, Corbett's Glen offers trails through forever wild woodland terrain sculpted by glaciers, Allens Creek waterfalls and fishing holes that draw people from throughout the area. Corbett's Glen was saved from development through the joint efforts of the Town and the Genesee Land Trust, and is also noted for significant local historic sites.

With so many parks, you can enjoy hours of leisure time right here in Brighton this summer. For more activity, check out the summer programs in the Recreation Department newsletter, and you can have a summer long vacation without leaving home!



# Headlines tell of Brighton Recreation

## Wambach on 'Sports Illustrated' cover

JEFF DIVERONICA  
@ROCDIVO

Whether Abby Wambach and her United States teammates make it to the top of the podium after the World Cup final on July 5 will play out over the next few weeks, but the Pittsford native has made the cover of *Sports Illustrated* for the first time.

women's world cup

Coming Sunday

Jeff DiVeronica, who has chronicled Abby Wambach's career since she starred at Our Lady of Mercy, reports on Wambach's final chance at winning the coveted World Cup.

birthday Tuesday, and Morgan, Carl Lloyd are on the magazine's due on newsstands. This is also on a regional with the title, "Abby's Most Prolific Score: Huge Goal."

"I'm proud that wh

See WAMBACH Page

## No-hitter powers McQuaid title win

Buholtz racks up 16 Ks to hold off a pesky Rush-Henrietta



AMONG THOSE PRESENT at the Brighton Senior Citizens Luncheon last Thursday at Locust Hill Country Club were, from left, Mrs. Carl Schlageter; Mrs. Leighton Lear, president; Mrs. Clifford Zeher; Carl Schlageter; Clifford Zeher; and Leighton Lear.

## Brighton Seniors Hold Founders' Day

## Allyn's Creek Garden Club Marks 50 Years Serving Area

Members of the Allyn's Creek Garden Club will meet for luncheon Monday, Nov. 6 at the Stone-Tolan House. This meeting will be held in honor of the seven living charter members and is the first of

Force, Miss Bacon, Mrs. Babcock, Mrs. Converse, Mrs. Cumpston, Mrs. Scoville, Mrs. Stern, Mrs. Will, Mrs. Worrell and Mrs. Weller.

The following names, in addition to those above, formed

stimulate love of amateurs; tion of nat and to stu the fine art members

## Brighton To Appoint Recreation Director

### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## McQuaid's DeHone off to New Jersey as D-I prospect

BASEBALL

## Brighton will play for A title

KEVIN OKLOBZJA  
@KEVINOKLOBZJA

BATAVIA — They were supposed to take a step back, to be middle of the pack at best, what with all the losses due to graduation last spring.

A return trip to the Section V Class A championship baseball game by the Brighton Barons was hardly the prevailing prediction.

The Barons weren't too interested in

"We knew people would doubt us but we fed off our internal energy as a team,"

AIDEN CALVELLI  
BRIGHTON SENIOR PITCHER

popular opinion, however.

"At the beginning of the season, (Jason Wasserman) said no one thought anything of us," senior Aiden Calvelli said. "We used to be just what we needed."

They've done just that, a semifinal victory over Greece Tuesday evening, the third-seeded Barons (16-7) will again play for the championship.

OCTOBER 1933

## Cortland Polo Four to Show Speedy Attack Here Sunday

Cortland Polo Club team will be here Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock to ride against the Rochester Polo team on the Country Club of Rochester new field, Clover Road.

Picked teams, Brighton and

## Sports focus of UR big data research



Matt Krentholtz of the UR Medicine Sports Medicine team watches as Brighton High School junior Austin Carr, a quarterback on the football team, does a single leg jump during a sports camp on Saturday.

## High-tech project aims at reducing athletic injuries

BRIAN SHARP  
@BRIANSHARP

As Austin Carr jumped, touched his toes, did knee bends and push ups, his silhouetted image on the laptop screen glowed in shades of purple and white.

The resulting digital file for Carr filled 10 to 15 gigabytes, the equivalent of downloading four feature films — in HD



Gregg Nicandri, an orthopedic surgeon specializing in sports medicine, uses a camera to record the movements of Brighton High School junior Austin Carr.



