

EBAC History - 1934-1985

From the 20th Anniversary brochure

ELECTRIC BOAT A.C. BOOK OF SPORTS By John J. DeGange

ABOUT THE AUTHOR John J. DeGange, sports editor of the New London Day, has been writing sports in this area for 30 years. His knowledge, experience and ability in addition to his close association with our activities throughout our 20-year period make him uniquely qualified to record this history. He is well known for a previous historical work, "100 Years of Harvard-Yale Rowing," written for the centennial of the Harvard-Yale Regatta in 1952.

On the Sunday afternoon of March 25, 1934, a warm spring sun heralded the approach of the baseball season, but in New London sports circles there was an undercurrent of pessimism. The prospects for organizing a City Baseball league were not good. Of the six clubs that had participated the year before, two had disbanded and another proposed to cut loose and play independently. That left three teams, hardly enough to form a league. At least one more club was needed.

Bleak was the picture confronting officials of the City league when they heard a grapevine report that "Ship and Engine" was thinking about going into baseball again and might be interested in joining the league. The man who would know about it, league officials were told, was a fellow named Eaton -Richard Eaton.

The report of Ship and Engine's baseball revival came under the heading of news that was important if true. It had been many years since the company was represented in industrial or community athletics.

The New London Ship and Engine Co., founded in 1899 and actually situated on the Groton shore of the Thames estuary, manufactured "Diesel engines, marine and stationary", and built "Diesel freighters, tugs, yachts, submarine boats and ferry boats."

What was probably Ship and Engine's first appearance in baseball competition occurred in 1912, with a squad

EBAC History - 1934-1985

composed of John Mahoney, c; Joe Cranker, p; Louis Glidden, 1 b; James Stitt, 2b; Eddie Brogan, ss; Frank Silvia, 3b; and Jack Cavanaugh, Harold Nash, Steven McGrath, and Warren McLaughlin, outfielders. This team, playing on its home field in the area which is now the Electric Boat parking area, vied with Vanadium Metal and Swift (Beef) Co. in a round robin series for the Shop championship of the New London-Groton section. Vanadium won the championship, but Ship and Engine had the satisfaction of defeating the champions, 14-2, in a later game.

Even then, the industrial plant idea of "intramural" sports had taken root, for it is recorded that on the same day Ship and Engine defeated Vanadium, Ship and Engine's Hull draftsmen defeated the Engine Draftsmen, 20-3, in an interdepartmental game at Kitemaug. The batteries for the interdepartmental game were: Hull-Floyd & Needham; Engine Weatherbee & Foote.

In 1915, Nelseco won the New London Industrial league championship and the following year played an independent schedule, appearing in some games as Nelseco and in others as the New London Independents.

When Nelseco clinched the New London Industrial league championship on Aug. 30, 1915, by defeating Niantic 6-1, the lineup was: Harold Nash, 1f; Eddie Brogan, ss; Frank Sylvia, 3b; Bill Coyle, c; Steve McGrath. cf; Bill Racine, 1b; Art Brooks, rf; Joe Cranker, p, and Ted Brannan, 2b. Others who played on the team during the 1915-16 period were: Jad' Manley, p; Tom McKenna, 1b; Dennis Shea, 2b; Jack Cavanaugh, cf; Babe Foster, rf; Dave Reagan, c; Albert Graf, of; Mickey Finn, if; Art Kannenburg, of; Billy Nealon, of; George Brazill, p; George Richardson, if; Jim Clinton, if; James A. Stitt, of.

So, it was exciting news that after more than a quarter of a century, "Ship and Engine" was coming back into baseball. In 1934, of course, there was no longer any Ship and Engine Company. As of 1929, it was officially Electric Boat Co. But the name of Ship and Engine lingered, and it still does in some quarters, although the big boatbuilding company has undergone still another name change, making it the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corp.

Nor was there any Richard Eaton. It developed that the man was J. Damon Eaton. He was chairman of a committee of

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Electric Boat employees working on plans to form a baseball team.

As the result of inquiry in behalf of the City league, the committee announced on March 26, 1934, that it was indeed planning to form a baseball team and would be interested in joining the City league. Besides Chairman Eaton, the committee included N.S. Bosworth, secretary; Albert W. Mecagni, treasurer; James A. Stitt, Harold Havens. John Hilding, Barney Costello, David Reagan, Ted Havens and Howard Ward.

Three days later, the committee announced the appointment of its first baseball manager, Harris A. Locke, a government engineering aide attached to the superintending constructor's office. He had played professional baseball as a pitcher for the Sioux City club of the Western league. The committee also announced that the Electric Boat Co. had contributed \$100 to help get the team started.

It was customary for the City league to hold its annual organization meeting during the first full week in April. Time was short. The Electric Boat committee held meetings almost every day to bring its affairs up to a state of readiness to file application for league membership.

It would be very gratifying if it could be said that Electric Boat athletic affairs, in the course of 20 years, have always proceeded with clocklike precision and complete harmony. But, alas, in the realistic world of sports, things do not go that way. At the very beginning there was a crisis. Of all things, it had to do with the kind of stockings to be worn by the ball players. One faction of the committee insisted on stockings of a solid color, "like the college players." The opposing faction held out for socks with a stripe around them, midway between knee and ankle.

The stocking-stripe impasse remained in a state of harmless stalemate while the committeemen bestirred themselves about more urgent details of getting the team organized and admitted to the league. Afterwards (if memory serves) a striped stocking was adopted.

The situation with regard to available teams had improved when the annual City league meeting was called on April 9. Six teams were ready. All were approved for membership.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

In the blanket resolution admitting the teams, League Secretary J. James Floyd read off the names of the teams in his usual precise and impartial alphabetical order: Coast Guard Bears, Electric Boat, Fort Trumbull Stars, Kaceys, Robert Gair club and Submarine Base. He signed the minutes of the meeting, and with the drying of the ink Electric Boat was embarked on an athletic enterprise that was to grow into a far-ranging program including football, basketball, softball, soccer, tennis, golf, bowling, riflery and other sports.

For the Electric Boat Baseball team of 1934, success on the field of action was not immediate. The Boatmen lost their first game--the City league opener at Mercer Field--to Robert Gair by a score of 14-1. The Boatmen, first team ever to appear in Electric Boat uniform, lined up as follows: John Brennan, 3b; Howard Ward, cf; Harold Havens, 2b; Gordon Belknap, If; Jess Long, 1b; Jim Brennan, c; Ted Havens, rf; Eddie Barry, ss; Gene Callahan, p, and Louis Gero, p.

Ten days later, in their second league appearance, the Boatmen hoisted their colors for the first time in victory. They defeated the Fort Trumbull Stars, 19-2. Electric Boat had 10 hits. The Stars aided materially in their own demolition by committing 12 errors.

The Electric Boat lineup for this first winning effort was: John Brennan, 3b; Jess Long, I b; Harold Havens, 2b; Gordon Belknap, If; Joseph Allen, cf; Jim Brennan, c; Ted Havens, rf and c; Morris Patteri, rf; Eddie Barry, ss; Steve Jessick, p, and Kenneth Streeter, p.

The City league played a split season and Electric Boat finished third in each half. The Kaceys and Gair battled it out for top honors, with the Kaceys eventually winning the championship award after a controversial playoff.

For Electric Boat, it was a modest beginning. There was room to grow in all directions, and the growth was swift.

The Mumford A.C., which had represented New London in semi-pro football in 1933, did not reassemble for 1934. That left an opening. Electric Boat organized a football team with Jesse Snyder as coach, assisted by Joseph (Pop) Holcepl.- This team campaigned as the Electric Boat

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Diesels, an appropriate reminder that it was sponsored by a firm that had gained world renown as builder of submarines powered by electric motors while submerged and by Diesel engines while surfaced. At least, that's the way it was until Electric Boat recently became the pioneer builder of the atomic submarine.

The Electric Boat football team played its first game Sept. 29, 1934, at Voluntown against the Camp Lonergan team, representing a CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camp. Camp Lonergan was coached by the very able, highly esteemed and prematurely balding Arthur (Pop) Williams, famed as a three-sport star at University of Connecticut and later as a professional football player. The game ended in a 0-0 tie. The Electric Boat lineup: Ends-Sachatello, Stevens, Pinch, Landstrom, Sack) E. Yvon; tackles-Vanderlyke, R.S. Dimmock; guards-Knapp, Hestly, Volpi, Doty; centerLewis; quarterbacks-Girsch, Haleftiras; halfbacks-R.B. Dimmock, Hilding, Grippo; fullbacks-Steinman, Butler.

Electric Boat registered its first football victory in its second game on Oct. 7, 1934, against the Submarine Base at the Sub Base athletic field by a score of 38-6. The Electric Boat lineup was: Ends-F. Murphy, C. Pinch, Sachatello, Yvon; tackles-R: S. Dimmock, Lewis, VanderLykke, Shonts, O'Connor; guards-Smith, W. Pinch, Fox, Wineke, Hullivan; center-Heard; quarterback-Haleftiras; halfbacks-R.B. Dimmock, Edwards, Gonsalves, Spaniol; fullbacks-Grippo, Pearson, O'Connor.

The football team, on its return from the Sub Base, was invited by company officials to stop off at the Bridge Plaza restaurant in Groton for a chicken dinner. The dinner marked a double occasion. It was a recognition of the first Diesel football victory and it was also the occasion for the first announcement of a plan to establish an Electric Boat Athletic club as governing body for an all-sport program.

In the final contest of their six-game inaugural season, the Diesels played a scoreless tie with the Fore River Shipyard team of Quincy, Mass. Almost the last play of the game was an unsuccessful attempt for a winning field goal by John Cawley, who was playing his first game with Electric Boat. Cawley had played college football at St. Thomas (now Scranton University) and later with the All-Coast Guard Bears. He became coach of the Diesels in 1935

EBAC History - 1934-1985

and coached every Electric Boat football team thereafter until the sport was discontinued after the 1945 season.

The Diesels finished their first season with three victories, two ties and only one defeat. The record does not include an unplayed game which Electric Boat might have claimed by default. On the third Sunday of their season, the Diesels went to West Warwick, RI to meet the Brewers, representing a brewery, which, like many others, had been newly established following the repeal of prohibition. Arriving early at the field, the Diesels went through their pre-game warmup routine while a crowd of about 700 gathered. Game time approached and there was no trace of the home team.

