

Armen Parseghian

(Our Founding Father)



Armen's athletic prowess came to the fore during his term at Hackensack High in Bergen County, New Jersey. He was the top scorer in soccer in all of Bergen County and was named to the All State Soccer Team.

He and his brother, Ed, served for almost two years in the field artillery in France and Germany (1944-1945). He began his softball career on sandlots in Germany. A broken leg while playing softball in New Jersey ended his career in 1954.

Armen decided to leave his printing job at the New York Times in 1955 and moved to Los Angeles. This move proved most fortunate because he met and then married Marion in 1957. Marion and **Armen** have three sons: Gary, Van and Glenn. 1969 saw the family move to San Jose where **Armen** became a printer for the San Jose Mercury News.

The lure of softball and the aging of his children enabled **Armen** to return to the game as player-manager of a team at the newspaper.

In 1986 **Armen** spent a few months in San Diego. He was playing in a senior softball league there and upon his return to Campbell, he contacted the city's Parks and Recreation Department in the person of John Araujo about starting a senior softball league. Araujo

was most enthusiastic and gave considerable aid to the project.

The first practice saw **Armen**, Bill Roth, Cliff Gee and Dale Pueschel discussing the league formation with Jack Hoover and Grant Powers, leading figures in the Redwood City league which had been in existence for several years.

In the summer of 1987 an article in the San Jose Mercury written by Jody Meechum generated much publicity and interest in senior softball. Both **Armen** and John Araujo received many calls resulting in a large turnout at John Morgan Park in Campbell on the Saturday, July 25, 1987. And, as they say, the rest is history.

Thanks to our man, **Armen**, we have a highly successful softball league. Now if **Armen**'s greatest wish should reach fruition, San Jose will someday have a softball complex. I am certain that such a day will come and when it does, we can once again thank **Armen Parseghian**. We lost **Armen** on May 8, 2008 to join God's Field of Dreams team.