# Headlines tell of Brighton's Involvement

SEPTEMBER 3, 1904

## COUNTRY CLUB BEAT BUFFALO

WON FIRST POLO MATCH OF  
THE LOCAL SEASON.

WILDER PLAYED FINE GAME

*Scored Two Goals, the First a Difficult One, and Aided Rochester Team Materially in Other Respects in Gaining the Victory*

## Giants and Brighton Teams Play Saturday

Brighton Recreation Club will hold its annual outing Saturday at the Gas Tank grounds on the Blossom road. Activities will start at 1 o'clock. Manager Wilson of the Brighton baseball club has arranged a ball game as the main feature of the day with Allan Monroe's Cuban Giants. This will be the first appearance of the season for the Cuban Giants in this section of the city and a large crowd is expected to attend this contest as in former years.

Wilson will field his regular line-up for this encounter. "Chick" Cherry who has been working out with Elmira for the past two weeks is expected to be on hand to twirl with Javel in reserve. "Don" Skinner will work behind the plate. Game will start at 2:30 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1928

Democrat and Chronicle

# ROC

USATC



ROC Jocks

Don Allen FILE PHOTO

## Allen was top amateur

He never turned pro, but he played at a professional level

## Brighton's Brookside New Center for Seniors Likely

## Brighton Recreation Team Plans Brookside Move

With the onset of the new year, recreational activities and community programs will take on a new dimension for Brighton residents, said Ted Welch, director of Brighton Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Service.

Brookside building was procured, the town's parks and recreation department operated out of offices in the building adjacent to the town hall. The building served strictly as an administrative base, however. Department programming was limited to availability of space in each of the town's schools.

nasiums in the wing will also be used for recreation activities.

With the recent acquisition of \$30,000 from the Monroe County Department of Development, Welch said a kitchen will be installed to enhance facility programming.

Although Welch anticipates that the

be available Mondays through Friday in conjunction with the Brighton school district calendar.

Aside from the child care program, Welch said that no new program or employment positions with the recreation staff would be created until the department is fully settled in.

## Arnold Palmer documentary Features Brighton native

On 17 March 2015, Sal Maiorana, a staff writer of the Democrat and Chronicle wrote about Brighton native Holly Geoghegan who was featured in a new Golf Channel documentary about Arnold Palmer entitled *Arnie and Me*. Geoghegan first met the golf icon as a ten-year-old at the 1968 U.S. Open. Today she owns her own golf marketing company and hosts a weekly golf radio talk show in Orlando. As a student at Twelve Corners Middle School in 1968, Holly badgered her mother for a note saying she was sick. Then Holly hightailed it to the golf course where she obtained Arnie's autograph during a rainy practice round. "It was like meeting Santa Claus," she recalled later. Her picture ended up on the front page of the newspaper. At the 1989 U. S. Open at Oak Hill, Geoghegan showed Palmer the picture which he autographed while whispering in her ear, "Somebody has grown up into a beautiful gal." Holly thought "that was pretty cool." Forty-seven years after that first encounter, Holly's story and other personal stories about fans and their connection to Arnold Palmer aired on the Golf Channel as *Arnie & Me*.

of Rochester, attended Brighton High School and Colgate University, where he was inducted into the school's Hall of Honor. He lives in Pittsford.

He was inducted into the inaugural class of the NYSGA Hall of Fame in 2012.

Each week, we recognize a great sports figure from the Rochester area. See the complete list and read more about each one at [bit.ly/RocJocks](http://bit.ly/RocJocks).

Several readers wrote in to nominate Allen, including Tommy Solberg and Bill Pulsifer.

Whose name should we add next?

SEPTEMBER 3, 1904

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# One Family's Memory of School Sports in Brighton, 1962-1984

**The mother of five children** who went through the Brighton schools beginning in 1962 when the eldest started kindergarten until 1984 when the youngest graduated from Brighton High, sent an email to the five, who are now spread round the globe. "Historic Brighton News is doing an issue on sports in Brighton and we are interested in your memories. For instance, what was the name of the lacrosse-like game that Sarah played weekends? What about the Little League team your father and Dr. Ford coached and David played catcher? When that team played against Shoreham Drive, Jimmy R. remembers that you all thought it was the World Series.