Coach Jess Snyder, becoming apprehensive, was about to dispatch a messenger, when the manager of the Brewers appeared.

"Where's your team?" said Snyder.

"There is no team," said the Brewer manager. "The brewery went bankrupt a few days ago. Nobody got paid, so the team broke up."

While the football season was in progress, a great deal of work was being done on the formal organization of an Electric Boat Athletic club. In this, the committee received guidance and encouragement from O.P. Robinson, who was then engineering manager of Electric Boat and is now senior vice president of General Dynamics Corp., the parent corporation of which Electric Boat is now a division.

On Dec. 3, 1934, the establishment of the Electric Boat Athletic Club was announced with the election of the following officers:

Honorary President - O.P. Robinson.

President - J. Steven McGrath.

Vice President - Charles Newell.

Secretary - Elwood Anderson.

Treasurer - Albert W. Mecagni.

Executive Committee - John Hilding, Theodore Risch,

Damon Eaton, David Reagan,

J. Joseph Allen, Charles Yearing,

Richard Wakeford, J. William Jones

Charles S. Moore, James Stitt

Steven McGrath and Charles Newell were designated as a committee to plan a campaign for 1,000 members and to take

EBAC History - 1934-1985

the necessary legal steps to incorporate the club. The goal of 1,000 members was reached in less than two months. On Jan. 10, 1935 the association became known as the Electric Boat Athletic Club, Inc.

Dating from the time of incorporation, Steven McGrath served ten years as president. Following him in the presidency were J. Joseph Allen, serving five years ending in 1950; Emil J. Urbani, serving two years ending in 1952, and the incumbent Elwyn A. Chase, serving his second year. Vice President Eugene S. Fulton is currently acting as president in the absence of Elwyn Chase, who is on a distant assignment for Electric Boat.

Steven McGrath has been honorary past president since he completed ten years of active presidency. O.P. Robinson, known among the club members as "O.P." or "Robbie," has been honorary president from the beginning. The only other honorary office is that of honorary vice president, held by Frank N. Kelly, who is the assistant treasurer of General Dynamics Corp., treasurer of Electric Boat Division, and administration manager of Electric Boat. The office of honorary vice president was created in 1943 in appreciation of his services to the club as inter-departmental liaison.

Two of the time-honored traditions of the Electric Boat Athletic club have grown about O.P. Robinson and Frank Kelly. Annually, they are the first to renew their memberships in the athletic club. Also, they comprise the battery of the Executives team which meets a selected team of Old Timers in the baseball game featuring the annual Electric Boat picnic. "Robbie" is the pitcher and Frank Kelly is the catcher.

Electric Boat basketball started in the late fall of 1934, with Theodore (Allie) Risch as coach and David Reagan as manager. They applied for membership in the New London City league, which had recently decided to move from the Y.M.C.A. gym to the New London Armory, but was destined to return to the Y. gym in midseason.

Allie Risch was a veteran of the 1923-24 Ship and Engine basketball team which played in both the Military League at the New London Armory and the New London Industrial League at the Y.M.C.A. Playing with Risch during that period were: Harry (Butch) McGowan, Buck D' Avignon, Ted Whiton, Jack Craig, Louis Wheeler and Jack Bonny. This team

EBAC History - 1934-1985

finished fourth among eight teams in the Military league, where Headquarters won the championship. Ship and Engine won the Industrial league championship with 11 straight victories and went to the Connecticut Industrial tournament at New Haven, losing there to General Electric of Bridgeport.

Risch's 1934-35 Electric Boat basketball team held its first practice sessions in the tiny gymnasium of the Colonel Ledyard school, a Groton elementary school located a short distance from Electric Boat's main office building. On Nov. 30, 1934, Electric Boat was admitted to the City Basketball league, which started the season with eight teams and finished with seven.

Electric Boat played its first City league game in the New London Armory on Dec. 15, 1934, and lost by a score of 32-27 to the Coca Colas, who were considered the team to beat for the championship. It was the only league game Electric Boat lost all season. Playing for Electric Boat in the opener were: Joe Cassella, Walter Yvon and Eddie Barry, forwards; Bob Hullivan and Joe Quinn, centers; John Cawley, Gordon Belknap, Charlie Chihowski and Francis Murphy, guards.

The need for more height at center was felt by the Boatmen in their opening game defeat. This was corrected by the acquisition of six-foot-five Charlie Brown. Robert (Scotty) McKelvie also joined the squad, giving more height at forward.

Having made this adjustment, Electric Boat went through the rest of the league season without a defeat, beating Coca Cola, 27-24 in the last regularly scheduled game to create a tie for first place and force the issue into a playoff.

Electric Boat won the best-of-three playoff by taking two straight from the Coca Colas, 33-29 and 38-24. In all three of the decisive games with Coca Cola, Electric Boat used the same seven men. They were: Joe Cassella, Joe Quinn and Scotty McKelvie, forwards; Charlie Brown, center; John Cawley, Francis Murphy and Charlie Chihowski, guards. The other three on the ten-man roster at the end of the season were George Belknap, Ernest Risch and Harold Hansen.

This was Electric Boat's first championship team. There were many to follow.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Before the end of the year 1934, the Electric Boat A.C. promoted the organization of a ten-team bowling league that marked the first step in the development of a broad program of employee participation sports activities. Besides interdepartmental leagues in bowling and softball, Electric Boat has had representative teams in the Groton Softball league and the Mohegan (Eastern Connecticut) Rifle league. During the late 1930's and early 1940's, the E.B.A.C. also sponsored a "junior varsity" program which produced the Electric Boat Trojan baseball and basketball teams.

By way of active participation in the promotion of community youth recreation, Electric Boat has sponsored teams in the Groton Little league and the New London Little-Bigger league, and has had championship teams in both circuits. As a division of General Dynamics Corp., Electric Boat partakes of a sponsorship interest in the annual United States-Canada P.G.A. golf team matches played at Montreal for the Hopkins trophy, named for the donor, John Jay Hopkins, chairman of the board and president of General Dynamics Corporation.

Immediately after the basketball championship campaign of 1934-35, Electric Boat came up with a championship team in the City Baseball League. The Boatmen won both halves of a split season and then took two straight from the Norwich Collegians to establish an undisputed claim to the Eastern Connecticut championship.

The 1935 Electric Boat baseball team is remembered as the "Lefty Yvon team" because of its pitching ace, Edward (Lefty) Yvon, who was that year selected as the outstanding athlete in the Southeastern Connecticut area for his performance with the team. It was on Aug. 20 that Yvon shut out the Robert Gair club, 3-0, to clinch the City league championship at Mercer field. The Electric Boat lineup for that game was: John Brennan, 3b; Charles (Bucky) Yauilla, 2b; Bob Mudge, lf; Jim LaPietra, c; Robert (Izzy) Cohen, 1b; Gerald Chapman, cf; Joe Cassella, rf; Phil Pitocco, ss; Edward Yvon, p. Others who played with the team during the season were: Gordon Belknap and Wallace Chapman, outfielders; Eddie Barry and Ted Dabrowski, infielders; Jim Brennan, catcher; Jim McKenna, Mike Butchka, Gene Callahan and Harold (Butsy) Weisgraber, pitchers.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Among the more notable of the historical "firsts" in Electric Boat athletics was the first team to represent the organization in girls' sports. This was the Electric Boat Dieselles (feminine of Diesel) basketball team of 1936 which won 13 games without a defeat. Members of the team were Ruth Bosworth, Phyllis Weeks, Mary Noonan, Margaret Luzzi, Oliveri Young, Elizabeth Acker, Annie Rehill, Barbara Dupuis and Phyllis Pratt. The nucleus of this team was a combination of former stars of Fitch High school of Groton and Williams Memorial Institute of New London, two schools which at the time were leaders in Connecticut girls' inter scholastic basketball. Both schools discontinued interscholastic basketball in the mid -1930's.

Electric Boat had another girls' basketball team in 1937, winning six and losing three. Girls' basketball then faded from the local scene and it was 10 years before there was a revival in the New London-Groton area.

Electric Boat girls entered a softball team in the New London league in 1945, finishing third behind St. Joseph's and the Megs. The following year, Electric Boat and Megs players combined to form the Whalerettes, who won two city championships in three years of league competition.

The girls' softball program during the wartime period was organized and directed by Miss Olivia Shepard, assistant paymaster, who was also team captain. Among the players on the team was Mrs. Aaron Robinson, wife of the New York Yankee-Chicago White Sox catcher of the late 1940's. Robinson served with the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II and Mrs. Robinson at that time was employed as a welder at Electric Boat.

Since 1941, the Electric Boat Girls Bowling League has been the leading sports activity for women employees. The league, which was originated by Nancy Orkney Sullivan and Marguerite Luzzi Ellis, has functioned every year since 1941 except the season of 1946-47, and has had an average of 60 participants each year. In the early years the league was made up of department teams. Beginning in 1949-50, the teams were selected by grouping bowlers in units of approximately equal strength according to averages. Under this system of organization, each team takes the name of a submarine built at Electric Boat.

Bowling is Electric Boat's leading participation sport for

EBAC History - 1934-1985

men. The program which started in 1934 with a ten-team interdepartmental league has expanded to seven leagues with a total of 48 teams and a registration of about 300 bowlers. The original interdepartmental league is now known as the Friday Night league with 12 teams.

In addition, there are the Third Shift League (four teams), Planning Department (four teams), Draftsmen (ten teams), Second Shift (eight teams), Hit and Miss, or Old Timers' league (four teams), and the Draftsmen's Tenpin league (six teams). The Draftsmen's Tenpin league consists of four-man teams. All other leagues are made up of five-man team; bowling duckpins.

In 1952-53, a representative Electric Boat bowling team was formed. After participating in a number of special events in 1952-53 this team entered the Eastern Connecticut-Rhode Island Duckpin league for the season of 1953-54, being in contention for the championship at the time of this writing.

The Electric Boat Employees' golf tournament was inaugurated in 1938 at the Norwich Golf Club and was transferred the following year to its present site at the Shenecossett Country Club at Eastern Point, Groton.

For the first five years, the golf tournament was conducted as a match play event. Since 1943, it has been a one-day, 18-hole medal play competition.

The golf tournament ranks with the big ones of Eastern Connecticut and a great deal of prestige accrues to the winner. A former E. B. Champion, Ernest F. (Toe) Laurion, is now the golf professional at the Submarine Base Officers Club. Although championship competition is intense, the tournament is conducted under a system of prize awards which makes the event attractive to employee-golfers of all degrees of playing skill. The success and popularity of the tournament may be attributed largely to the management of such golf chairmen as John Noonan, Edward McEnaney, Peter Carpenter and Edward Ryan.

Aside from the annual tournament, an outstanding event in Electric Boat golf was the victory of the Diesel team over six rival teams in the 1941 Defense Workers tournament for the E. Kent Hubbard trophy at the Yale course in New Haven. This team, captained by Eugene Merritt, included the

EBAC History - 1934-1985

following players: Joe Laurion, Ed Ryan, Peter Carpenter, Gary Murano, Reggie Ketchen, Jim Christina, Russell Medbery, Joe Allen, Jack Skelly and Ed Wilson.

Electric Boat tennis tournaments were staged annually from 1939 through 1943. The 1943 tournament was the largest, with championship play in three divisions-men's singles, men's doubles and women's singles.

In soccer, Electric Boat has been represented intermittently from 1935 through 1950 by teams including many of the players who were with the New London Rangers of the late 1920's and 1930's or with the New London Whalers of the 1940's.

The Diesel soccer team of 1950 had the distinction of playing two international matches with a team of submarine sailors of the Peruvian navy. The Peruvians at the time were stationed at the Electric Boat ship yard, where their submarines were being reconditioned. The Peruvian team defeated Electric Boat in both games, the scores being 6-3 and 7-2. Besides being a gesture of international good will, the soccer games provided an opportunity for a public introduction of the visitors to their American friends. These were not the Diesels' first international matches, however, since they had played some games with visiting British sailors during the war years.

Electric Boat has been represented during five seasons (1944 and 1950- 51-52-53) in the Groton Softball league under floodlights at George Washington park, which the Borough of Groton, with understandable civic pride, claims to be the softball capital of Southern New England. While yet to win a championship in this circuit, Electric Boat has been twice runner-up, twice in third place and once in fourth place. In 1953, Electric Boat was runner-up to the New London Combos in the New London County playoffs. The Boatmen have had two league batting champions - Jim French, batting .413 in 1953 and Vinnie Archer, batting .393 in 1952. In 1953, Gene Cedio hit ten home runs to lead the league in that department.

A recent addition to the Electric Boat sports program is the 1953-54 pistol team which entered as a charter member of the newly organized New London County Pistol League, whose first season is currently in progress.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Throughout its 20 years, the Electric Boat A.C. has maintained a comprehensive sports program for night shift employees. Basically, this program has comprised softball, bowling, golf and Y.M.C.A. athletic activities. The value of organized sport as a morale builder for night-shift workers, especially during war years, has been recognized by night shift superintendents, Joseph Milligan, Randolph Jacobsen, Fred Gramberger and Michael Canestrari, who have played an energetic part in the promotion of this phase of the program.

During the early 1940's, the Electric Boat Athletic Club provided gymnasium facilities and equipment for a large number of employees who were interested in boxing. This program, directed by Francis Murnhy, was of especial value to some employees who boxed professionally. The Electric Boat A.C. never promoted boxing shows, amateur or professional, but the story of the athletic club could scarcely omit the colorful chapter provided by this sport in the winter of 1943-44 when Albert Abelt, a safety inspector at the plant, was campaigning professionally in Connecticut as a light-heavyweight boxer.

Abelt claimed to have held the light-heavyweight championship of France. His appealing background as a sculptor-painter-actor-athlete gained him a wide popularity.

In 1943, Joseph Popeski appeared on the scene. He was employed at Electric Boat as a welder and evenings he was an instructor at the New London Welding school, training defense plant workers. It developed that Popeski, a 175-pounder, was also a boxer-veteran of 150 professional bouts as well as 100 amateur contests. A match was inevitable. James I. Mundell. New London-Groton promoter, seized the opportunity.

The contest between the artist-athlete and the welding schoolmaster was built up as a "battle of intellectuals." The bout took place in the New London Armory on Jan. 21, 1944. Popeski won a close decision in six bitterly contested rounds.

Some reference should be made to the various local athletic fields which have figured in Electric Boat's sport history. From 1934 until the inactive period following World War II, baseball and football games were played at Mercer field,

EBAC History - 1934-1985

the Bulkeley (High) School athletic field situated near the spot where the New London-Waterford town line crosses the old Boston Post road.

Incidentally, a long-term custodian of Mercer field was Frank Briggs, now an active member of the E.B.A.C., who by his connection with the field and the athletic club, probably holds the record of having witnessed more Electric Boat major sports contests than any other individual.

When Bulkeley School and Chapman Technical High school were consolidated in 1950, Morgan park, at Cedar Grove avenue, became the athletic field for the high school and for the city generally. Since the ascendancy of Morgan park, Electric Boat has not been represented in football. However, Electric Boat plays baseball at Morgan park as a member of the Morgan Park league. The Morgan Park league now is actually the City League of New London, but it retains the name adopted in 1934 when there was already a City league functioning at Mercer field.

Electric Boat's earliest City League basketball games were played at the New London Y.M.C.A. gym and at the New London Armory. During the World War II years, Electric Boat played Connecticut Pro league basketball games in the Bulkeley school gymnasium. Since World War II, Electric Boat has played City League basketball at Ocean Beach auditorium.

On one notable occasion, April 7, 1942, Electric Boat defeated the Hartford Gems, 71-60, in a game played at Coast Guard Academy's Billard Hall for the benefit of the Navy Relief Fund. The ticket sale was 3,222 and gross receipts \$3,922.87. The attendance is still a New London basketball record, but the gross receipts record was eclipsed on Feb. 8, 1954, when the professional Boston Celtics and Baltimore Bullets played in the New London High school gymnasium where 1,684 spectators paid \$4,210 at \$2.50 a ticket. The Electric Boat-Gems game was the third and deciding game of the post season President's Cup playoff finals, after Electric Boat had won the regular season championship.

Morgan Park in New London and Fitch High school field in Groton have been scenes of Electric Boat soccer games. Electric Boat teams in the Groton Softball league play at Groton Borough's floodlighted George Washington Park.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Electric Boat's tennis tournaments have been played at Mitchell Woods park in New London. As previously mentioned, the Electric Boat golf tournament started at Norwich and moved to Shenecossett the second year.

The 20-year history of Electric Boat athletics comprises four more or less distinct phases. There was the inaugural period of the 1930's when teams, built from scratch, fought their way to championships at the semipro level. This was followed by the peak-employment wartime period of the 1940's when football, baseball and basketball teams competed as professionals throughout New England. The third phase was the postwar adjustment period when the varsity teams became inactive while emphasis shifted to participation sports. The fourth phase, beginning in 1950 was marked by the revival of representative teams in baseball and basketball, competing in New London leagues.

BASEBALL

Electric Boat baseball comprises two classifications: The professional league teams of the World War II years, and the local twilight league semipro teams during the years before and after World War II.

In professional league competition, the Boatmen reached their peak in 1940 and 1941 when they won Connecticut Pro League pennants after having finished fifth in 1939. The 1941 team, besides winning the state league championship, also won the Connecticut-Rhode Island division championship of the National Semi-Pro Baseball Congress by defeating the American Combines of Woonsocket, R. I., two victories to one, thus qualifying for the national tournament at Wichita, Kansas.

The Wichita trip was the most extensive athletic expedition undertaken by Electric Boat and to make it possible the athletic club had not only the cooperation of O.P. Robinson, but also the help of L.Y. Spear, then president of Electric Boat.

At Wichita, after passing the first round due to the withdrawal of the opposing team, the Diesels scored a second-round victory by a score of 7-6 over the Bona-Allens of Buford, Ga. This was considered one of the major upsets of the tournament in that the pitcher who opposed Electric Boat was Merritt (Sugar) Cain, a hurler of major league

EBAC History - 1934-1985

caliber who previously had been with the Philadelphia Athletics. The Diesels were eliminated from the double-elimination tournament by losses to the Solomon Kandy Kids of Wichita and the Oklahoma Boomers of Stillwater, Okla. The eventual winner of the tournament was Enid, Okla.

The rosters for Electric Boat's Conn. Pro league championship teams were as follows:

1940-Tony Osinski, 2b; John Golart, 3b; Jim LaPietra, c; Jim McKenna, of; Dan Czekala, of; Joe Murphy, lb; Ernie Miller, ss; Joe Woycik, of; John Galchett, of-c; Al Abraham, of; Abe Larriviere, 1 b; Bill CluzesH p; Chet Pavlok, p-of; Harold Morgan, p; Field Manager, Stephen Tuneski; Business Manager, William Haase. (Raymond Smith, catcher, played postseason games).

1941-William Cluzeski, p; Chester Pavlok, p; Floyd Fiske, p; Jim LaPietra, c; John Gatchett, c; Joe Murphy, lb; Tony Osinski, 2b; John Golart, 3b; Ernie Miller, ss; Mike Wallace, of; Joe Kane, of; Dan Czekala, of; Al Abraham, of; George Petrovich, utility; Ed Tr8Jcey, utility; Field Manager, Stephen Tuneski; Business Manager, William Haase.

The Connecticut Pro League disbanded after the 1941 season and the Diesels campaigned independently during the next three seasons. It was during this period that Electric Boat baseball teams achieved some prominence in the metropolitan district through hotly contested annual series with the famed Bushwicks of Brooklyn. In this period the Bushwicks were series winners twice against the Boatmen, and Electric Boat was the winner once, in 1943. The games during the three-season span were divided, five victories for the Bushwicks and four for the Diesels.

In 1945, Electric Boat entered the newly organized New England Pro league. The season started auspiciously for the Diesels, who won five of their first six games and leaped into first place. At this juncture, the Diesels baseball club was badly crippled when within two weeks, six members of the regular lineup were received into the armed forces. Coach Steve Tuneski tried desperately to fill the gaps, using, when possible, service players stationed locally. But the rebuilding attempt met with scant success. The Diesels won only one of their last eleven games and finished fifth.

One of the interesting sidelights on the 1945 team is that

EBAC History - 1934-1985

for 10 games the lineup included a young Submarine Base sailor, playing left field, whose name seldom appeared spelled twice the same way in the box scores. His name appeared as (Joe) Cassano, Cassana, Cassini, Cusano, Cusani and Cassani. These were variations of the pseudonym of a service man playing with a civilian team.