"More questions: Jen, is gymnastics a sport? Did any one of you but Sarah do water ballet? Anne, did you do cross country skiing at Brighton? Field hockey? David, was ice hockey a Brighton sport or not?

Sent from my iPhone

The email replies came back, identified here by each child's place in the birth order and with original spelling intact.

**Jennifer (#4):** "Squeamish? No, that's not it, but it was something like that."

**Caroline (#5)** "Wait a minute... Sarah played sports?????"

"When I was in third grade you brought home an announcement from the Brighton Pittsford Post that they were starting up a girls' soccer league in Brighton and asked if I wanted to sign up. I did and joined the Brighton Wolverines. My coaches were two moms who knew nothing about soccer."

**Jennifer(# 4)** "Of course gymnastics is a sport! It became the rave when Cathy Rigby and 9 year old Olga Korbut performed in the Olympics and hit Brighton with the arrival of Duncan V. as the new gym teacher at Council Rock who created a gymnastics program. Remember my purple leotard?"

**David(#2):** "Yes it was called sqeemish. We played on Sundays...co-ed, no keeping of score....basically lacrosse with tennis rackets."

[As for the tennis team] "Marty Lippman was our #1 singles although Ron Pinsky was captain when we won sectionals two years in a row. The drivers' Ed teacher was our coach and knew very little about tennis.

"Wolverines.....great comment as is the purple leotard.

"The annual little league parade along elmwood ave was always a classic. BHS hockey team was never competitive. Soccer was. Pigmy Power football team had one or two good years. They had a pretty impressive trophy case at BHS.

"Debate and chess and math teams were always strong!"

**Betsy/Mom:** "How could I forget your purple leotard?"

**Anne(#3)** now an emergency room pediatrician): "Great memories. Jen was (is) a great swimmer too.

"I worked with Duncan V. until a few years ago. He was a research assistant in our dept. Sally Wilkins was the f. Hockey coach, and physics teacher. She played on national teams. I was on the ski team all 4 years. We coerced an English teacher to coach. He knew nothing, but was very game. We weren't competitive. Honeoye Falls/Lima was, and still is-- they win every year.

"Maybe a theme is willing coaches?"

**Caroline:** "Wow, if you can believe it Duncan V. was my elementary school gym teacher and also the high school varsity soccer coach at Brighton my senior year! (and his daughter Lisa was on the team). How did he go from gym teacher to research assistant?"

**David:** "How long were the Wolverines around?"

**Sarah(#1)** now an artist in Japan): "This is great to read. David and Jen are right about Squeamish. It was the perfect sport for the non athletic and athletic types. We played in the Church yard next to the BHS parking lot. Seems like it was created my sophomore year and remained active for how many years?

"I never knew Mr V. Do you remember Mr. M. at Council Rock? He had us in squads for gym. Once when I couldn't climb the ropes in second grade, he had me stand in the corner with 'medicine balls,' to increase arm strength. That could be one significant event in my non athletic career. Yet memory is often incorrect....

"I still do torpedo sculling from Water ballet in the pool for laps.....and yes, Jen is amazing in the pool. Love, Sarah"

**Mother/Betsy:** "Well, I have some sports memories too of attending the Poconos Hockey Camp run by Miss Constance Applebee ('The Apple') who introduced field hockey to this country at Harvard in 1901. The Apple stood on the sidelines, whistle in mouth, then blew it and roared onto the field when something struck her. When my time came, she appeared at my side to remark: 'Oh stop poking at the ball, you silly little fullback, and HIT IT!'"