The player is well known by his own name, Lawrence (Yogi) Berra, now a major league catcher. As of this writing, he has helped the New York Yankees in winning an unprecedented five straight American League pennants and World Series championships.

Like Electric Boat's other major sports, baseball went into inactive status during 1946-47-48-49. The sport was revived in 1950 with the entry of an Electric Boat team in the Morgan Park (New London) Twilight league.

In four seasons of postwar baseball, Electric Boat won two pennants in the Morgan Park league -1952 and 1953.

The Boatmen won both ends of a split season in 1952, taking the second half by defeating Pfizer, 4-3, in a playoff game following a 4-4 tie. The Electric Boat lineup for the pennant-clincher was: Leon Shedroff, ss; Jim Caulfield, c; Danny Rourke, 1 b; Bob Bodach, 3b; Nike Consentino, If; Lou Massucci, rf; Don Rossi, 2b; Jim Donegan,cf; George McCooey, p; Manager, Harold (Lefty) Morgan.

Austin Doerr of Electric Boat was the league batting champion for 1952 with a .400 average, but he was not with the team at the finish of the season. He was one of many Electric Boat employees who, during the period when the atomic submarine Nautilus was under construction, had special assignments which took them away from the Groton plant.

Other Electric Boat players during the season were: Mike Chiappone, Ray Bartolucci, Bill Haase, Jr., Joe DesJarlais, Gene Maynard, and George Pugsley. Gene Fulton was business manager of the team.

In 1953, Electric Boat won the championship by taking the second half and then defeating the Jewett City Combos, first-half winners, in a best three- out-of-five playoff that actually went eight games including three ties. The final game, a 10-1 victory for Electric Boat, was played

EBAC History - 1934-1985

with the following lineup: Mike Chiappone, 2b; Jim Caulfield, c; Joe Kobelski, ss; Mike Consentino, lf; George McCooey, p; Don Rossi, rf; Bob Bodach, 3b; Bob Barber, lb; Danny Rourke, 3b; Manager Harold (Lefty) Morgan. Other players during the season were: Louis Job, Arthur Cottrell, John Lukowski, Deo Dugas, Gene Pehota, Lou Massucci, 'Leon Shedroff, Bob Faraci, Del Francis, Austin Doerr, Charles Baker, Bob McGowan, Joe, DeGregorio, Anthony Alfiero, and George Gilmore. Del Francis was business manager of the team, with Charles Baker as his assistant.

Danny Rourke was the league's leading pitcher in 1952 and 1953, but also played various infield positions for the Boatmen.

Chronology

1934

Organized first Electric Boat baseball team and entered City league, finishing third in each half of split season as Kaceys won championship in disputed playoff with Robert Gair.

1935

Won City league championship by finishing first in each half of split season defeated Norwich Collegians, two straight, to claim Eastern Connecticut championship.

1936

Lost to Robert Gair, three games to one; in split-season playoff series for City league championship.

1937

Lost to Polish Citizens, three games to one, in split-season playoff series for City league championship.

1938

Tied with Robert Gair for first place in first half of City league schedule. Lost to Gair, three games to two, with two ties in playoff series for first-half title. Second half schedule cancelled.

1939

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Entered Connecticut Pro league and finished fifth; defeated Taftville, two straight, in Eastern Connecticut championship series.

1940

Won Connecticut Pro league championship. Eliminated by Seymour in Connecticut Division of National Semi-Pro Congress playoffs, but defeated Seymour in post-season game 1.

1941

Won Connecticut Pro league championship and defeated Coast Guard Bears, Morgan Park league champions by score of 2-1 in USO Benefit game. Won Conn.-R. I. District championship of National Semi-Pro Congress. Entered National Semi-Pro Congress championship tournament at Wichita, Kansas, and scored upset victory over Georgia Buford-Allens; then eliminated from tournament by losses to Solomon Kandy Kids and Oklahoma Boomers.

1942

Connecticut Pro league disbanded. Electric Boat played independently, winning 16 games and losing five, establishing claim to Eastern Connecticut championship.

1943

Played independently, winning 11 out of 16 games, including three out of three against Coast Guard Dolphins, champions of Morgan Park league, and two victories out of three in series with Bushwicks of Brooklyn, N. Y.

1944

Played independent schedule, winning five out of ten games, including split of two games with Coast Guard Bears, runnersup in Morgan Park league.

1945

Entered New England league and finished fifth with record of six victories and 17 defeats.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

1946-47 -48-49 (No team)

1950

Entered Morgan league (New London) and lost to New London Sons Of Italy, three games to one, in split-season championship playoff.

1951

Lost to Pfizer, three games to one, in split-season playoff series for Morgan league championship.

1952

Won Morgan league championship, taking both halves of split-season schedule. Defeated Willimantic in first round of Connecticut Division, National Semi-Pro Congress tournament and lost to Pratt & Whitney of Hartford in semi-final round. (Standard Propellers of Hartford won Connecticut division title.)

1953

Won Morgan league championship by defeating Jewett City Combos, three victories to two, in an extraordinary split-season playoff series that required a total of eight games because of three tie contests.

FOOTBALL

In twelve seasons of football from 1934 through 1945, Electric Boat had nine teams which finished with a percentage of better than .500 and three that fell below that mark.

On the basis of winning percentage and caliber of opposition, the 1942 Diesel team made an outstanding record, winning six games while losing two. One of the defeats was suffered against the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National Professional league in a benefit game. The other was a midseason loss to the powerful Springfield, Mass., Steamrollers, whom the Diesels defeated in a later game. As of the end of the season, the Diesels were widely acclaimed as the strongest team in New England, semi-pro or professional.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

New England did not have a team in the National Professional Football league at the time. The Boston Redskins had moved to Washington and the Boston Yankees had not yet appeared for their brief New England tenure.

Two of the most famous of Electric Boat's football players were on the 1942 team. They were Clark Hinkle, formerly of Bucknell and the Green Bay Packers, at fullback, and Bob Fitch, All-America end from Minnesota. Both were serving locally as officers in the United States Coast Guard at the time.

Three other Electric Boat football clubs had better winning percentages than the 1942 team.

The 1937 team won six, lost one and tied one. The non-winning games were both with Connecticut rivals. The tie was with Stratford, whom the Diesels met only once, and the loss was administered by the Middletown Sons of Italy, whom Electric Boat defeated in a return game. On the record, Electric Boat was entitled to at least a share of the Connecticut semi-pro championship.

The 1944 team also won six, lost one and tied one. In three games against Connecticut opponents, the Diesels defeated the Sub Base twice and Bristol West Ends once for an unblemished record in the home state. The defeat and the tie were both in games with the Springfield Steamrollers. A third game was scheduled with the Steamrollers, but later cancelled by the Springfield club, depriving the Diesels of a shot at a New England 20-championship.

The Diesel eleven with the most victories was the 1936 team which won eight, while losing two. The two defeats, however were both administered by a home-state rival, the Danbury Trojans, who claimed Connecticut supremacy that year. Incidentally, 1936 was Danbury's last season as a Connecticut football power.

At the risk of provoking more arguments than it settles, here is a brief perspective of Electric Boat's winning seasons.

1934

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Won three, tied two and lost one despite problems of organizing a new team. Only defeat was 7-0 to Westerly Hilltops, whom the Diesels later defeated 6-0.

1935

Won four, tied two while losing one to Bristol West Ends, 21-6, spoiling possible claim to state semi-pro championship.

1936

Won eight against Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island opponents and lost two, both defeats at hands of powerful Danbury Trojans by scores of 12-7 and 20-7.

1937

Won six, tied one (Stratford 7-7) and lost one by a 7-0 score to Middletown Sons of Italy, whom Electric Boat later defeated 17-0.

1938

Won four, tied two, lost two, both losses being to out-of-state teams (Quincy, Mass., Manets, and Lynn, Mass., American Legion). Claimed state title on basis of victory and tie in two games with Fairfield Tigers and victories over three other Connecticut rivals.

1940

Won five, tied one and lost four in a ten-game schedule which included participation in the four-team Connecticut Semi-Pro league. The league schedule was unfinished, leaving Electric Boat tied with Stratford for second place, one point behind Stamford. Electric Boat, which had beaten and tied Stamford in two games, was deprived of an opportunity to go into first place when the Wallingford Walcos, regarded as the weakest team in the league, withdrew from the circuit during the week they were scheduled to play the Diesels.

1942

Won six games against New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut opponents. One of the defeats (35-0) was

EBAC History - 1934-1985

at the hands of the Brooklyn Dodgers of the National Professional Football league in a benefit game at Hartford. The other defeat was a 7-0 score in a contest with the Springfield, Mass., Steamrollers, whom the Diesels defeated 14-10 in a later game. At the end of the season, Electric Boat received strong support of its claim to the New England pro championship.

1943

Won four and lost two. The Diesels won their first four games and were undefeated, untied and unscored upon before meeting defeat in their final two games against the Inter-Racial (collegiate) All-Stars, 13-0, at the New York Polo Grounds, and to the Green Bay Packers of the National Professional Football league by a 62-14 score in a wartime benefit game at Bristol, Conn.

1944

Won six, including a 20-0 victory over the Inter-Racial Stars at Waterbury in the game that marked the football inaugural of Waterbury's new municipal stadium; lost one and tied one. The defeat (10-0) and the tie (13-13) were in games with the Springfield Steamrollers. A third game scheduled with Springfield was cancelled by the Steamrollers.

BASKETBALL

As in baseball, Electric Boat had basketball teams in professional league competition during the World War II period and teams of semi-pro classification in local league competition in the years before and after the war.

In professional competition, the Diesels were members of the Connecticut Pro League in the seasons ending in 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944. They won the league championship the middle three years and were runnersup to New Britain the fifth year. During the 1943-44 season, the Electric Boat team played under two names. They played an independent schedule under the name of Diesels but used the name of Hartford Villanovas in the Connecticut Pro league.

Among the outstanding Electric Boat players of the professional league period was Lieut. Boh Calihan of the U.S. Navy, who played all of the 1942-43 season, scoring

EBAC History - 1934-1985

397 points in 23 games, and part of the 1943-44 season before being transferred to Boston. Calihan, who had been an All America player at the University of Detroit, was selected as the No. 1 Athlete of the Southeastern Connecticut Area in 1943 for his performance with the Diesels during the 1942-43 season. He was the second Electric Boat athlete to win that honor, the first having been Edward Yvon, pitcher of the 1935 Electric Boat baseball team.

The rosters of the three Electric Boat Basketball teams which won Connecticut Pro league championships are as follows:

1940-41-Chester JawO'rsky, Joe Kane, Joe Murphy, Mike Petrosky, Eddie Sullivan, Ed Petro, Tony Osinski, Mike Severin, Billy Rose, Jim Hoffman, Billy Tuneski. Manager William Haase, Coach Joe Murphy.

1941-42-Chester Jaworski, Mike Wallace, Jackie Goldsmith, Eddie Sullivan, Joe Kane, Tony Osinski, George Petrovich, Joe Murphy, Joe Maryeski, Joe Brennan, Bobby Lynch, Manager William Haase, Coach Joe Murphy.

1942-43-Mike Wallace, Ellis Sieger, Eddy Sullivan, Bob Calihan, Joe Kane, Ray Kite, Nick Shaback, George Petrovich, Perry Carlile, Nella Burian, Manager William Haase, Coach Joe Kane.

Electric Boat's most successful basketball team since World War II was the 1952-53 squad which won both the regular season championship and the post-season trophy playoffs of the City league.

To win the league championship, the Boatmen staged a late-season rush to create a tie with Pfizer for first place. Electric Boat defeated Pfizer, 87 -80, in overtime to win the one-game championship playoff. The Boatmen's lineup for the clincher was: Chet Stafford, Ken Shepherd, Tom Henderson and Bones Malagrino, forwards; Bob Fleishman, center; Lou Hochman, Nate Goldberg, Roger LaFrance and George Perry, guards. Danny Rourke was coach of the team, with Jim Caufield as assistant coach. Other players during the season were: Bob Serra, Tony Piccolo, Jim Heffernan, Joe DesJadais, Nick Lussier and Warren McFadden.

Chronology

1934-35

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Electric Boat's first basketball team organized; won City League championship, defeating Coca Colas, two victories to none, in playoff of tie for first place at end of regular season.

1935-36

Played independent schedule, winning 13 and losing eight. Won New London city championship by defeating Rivergairs, two victories to one, in special series.

1936-37

Played independently and won seven games while losing four games of a schedule curtailed by cancellation of last five games due to strike' conditions.

1937-38

Played independent schedule, winning 14 games and losing seven; failed in bid for city championship by losing two straight to Sub Base and two out of three to St. Joseph's, who won city championship.

1938-39

Played independently, winning 12 and losing five; failed in City championship round-robin, losing two straight to Robert Gair after winning two straight against Sub Base.

1939-40

Electric Boat entered the Connecticut Pro League and finished fifth for the full season (eighth in first half and third in second half). New Britain defeated Meriden in championship playoff. Electric Boat defeated the Bachelors:, two victories to none, in a post-season series for the city championship.

1940-41

Won Connecticut Pro League championship with a garrison finish, defeating Bridgeport Springwoods in a playoff of a tie for first place in second half; then defeating first-half champion Norwalk in split-season playoff series.

1941-42

Won Connecticut Pro League championship and then defeated Hartford Gems in post-season President's Cup playoff finals, two victories to one.

1942-43

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Won Connecticut Pro League championship and claimed New England title; last to Detroit Eagles in first round of Worcester Invitation tournament.

1943-44

Electric Boat basketball team performed in a dual role, holding the Hartford franchise in the Connecticut Pro league under the name of Hartford Villanovas while also playing an independent schedule under the name of Electric Boat Diesels. Composite record was 13 victories and 11 defeats. The Villanovas last to New Britain, three games to one, in the Connecticut Pro league championship playoff series. The Diesels lost to the Worcester Nortons in the first round of the Worcester Invitation tournament.

1944-45

Played an abbreviated six-game independent schedule, winning four and losing two.

1945-46 (No team)

1946-47 (No team)

1947 -48 (No team)

1948-49

Electric Boat reactivated basketball and entered City League, finishing third behind Wovereens and Senior Clippers in first half and tied for second place with Senior Clippers behind Wovereens in second half. Wovereens won regular season championship. Senior Clippers won postseason playoffs in which Electric Boat was eliminated in first round.

1949-50

Finished third behind Pfizer and Mohawks in regular season; eliminated in first round of post-season playoffs, which were won by Pfizer.

1950-51

Finished as runnerup to Pfizer in both regular season and post-season playoffs of City league.

1951-52

Finished third behind Norwich State Hospital and Pfizer in City league regular season; lost to Pfizer and Combos in post-season double elimination playoffs, which were won by Pfizer.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

1952-53

Won City league regular season championship by defeating Pfizer. 87 -80 in a one-game (overtime) playoff of a tie for first place; also won post-season playoffs.

1953-54

Tied for third with Combos behind Pfizer and Norwich State Hospital in City league regular season; lost to Pfizer and Combos in post-season double elimination playoffs, which were won by Combos.

ELECTRIC BOAT JUNIOR VARSITY SPORTS

During the late 1930's and early 1940's, the Electric Boat A.C. sponsored "junior varsity" teams in baseball and basketball. These teams not only broadened the base of Electric Boat employee participation in competitive sports, but also provided a farm training organization for the Diesel "varsity" teams. Electric Boat junior varsity teams played under the name of Electric Boat Trojans. The following is a summary of Electric Boat Trojan activities:

E.B. TROJAN BASEBALL

1938

Entered Morgan Park Baseball league and won championship, defeating Whitons, three games to two, in title playoff series.

1939

Won Morgan Park league championship, defeating Ockfords, four games to one, in playoff series.

1940

Finished fourth in first half of Morgan Park league and sixth in second half as Coast Guard Bears won championship.

1941

Lost to Coast Guard Bears in final game of triple-tie playoff for first place at end of first half of split season. Trojans finished third in second half as Coast Guard Bears won championship by also taking second half.

1942

Ockfords defeated Trojans, three victories to none, in Morgan Park league championship playoff series.

1943

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Ockfords eliminated Trojans in semi-final round of playoff for Morgan league championship. Coast Guard Bears won championship by defeating Ockfords in final round.

1944

Trojans withdrew from Morgan Park league and have not since participated. (Electric Boat entered its varsity team in the Morgan Park league in 1950).

E.B. TROJAN BASKETBALL

1938-39

Electric Boat Trojan basketball team is organized to play independent schedule, winning 18 games while losing one, and ending season by winning New London Y.M.C.A. Gold Medal tournament.

1939-40

Played independent schedule, mostly preliminaries to Electric Boat Diesel games, and won 10 out of 11 despite fact that four Trojan players were taken in mid-season to strengthen Diesel squad.

1940-41

Entered newly organized Eastern Connecticut league and won championship by taking both halves of split season.

1941-42

Tied with Coast Guard Bears' for first place at end of regular season of Eastern Connecticut league and lost championship playoff to Bears, two victories to one.

1942-43

Trojans entered reactivated City Basketball league of New London and won seven out of ten, finishing second to undefeated Coast Guard Bears.

1943-44

Trojans played seven games as preliminaries to Diesel home games, winning two and losing five. Several Trojan players also played with Groton Tigers, an independent team.

1944-45

Trojan team disbanded and has not since reactivated. Along lines similar to the Trojan teams, the Electric Boat A.C. sponsored an employees' basketball team in the New London Y.M.C.A.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

House league for 1952-53

This team won the championship of its league and gained the right to represent the New London Y in the 1953 Connecticut Y.M.C.A. sports festival.

ELECTRIC BOAT SOCCER

1935

First Electric Boat Soccer team organized for season of 1935-36.

1936

Runnerup to G. C. Moores in Eastern Connecticut league; defeated Moores in Connecticut Intermediate Trophy playoffs.

1937

Electric Boat team disbanded in midseason due to lack of players; Jewett City won Eastern Connecticut league championship.

1938-No team

1939-No team

1940-No team. Electric Boat team organized for

1941

Won Connecticut Protective Trophy series.

1942

Electric Boat relinquished Connecticut Protective Trophy without defense, but organized a team for a two-game series with visiting British Navy team, losing first game, 6-5, and winning second, 2-1.

1943

Electric Boat defeated British Navy team in a special match at Fitch High school athletic field, Groton, and won both ends of a wartime benefit doubleheader at Hartford against British Navy team and another team composed of Hartford defense workers.

1944

Electric Boat won one game against Middletown, split two games with U. S. Coast Guard Academy and lost two games to Yale.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

1945-46-47-48-49-No team.

1950

Electric Boat reassembled team of early 1940's to play two games with team of visiting Peruvian submarine sailors, Peruvians winning both games. (An international match between two foreign teams was played at Mercer field, New London, in which a team of visiting Turkish submarine sailors defeated the Peruvian submarine team, 1-0.)

1951-52-53-No team.

ELECTRIC BOAT SOFTBALL

1944

Entered Groton Softball league; finished runnerup to Groton Airport.

1945-46-47 -48-49-(No team.)

1950

Reentered Groton league and finished fourth; championship won by Pfizer.

1951

Finished runnerup to Sea Raiders.

1952

Finished third; championship won by Coast Guard Training Station. Vincent Archer, Electric Boat, won league batting championship (.393).

1953

Finished third; championship won by Coast Guard Training Station. Jim French, Electric Boat, won league batting championship (.413). Gene Cedio, Electric Boat, was home run leader (10). Electric Boat was runnerup to New London Combos in New London County playoffs.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

ELECTRIC BOAT A. C 1934-1959 By John J. DeGange (From the brochure for the EBAC 25th Annual Sports Banquet, November 7, 1959)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John J. DeGange, sports editor of the New London Day, has been a sports writer for 35 years. He wrote the first news stories about the organization of the Electric Boat Athletic Club in 1934 and has followed its activities ever since. In 1954 he wrote the ELECTRIC BOAT BOOK OF SPORTS, published on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary observance of the EBAC.

Twenty-five years have passed since the day in mid-March, 1934, when a small group of employees of the Electric Boat Co., meeting as a committee on athletics, voted to organize an Electric Boat baseball team and enter it in the City League of New London.

From that modest beginning in a baseball committee meeting, the Electric Boat Athletic Club has become one of the outstanding industrial athletic clubs in the world.