*The Apple in 1903 and when we knew her in the 1940s*



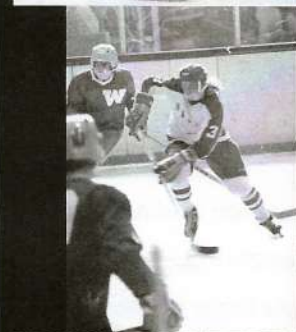


Field hockey at Brighton High, 1978

**Pickup Softball**  
Just as Squeamish, a pick-up game of lacrosse played with tennis racquets, graced the parking lot of the Brighton Presbyterian Church on Winton Road in the 1970s, a pickup softball game is now held weekends at the nearby Twelve Corners Middle School softball field, also on Winton Road. That game had its roots at the Hillel School in the 1980s.



Little sister gets to play



A Wolverine



Gymnasts in purple leotards



# Golf

Mrs. J. Harry Stedman, society editor of the Rochester Post-Express recorded in 1893: "New York and Bar Harbor have gone mad over a new game called Golf, which is played with queerly named clubs and consists of knocking a white ball from one hole in the ground to another."

Buffalo Evening News 27 July 1896

## They Played Golf

Buffalo and Rochester Tried  
Titles Yesterday and Buffalo Won the Game  
It was interesting and Bothe Sides  
Played Exceedingly Well, But,

Of course the game is a trifle funny if you don't  
understand it

Caddie! Caddie! Where's my caddie?

That was Mr. George A. Hibbard. He was calling for the tow-headed, brown-cheeked little urchin who was to carry his golf sticks. It was out at the Country Club yesterday afternoon. It was the first public golf game ever played in Buffalo and it was interesting.

Few people in Buffalo know very much about golf. . . Look at it from any standpoint and there's not one bad thing about it. It isn't dangerous. It isn't exciting. It isn't difficult. It's just healthful and amusing. Women can play and so can men if they have the time and patience.

The game is played with a small gutta percha ball and several sticks varying in length and weight. The game begins by placing a small ball upon a neat little mound of sand and then knocking it away across a field to a hole in the

ground. The game of golf is nothing more.. . Than a man's sized shinney or croquet elongated.

The game isn't English. That's the funny nature of the whole business. It's Scotch. Of course there's no need of letting that secret out for it would rob society of a great deal of outdoor exercise and if society weren't playing golf it might be doing something less beneficial.

The game started yesterday afternoon about 2:30 at a point near the club house. From that point it led away over into a park meadow, out into the stone quarry, through fields, over hillocks, past the zoo, over tree tops, and after roaming out over a great deal of picturesque country it came back and was finished near the point of starting. The game lasted two hours and a half. It was played between 10 Buffalo men and 10 Rochester men. Visitors came out in carriages. . . Watching the players wherever they could catch a glimpse of them

The names of the Rochester men: W. H. Lee, E.G. Miner, Josiah Anstice, J. P. Bowman, G. T. Curtiss [sic.], A. E. Eastwood, J. Craig Powers, E. P. Allen and L. L. Allen.

The holes are all named. They are called

The Gate	The Mac
The First Farm	The Zoo
The Second Farm	The Amherst
The Pavilion	The Woods
The Park	The Pool
The Meadow	The Gully
The Long	The Home
The Far	
The First Quarry	
The Second Quarry	

## The Brighton Rowing Club

The Brighton Rowing Club (BRC) was founded 1998 to serve boys and girls grades 7-12 from Brighton and neighboring communities without rowing programs of their own. The club provides instructional and competitive rowing programs in both sweep rowing and sculling on the Genesee River and Erie Canal. No prior experience is necessary. Rowers can participate in one or both seasons: fall and winter/spring. They compete in five regattas each season. Winter conditioning occurs on rowing machines and in fitness centers.

The club's rowers have been recruited by, and have gone on to row at Annapolis, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Delaware, Duquesne, Georgetown, Hamilton, Hobart, Princeton, St. Joe's, Stanford, Trinity, Tulane, University of Buffalo, University of Connecticut, Vassar, Villanova, William Smith, Wisconsin, Yale and other colleges.

BRC is a not-for-profit 501c(3) organization led by volunteers and is not a school-funded sport; there is a fee for each season and for each regatta. Coaches are the only paid staff. Participant fees cover all coaching, facilities, equipment, and regatta costs.