At its banquet of 1959, the Electric Boat Athletic Club, Inc., will make formal observance of a quarter of a century of achievement worthy of the great industrial organization it represents-Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corp., builder of submarines for the United States Navy. It was in the Thames River shipyard that the U.S.S. Nautilus, world's first nuclear-powered submarine was built, and it was there, history may record, that the atomic age of industry began in 1954.

In general, the origin and growth of the Electric Boat Athletic Club has been similar to the development of the athletic association of a growing college or university. It has had the same broad purposes-to offer a focus of loyalty; to teach the value of cooperation as well as the spirit of competition, and to provide healthy recreational activity for its members.

This booklet, prepared for distribution at the 25th Anniversary banquet of the EBAC, may be called Volume II of the Electric Boat Book of Sports, or it may be called a supplement to the original Electric Boat Book of Sports published on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary banquet of the EBAC on April 10, 1954.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Much that appeared in the original book has been omitted, or else greatly condensed in this offering. It may be recalled, however, that the narrative in the 1954 book closed with the reference to four phases or chapters comprising the first 20 years of the history of the EBAC

In its earliest years, when membership numbered around 1,000, the primary aim of the EBAC was to sponsor "varsity" teams, notably in baseball, football and basketball, to represent Electric Boat in semi-pro leagues, or in competition with other industrial teams or with independent clubs. During this period, Electric Boat baseball and basketball teams competed in the City Leagues of New London, while the football team arranged schedules with industrial and semipro clubs throughout Southern New England.

During the World War II period, the emphasis on war industry brought many professional athletes and prospective professionals into defense work. Of these, Electric Boat had its share, with the result that its athletic teams attained a professional caliber. It was during this period that the EBAC developed its strongest, if not its winningest teams.

The ending of the war brought about a quick change in the structure of Electric Boat athletics. Most of the professional athletes who had come into defense industry returned to their professional athletic careers. In the EBAC, there was a shift of emphasis from "varsity" sports to the so-called participation sports. At Electric Boat, these became known under the heading of interdepartmental or "intramural" activities. They dominated the EBAC picture during the third phase, which spanned a period of about four years.

Electric Boat football, halted after the completion of the 1945 season, has never been restored; but in the other major sports there has been a revival of "varsity" teams beginning in 1950.

The renewal of varsity sports during the 1950's and the rapid expansion of the interdepartmental program during the same period make up the fourth or present phase of the EBAC. To those who were instrumental in bringing it about, the picture is a gratifying one, and the year 1959, marking

EBAC History - 1934-1985

the 25th Anniversary of the EBAC, is one in which they may take greatest pride.

In competition afield, Electric Boat teams made 1959 one of their greatest years. The baseball team won the championship of the Morgan League in New London. The basketball team won the championship of the City League of New London. And the Softball team won the championship of the Groton League. In their respective sports, these are headline leagues in Eastern Connecticut.

In addition, the Electric Boat-sponsored team won the championship of the Groton Little League and the Electric Boat-sponsored team finished second in the American Division of the New London Babe Ruth League.

With regard to the EBAC's sports participation program, a simple statistical reference to 1959 activity tells the story as graphically as anything else. During this year, the EBAC had a membership enrollment of 8,200 men and 380 women. Of these, more than 80 per cent of the men and practically all of the women took part in one or more activities of the EBAC interdepartmental program. This is indeed an attainment of the EBAC purpose to do the most for the greatest number.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

From the 35th Annual EBAC Sports Banquet Brochure (3/26/69)

John J. Deange, executive sports editor of The New London Day, has been reporting sports activities for the past 45 years. He has also authored the previous commemorative publications for the 20th and 25th Anniversaries of the EBAC. His knowledge of, and familiarity with, the Electric Boat Athletic Club make him the individual most qualified to write this historical record.

While the Electric Boat Athletic Club is observing its 35th anniversary, memory goes back to the spring of 1934 when a committee of ten men took the first steps in the organization of what has become one of the leading industrial athletic clubs in the world. It was on March 16, 1934, that the plans for the first Electric Boat baseball team were announced by J. Damon Eaton, chairman of the organizing committee. Serving on the committee with him were. S. Bosworth, secretary; Albert Meeagni, treasurer; James A. Stitt, Harold Havens, John Hilding, Barney Costello, David Reagan, Ted Havens and Howard Ward. Harris A. Locke, a government-engineering aide who had played professional baseball in the Western League, was appointed as team manager. The team entered the City League of New London and finished third in its first season.

The first Electric Boat football team was organized in the fall of 1934, with Jess Snyder as Coach. The team played six games, winning three and losing one, with two ties. While the football season was in progress, work was begun on the formal organization of the athletic club. On December 3, 1934, the incorporation of the Electric Boat Athletic Club was announced, with the following officers: Honorary President-O. P. Robinson; President-J. Steven McGrath; Vice-President-Charles Newell; Secretary--Elwood Anderson; Treasurer Albert Mecagni; Executive Committee-- John Hilding, Theodore Risch, J. Damon Eaton, David Reagan, J. Joseph Allen, Charles Yearing, Richard Wakeford, J. William Jones, Charles S. Moore and James A Stitt. A campaign to enroll 1,000 members was completed in less than two months.

In the late fall of 1934, the first Electric Boat basketball team was formed, with Theodore (Allie) Risch as coach and David Reagan as manager. The team entered the

EBAC History - 1934-1985

City Basketball League in New London and won the championship with the loss of only one game. Towards the end of the year 1934, the Electric Boat Athletic Club organized its first bowling league, the beginning of one of America's most comprehensive and most successful employee-participation programs.

The submarine building establishment located in Groton, Connecticut, and now known as Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation was founded in 1899 as the New London Ship and Engine Company, manufacturer of Diesel engines and builder of Diesel freighters, tugs, yachts, submarine boats and ferry boats. As of 1929, the company became known as Electric Boat. In the pre-nuclear period, submarines were propelled by Diesel engines while surfaced and by electric motors while submerged. Quite naturally, Electric Boat Athletic Club teams acquired the nickname of Diesels.

In 1935, John Cawley was appointed coach of the Diesel football team. Cawley played college football at St. Thomas College, later Scranton University. After graduation he played with the All-Coast Guard Bears, winners of the President's Cup emblematic of the inter-service championship. Cawley coached Electric Boat football until the sport was discontinued after the 1945 season.

During 12 years of competition, Electric Boat football teams won 52 games, lost 28 and tied 13.

The Diesels reached their greatest gridiron heights during World War II. Their schedules in that period included two games with professional teams of the National Football League - the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1942 and the Green Bay Packers in 1943. Among the Electric Boat players of that time were three famous stars that joined the team while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. They were Clark Hinkle of Bucknell University and Green Bay Packer fame, Esco Sarkkinen, All-America end at Ohio State University, and Bob Fitch, All-America end at the University of Minnesota.

The 1942 Electric Boat team was widely acclaimed as the New England Professional champion on the basis of winning percentage and caliber of opposition. The team won six and lost two. One of the defeats was at the hands of the Brooklyn Dodgers in a benefit game at the opening of the

EBAC History - 1934-1985

season. The other loss was to the Springfield, Massachusetts Steamrollers, whom the Diesels defeated in a return game.

Electric Boat also competed at the professional level in baseball and basketball during World War II. The baseball team won the Connecticut Pro League championship in 1940 and 1941. The 1941 team also won the Connecticut-Rhode Island Division championship of the National Baseball Congress and qualified for the national tournament at Wichita, Kansas. At Wichita, the Diesels were eliminated in the late rounds after they pulled the surprise of the tournament by defeating the Bona-Aliens of Buford, Georgia. The pitcher for the Buford-Aliens in that game was Merritt (Sugar) Cain, who had pitched major league ball with the Philadelphia Athletics.

The 1945 Electric Boat baseball team entered the New England Pro League and was off to a good start with five victories in the first six games. The team was badly crippled when, within a period of two weeks, six of the regulars were inducted into the armed forces. A notable aspect of the 1945 season was the fact that for 10 games, the Diesel lineup included a Submarine Base sailor, Lawrence (Yogi) Berra, later to achieve fame as a catcher, home run hitter, and World Series hero with the New York Yankees.

Electric Boat's basketball team played in the Connecticut Pro League for five years in the early 1940s, winning the championship three times and the runner-up trophy once. Among the outstanding Diesel basketball players of that period was Lt. Bob Calihan, who was serving in the U.S. Navy. He was Electric Boat's leading scorer in 1942-43 with 397 points in 23 games. Calihan entered the Navy after making All-America at the University of Detroit. He returned to the University of Detroit after the war as basketball coach.

During the years when Electric Boat was waging highly successful campaigns in football, baseball and basketball in competition with opponents of professional caliber, the athletic club was already set upon a course that placed emphasis on sports participation for larger numbers of employees.

The Electric Boat Employees' golf tournament was started

EBAC History - 1934-1985

in 1938, and in the same year junior varsity teams in baseball and basketball were organized under the name of Electric Boat Trojans. The Electric Boat tennis tournament was inaugurated the following year.

The Electric Boat football team was permanently disbanded after the 1945 season. The baseball and basketball teams were deactivated for three years. When the baseball and basketball teams returned to active status they found themselves in a period of transition during which the Diesel name was phased out of the EBAC directory. A new era had begun. Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation ushered in the atomic age of industry with the construction of the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, the Nautilus, which was launched in 1954.

The reactivated basketball team entered the New London City League in 1948-49 and in 21 seasons since then the Boatmen have won the championship nine times and the runner-up trophy six times.

Electric Boat returned to baseball competition in the Morgan League of New London in 1950 and in 19 seasons has won the championship 12 times. The Boatmen set a Morgan League record by winning 65 consecutive league games beginning in the latter part of the 1959 season, continuing through the undefeated seasons of 1960 and 1961 and ending midway through the 1962 campaign. After winning the Morgan League pennant in 1962, Electric Boat added Paul Casanova of the Quaker Hill club to its roster for post-season play in the Holyoke, Massachusetts Knights of Columbus Invitational Tournament. At the Holyoke tournament, Casanova was scouted by a representative of the Washington Senators who signed him to a contract leading to his assignment as Washington's regular catcher in 1966.