# Golf



**Art Weston golf sketch, 1947: Art and Kay Weston lived at 59 Chelmsford Road with their two daughters, Kathy and Peggy. They loved to play golf here and when the family went on vacation to the Lake of Bays, Canada.**

Historians generally agree that the game of golf was introduced into this country in 1888. Four years later Walter Charles Hagen was born in the Corbett's Glen section of Brighton. Three years after that, golf was being played at the new and nearby Country Club of Rochester, also in Brighton. Hagen's father, who worked at the railroad carshops of East Rochester, took a job as a greenskeeper at the new club.

Golf in Brighton arguably began with the founding of the Country Club of Rochester in 1895. We quote in part this account by David Laiacona, with his permission, in the March 2015 CCR newsletter *The Thistle*:

"The idea [of golf] went back as far back as 1892-1893 when the first golf in Rochester was played on Josiah Anstice farm . . . south of the Genesee Valley Park. John Harry Stedman, Josiah Anstice, William W. Webb, and Frederic P. Allen had taken their families to Nantucket in the summer of 1892. [A telephone call interrupted their doubles tennis match:]. "Will Kimball

is in New York. He has just purchased a set of golf clubs and wants us to come to New York tomorrow to play with him. The Rochester foursome was greeted in New York by fellow Rochesterian Kimball, who escorted his friends to the Moors, an expanse of ground near the city. There they were initiated. There, with their handkerchiefs tied to bushes to mark something to shoot at, they courted the royal and ancient game with all the ardor of eager but inexperienced swains courting a tantalizing beauty.

"Golf had its Rochester birth the following spring on Mr. Anstice's farm . . . the quintet reunited and pooled their new and untried knowledge and inexperience in laying out the city's first nine-hole golf links. One of the men who had helped in the work recalled:

" 'I well remember the day we placed the cups. One of Mr. Anstice's farm hands hitched up a wagon and drove from hole to hole with us. He dug the little pit and then deposited tiny red flower pots in the ground. They were Rochester's first cups. Dozens of novice golfers came to know those tiny red flower pots. Golf flourished on the Anstice farm. . . . '

"It brought the matter of a country club for Rochester to a head. There had long been talk of organizing such a club . . . for convenience and sociability. The formation of a club of some sort seemed to be almost a necessity. Tennis was widely played and polo and the gymkhana sports were gaining more and more interest each year. New Year's day 1895 at The Genesee Valley Club (est. 1885), some twenty-five men withdrew quietly to a private room. There they decided on the establishment of the Country Club of Rochester . . . the organization of today. And so the club and golf came to Brighton on 20 February 1895. Alas, the original 'founding father' of area golf was not to live to see the fulfillment of his dreams for a splendid place to play the game he had introduced to his friends in New York. William S. Kimball died in March 1895."



**Walter Hagen was Brighton's most famous golfer**



# Winter Sports

"...One of the outstanding features of the American scene during the second half of the nineteenth century was the rise of sports and other forms of popular entertainment. The increased popularity of outdoor amusements in warm months was matched during the winter by new enthusiasm for skating and sleighing. East Avenue quickly filled with dashing sleighs after each favorable snow-fall. Boys, who had learned to skate on frozen pools in the canal or on the river above the dam, continued, as they grew up, to frequent these natural rinks; by the late fifties (1850's) skating had become an accepted sport for adults."

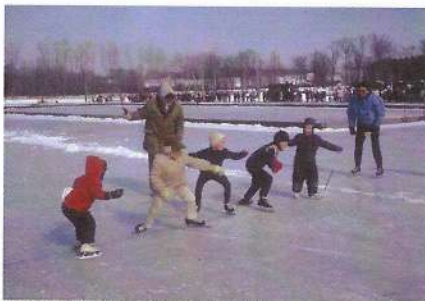
David Laiacona



Shaving the ice on Lake Riley in preparation for skin. From the Albert O. Stone Negative Collection of the RMSC



Christmas day, Ellison Park



Skaters lining up to race on a parking lot rink at Ellison Park



Skating on Lake Riley [The Widewaters] in 1924 from the Albert O. Stone Negative Collection of the RMSC



Former toboggan run at Ellison Park



Sledding at Ellison Park: Patty Thompson, Jessica Benthin

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