In transferring emphasis from the so-called varsity to participation sports, the EBAC has not lessened competitive interest. Golf, for example, continues as a highly competitive sport for a greatly increased number of players in an expanded program. The original Electric Boat Employees tournament for the John Jay Hopkins trophy continues as a championship event in the stroke-play format adopted in 1943. A match play tournament was added in 1957. The Interdepartment Golf League was established in 1956. The program was further enlarged by the addition of a four-ball tournament and an Old Timers tournament in 1959 and a

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Scotch foursome tournament in 1961. The Electric Boat golf team entered the New England Industrial team matches in 1966.

In 1967, General Dynamics inaugurated a golf tournament for all of its East Coast Divisions--Electric Boat, Quincy, Canadair, Electronics, Stromberg-Carlson and Corporate office. The tournament, with the eight best players of each division competing in best-ball matches, was played at Cape Cod in 1967 and at Alexandria Bay, New York in 1968. Electric Boat Division won both years. The highlights of the 1968 tournament were provided by members of the Electric Boat team as Walt Wiggins tied the course record and Ernie Tobey carded a hole in one.

Indicative of the growth of EBAC golf is the Interdepartment League, which in recent years has averaged 50 teams, with seven players on a team. This is believed to be the largest industrial golf league in New England, if not the entire United States.

Notable for competitive enthusiasm are the interdepartment leagues. In this area of activity a fantastic record has been compiled by Colin Campbell of Structural Design. He has played as an infielder on Structural Softball teams that have won 185 games while losing only nine in 11 seasons. As coach of the Structural Basketball team his record is 101 victories against 22 losses in nine seasons.

Golf, tennis and bowling are sports in which the EBAC has an extensive program for women as well as men. The Ladies Golf field Day has been an annual event since 1955. The Electric Boat tennis tournament, started as a men's event in 1939, has included women's events on an annual basis in recent years. The Girls' Interdepartmental League, started in 1941, is a feature of the bowling program, along with the annual men's tenpin and duckpin tournaments, which are among the biggest bowling tournaments in Eastern Connecticut. Bowling tops the EBAC program in total participants. Last year there were more than 1,000 men and women bowlers on 188 teams in tenpin and duckpin competition.

The EBAC program has been given further diversification during the past decade with the addition of a Fishing Derby, which had more than 900 entries in 1968; billiard and volleyball competition in interdepartment leagues, a

EBAC History - 1934-1985

pistol team competing in the New London County League, a rifle team in the Connecticut Big Bore League in Wallingford, and sailboat racing conducted for the first time in 1968.

The program of the EBAC includes sponsorship of teams in youth organizations such as the Little League and Babe Ruth League, and participation in athletic exhibitions in behalf of charitable activities in the community.

In addition to its athletic programs, the EBAC sponsors annual excursions to Puerto Rico, Bermuda and Europe, several dances and banquets each year, and group trips to professional football, baseball, basketball and hockey games.

The Electric Boat Athletic Club has grown beyond anything g its founders had in mind 35 years ago. The membership in 1968 was 11,654. The all-time high was reached in 1966 when the total membership was 12,988.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

From the brochure for the 50th EBAC Annual Sports Banquet (1/10/1985)

About the Author John J. DeGange, retired executive sports editor of The New London Day, has authored the previous commemorative publications for the 20th, 25th. and 35th Anniversaries of the EBAC. He attended the original organization meeting for the EBAC in 1934. His knowledge of and familiarity with the Electric Boat Athletic Club make him the individual most qualified to write this historical record.

Fifty years have passed since January 10, 1935, when legal steps were taken to incorporate the Electric Boat Athletic Club. But the beginning dates back to the spring of 1934, when a committee of ten men took the first steps in the organization of what has become one of the leading industrial recreation clubs in the world. On March 25, 1934, plans for the first Electric Boat baseball team were announced by J. Damon Eaton, chairman of the organizing committee. Serving on the committee with him were N. S. Bosworth, secretary; Albert Mecagni, treasurer; James A. Stitt, Harold Havens, John Hilding, Barney Costello, David Reagan, Ted Havens, and Howard Ward.

Three days later, the committee announced the appointment of its first baseball manager, Harris A. Locke. He had played professional baseball as a pitcher for the Sioux City club of the Western League. The committee also announced that the Electric Boat Company had contributed \$100 to help get the team started. The Boatmen entered the New London City League. The line· up for their first game against Robert Gair was John Brennan, 3b; Howard Ward, cf; Harold Havens, 2b; Gordon Belknap, If; Jess Long, Ib; Jim Brennan, c; Ted Havens, rf; Eddie Barry, ss; and Gene Callahan, p. For Electric Boat it was a modest beginning. The team finished third. There was room to grow in all directions, and the growth was swift.

In the fall of 1934, Electric Boat organized a football team with Jesse Snyder as coach, assisted by Joseph (Pop) Hokep! This team campaigned as the Electric Boat Diesels, an appropriate reminder that it was sponsored by a firm that had gained world renown as a builder of submarines powered by electric motors while submerged and by diesel engines while surfaced. At least that's the way it was

EBAC History - 1934-1985

until Electric Boat became the builder of nuclear powered submarines. Electric Boat registered its first football victory on October 7, 1934, against the Submarine Base by a score of 38 to 6. The Electric Boat lineup was: Ends- F. Murphy, C. Pinch, J. Sachatello, E. Yvon; tackles- R. S. Dimmock, Lewis, VanderLykke, J. Shonts, O'Connor; guards- Smith, W. Pinch, Fox, B. Wineke, R. Hullivan; center- J. Heard; quarterback- P. Haleftiras; halfbacks- RB. Dimmock, J. Edwards, A. Gonsalves, Spaniol; fullbacks- J. Grippo, Pearson.

In the late fall of 1934, the first Electric Boat basketball team was formed with Theodore (Allie) Risch as coach and David Reagan as manager. The team entered the City Basketball League in New London and won the championship with the loss of only one game. Playing for Electric Boat in the opening game were: Joe Cassella, Edward Yvon, and Eddie Barry. forwards; Bob Hullivan and Joe Quinn. centers; John Cawley, Gordon Belknap, Charlie Chihowski, and Francis Murphy, guards.

On December 3, 1934 the establishment of the Electric Boat Athletic Club was announced with the election of the following officers:

- Honorary President · O. P. Robinson
- President; J. Steven McGrath
- Vice· President; Charles Newell
- Secretary; Elwood Anderson
- Treasurer; Albert Mecagni
- Executive Committee · John Hilding, Theodore Risch, J. Damon Eaton, David Reagan, J. Joseph Allen, Charles Yering, Richard Wakeford, J. William Jones, Charles S. Moore and James A. Stitt.

Steven McGrath and Charles Newell were designated as a committee to plan a campaign for 1000 members and to take the necessary legal steps to incorporate the club.

Among the more notable of historical "firsts" in Electric Boat athletics was the first team to represent the organization in women's sports. This was the Electric Boat Dieselles basketball team of 1936, which won 13 games without a defeat. Members of the team were Ruth Bosworth, Phylis Weeks, Mary Noonan, Margaret Luzzi, Oliveri Young, Elizabeth Acker, Annie Rehill, Barbara Dupuis, and Phyllis Pratt. The nucleus of this team was a combination of

EBAC History - 1934-1985

former stars of Fitch High School of Groton and Williams Memorial Institute of New London, two schools which were leaders at the time in Connecticut girls' interscholastic basketball.

Bowling is EBAC's leading participation sport. Started in 1934 with a ten-team interdepartment duckpin league, the program has expanded to eight leagues with a total of 150 teams and a registration in excess of 800 bowlers. Another program with very high participation is the Fishing Derby. In 1984, 600 individuals competed for prizes in the various salt water and fresh water categories. (The highest number of registrations in a single year for the event was 932 in 1977.)

The Electric Boat Employees' golf tournament was inaugurated in 1938 at the Norwich Golf Club and was transferred the following year to its present site at the Shennecossett Golf Club in Groton. For the first five years, the golf tournament was conducted as a match play event. Since 1943, it has been an eighteen-hole medal play competition. Starting in 1948, the low gross winner has received the John Jay Hopkins trophy.

This golf tournament ranks with the big ones of Eastern Connecticut, and the winner accrues a great deal of prestige. Five winners of this event have become golf professionals. They are Ernest (Joe) Laurion, Wilfred Chaney, Charlie Moore, Phil Jones, and Larry Demers. Although championship competition is intense, the tourney is conducted under a system of prize awards which makes the event attractive to employee-golfers of all degrees of playing skill.

Another popular EBAC activity is the annual tennis tournament. Originated with singles competition in 1939, the tourney was suspended in 1944 but was reactivated in 1955. It has been going strong ever since.

The EBAC can boast of many famous and talented athletes who have helped build its organization into one of the most successful athletic programs anywhere. Three such athletes played for the Diesel football team. They were Clark Hinkle, formerly of Bucknell and the Green Bay Packers, at fullback; Bob Fitch, All-American end from Minnesota; and

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Esco Sarkkinen, an All-American end from Ohio State University.

In 1943, the Diesel football team won its first four games and was undefeated, untied, and unscored upon before meeting defeat in its final two games against the Inter-Racial (collegiate) All Stars at the New York Polo Grounds and against the Green Bay Packers of the National Football league in a wartime benefit game at Bristol, CT.

The EBAC also competed at the professional level in baseball and basketball. The baseball team won the Connecticut-Rhode Island Division championship of the National Baseball Congress and qualified for qualified for and played in the national tournament at Wichita, Kansas, in 1941, 1954 and 1974. Many former and future major league players have participated annually in that tournament. The EBAC Basketball team won 3 out of 5 Connecticut Pro League championships in the early 1940's. Among the outstanding Diesel basketball players of that period was Bob Calihan, All-American at the University of Detroit

In the mid-1950's the EBAC experienced a transfer of emphasis from the so-called varsity sports to the participation activities. Members were no longer content to be just spectators and supporters of the varsity teams but wanted to be involved in their own preferred recreational activities.

The EBAC organized interdepartment leagues for basketball, billiards, golf, sailboat racing, softball, tennis and volleyball for both men and women.

The EBAC has been further expanded to include sponsorships of the following clubs: bicycle, camera, canoe, chess, family swimming, karate, retirement, running, and scuba diving. Varsity teams for golf, hockey, shooting, tennis, and touch football also have been added. In addition to its athletic programs, the EBAC sponsors travel excursions to various vacation resorts throughout the world, dinner dances, and banquets each year and group trips to professional baseball, basketball, football, and hockey games. The Electric Boat Athletic Club has grown beyond anything its founders had in mind 50 years ago. The membership in 1984 reached 17,000.

BRIEFS

EBAC History - 1934-1985

The 1935 EBAC baseball team is remembered as the "Lefty Yvon team" because of its pitching ace, Edward (Lefty) Yvon, who was selected that year as the outstanding athlete in Southeastern Connecticut for his performance with the team.

The girls' softball program during World War II was organized and directed by Miss Olivia Shepard, assistant paymaster, who was also team captain. Among the players on the team was Mrs. Aaron Robinson, wife of the New York Yankee - Chicago White Sox catcher of the late 1940's. Mrs. Robinson at the time was employed as a welder at Electric Boat.

The EBAC has maintained a comprehensive sports program for night-shift workers. Basically, this program has comprised basketball, bowling, golf, and softball. The value of organized sports as a morale builder of night-shift workers, especially during war years, was recognized by night-shift superintendents Joseph Milligan, Randolph Jacobsen, Fred Gramberger, and Michael Canestrari, who played an energetic part in the promotion of this phase of the program.

On one notable occasion, April 7, 1942, Electric Boat defeated the Hartford Gems 71-60 in a game played at the Coast Guard Academy's Billard Hall for the benefit of the Navy Relief Fund. The ticket sale was 3222 and gross receipts \$3922.

Women were active in the EBAC during World War II, but they first gained policy-making power in 1944 with the election of Lillian L Hansen to the Executive Board. Formerly involved in tennis, basketball, softball, and volleyball, she regretted the lack of athletic activity for women at Electric Boat and used her position to pioneer women's involvement in sports.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

In the mid 1950's the torch of women's athletics was passed to Dot Bliven. Active in bowling and golf, she served as an Executive Board Member, first chairwoman for the Annual Ladies' Golf Association, chairwoman for the last Ladies' Outing, and President of the Ladies' Golf Association. In 1970 she was honored by having the Outstanding EBAC Woman Athlete trophy named for her. She is still active in ladies' events even though she retired in 1972.

In 1967 General Dynamics inaugurated a golf tournament for all of its East Coast Divisions- Electric Boat, Quincy, Canadair, Electronics, Stromberg-Carlson, and Corporate Office, The tournament, with the eight best players of each division competing in best-ball matches, was played at Cape Cod in 1967; Cod in 1967; Alexandria Bay, New York in 1968; Montreal, Canada in 1969; and Old Lyme, CT in (Black Hall C.C) in 1970. Electric Boat won the championship all four years.

In 1983, General Dynamics organized a tennis doubles championship tournament and extended invitations to the various divisions of General Dynamics to participate. The tourney was held in Fort Worth, Texas. Representing the EBAC was the team of Fred DeGroot and Mike Mike Stefanski, who finished second in the tourney. DeGroot and Stefanski were selected EBAC representatives as a result of winning a special playoff competition. The same tourney was held in 1984. Again in Fort Worth, Texas. This time, Steve Bush and Werner Saszik represented the EBAC and finished in sixth place.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

VARSIITY BASEBALL

- 1934 - Finished third in City League (of New London). 1935 - Won City League championship (Edward Yvon, League-leading pitcher).
- 1936 - Finished second in City League
- 1937 - Finished second in City League (James LaPietra, League batting champion, .414).
- 1938 - Finished second in City League.
- 1939 - Finished fifth in Connecticut Pro League; won Eastern Connecticut series.
- 1940 - Won Connecticut Pro League championship; eliminated in Connecticut division of National Semi-Pro Congress playoffs.
- 1941- Won Connecticut Pro League championship; won Connecticut Rhode Island Division of National Semi-Pro Congress playoffs; won 1, lost 2 in National Semi-Pro Congress tournament at Wichita, Kansas.
- 1942 - Independent schedule; won 16, lost 5.
- 1943 -Independent schedule; won 11, lost 5.
- 1944 - Independent schedule; won 5, lost 5.
- 1945 -Finished fifth in New England League.
- 1946-1949 - No team.
- 1950 - Finished second in Morgan League (of New London).
- 1951 -Finished second in Morgan League.
- 1952 -Won Morgan League championship; eliminated in semi-finals of Connecticut Division of National Semi-Pro Congress playoffs (Austin Doerr, League batting champion, .400; Danny Rourke, League leading pitcher).
- 1953 - Won Morgan League championship (Danny Rourke, League-leading pitcher).
- 1954 - Won first half of Morgan League; then withdrew from League and entered National Semi-Pro Congress, winning Connecticut Division championship. Won 2, lost 2 in national tournament at Wichita, Kansas.
- 1955 - Won Morgan League championship (Lou Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1956 - Won Morgan League championship (Lou Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1957 - Won Morgan League championship (AJex Dubovick, League batting champion, .492; Lou Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1958 - Finished third in Morgan League (Lou Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1959 - Won Morgan League championship (Lou Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1960 - Won Morgan League regular season championship and

EBAC History - 1934-1985

- post-season playoff trophy; undefeated in 22 games (Alex Dubovick, League batting champion, .403; Lou Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1961 - Won Morgan League regular season championship and post-season playoff trophy; undefeated in 22 games (Lou Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1962 - Won Morgan League regular season championship (Tom DiCarlo, EB League batting champion, .493; Ron Locke, League-leading pitcher). (Lost to Providence Helens in New England Sectional tournament of National Baseball Congress; lost to Winsted, Massachusetts Towners in final round of Holyoke Knights of Columbus Invitational tournament).
- 1963 - Won Morgan League regular season championship and post-season playoff trophy (Bill Cholewa, League batting champion, .424; Marcus Job, League-leading pitcher).
- 1964 - Won Morgan League regular season championship (Marcus Job, League-leading pitcher and Most Valuable Player).
- 1965 - Won regular season championship, defeating Oilers in split-season playoff (Marcus Job, League-leading pitcher; Dick Chipperfield, ES, Most Valuable Player).
- 1966 - Finished third in Morgan League.
- 1967 - Finished seventh in Morgan League.
- 1968 - Finished second in Morgan League regular season; won post-season playoff trophy (Rick Reichenback, League-leading pitcher).
- 1969 - Finished third in Morgan League (Bill Romagna, leading hitter, .432).
- 1970 - Finished third in Morgan League; finished sixth in Norwich League.
- 1971 - Finished second in Morgan League: finished second in Norwich League.
- 1972 - Finished second in Morgan League; won Norwich League championship (Paul Williams, leading hitter, .500).
- 1973 - Won Morgan League championship; won Norwich League championship.
- 1974 - Finished third in Morgan League; finished second in Norwich League.
- 1975 - Won Morgan League championship; finished seventh in Norwich League; won Connecticut-Rhode Island division of National Semi-Pro Congress playoffs; played in National tournament in Wichita, Kansas.
- 1976 - Won Morgan League championship; won Norwich League championship (John Murray, leading hitter, .431).
- 1977 - Won Morgan League championship; won Norwich League

EBAC History - 1934-1985

championship.

1978 - Finished second in Morgan League; won Norwich League championship.

1979 - Won Morgan League championship; finished third in Norwich League.

1980 - Finished third in Morgan League.

1981 - Finished second in Morgan League.

1982 - Finished third in Morgan League; finished third in Norwich League.

1983-1984 - No team

EBAC History - 1934-1985

TROJAN TEAM* Baseball

- 1938 - Won championship of Morgan League (of New London),
- 1939 - Won Morgan League championship.
- 1940 - Finished fifth in Morgan League.
- 1941 - Finished second in Morgan League.
- 1942 - Finished second in Morgan League.
- 1943 - Finished third in Morgan League.
- 1944 - Trojan baseball team disbanded.

* Electric Boat Trojan Teams were classified as "junior varsity" teams during a period when Electric Boat "varsity" were competing on a professional or semiprofessional level.

VARSITY BASKETBALL

- 1934-1935 - Won championship of City League (of New London).
- 1935-1936 - Independent schedule - won 13, lost 8.
- 1936-1937 - Independent schedule - won 7, lost 4.
- 1937-1938 - Independent schedule - won 14, lost 7.
- 1938-1939 - Independent schedule - won 12, lost 5.
- 1939-1940 - Finished fifth in Connecticut Pro League.
- 1940-1941 - Won Connecticut Pro League championship.
- 1941-1942 - Won Connecticut Pro League championship.
- 1942-1943 - Won Connecticut Pro League championship.
- 1943-1944 - Independent schedule - won 13, lost 11.
- 1944-1945 - Independent schedule - won 4, lost 2.
- 1945-1946 - No team.
- 1946-1947 - No team.
- 1947-1948 - No team.
- 1948-1949 - Finished third in City League (of New London).
- 1949-1950 - Finished third in City League.
- 1950-1951 - Finished second in City League.
- 1951-1952 - Finished third in City League.
- 1952-1953 - Won City League championship and post-season playoff trophy.
- 1953-1954 - Finished fourth in City League.
- 1954-1955 - Finished second in City League. (Phil Jones, League-leading scorer 514 points.)
- 1955-1956 - Finished second in City League.
- 1956-1957 - Finished third in City League. (Phil Jones, League-leading scorer, 461 points.)
- 1957-1958 - Finished fourth in City League. (Phil Jones, League-leading scorer, 446 points.)
- 1958-1959 - Won City League championship and post-season

EBAC History - 1934-1985

- playoff trophy.
- 1959-1960 - Won City League championship and post-season playoff trophy. (Don Burns won League's Most Valuable Player award.)
- 1960-1961 - Won City League championship.
- 1961-1962 - Won City League championship. (Wayne Lawrence, League-leading scorer, 510 points, and winner of Most Valuable Player award.)
- 1962-1963 - Won City League championship.
- 1963-1964- Runner up in City League regular season and in post-season playoff trophy. (Wayne Lawrence, winner of Most Valuable Player award.)
- 1964-1965 - Won City League championship. (Wayne Lawrence, winner of Most Valuable Player award.)
- 1965-1966 - Won City League championship and post-season playoff trophy. (Mac Howard, winner of Most Valuable Player award.)
- 1966-1967 - Second in City League regular season and winner of post-season playoff trophy.
- 1967-1968 - Won City League championship.
- 1968-1969 - Second in City League.
- 1969-1970 - Fifth in City League.
- 1970-1971 - Fifth in City League.
- 1971-1972 - Fourth in City League.
- 1972 - City League disbanded.

TROJAN TEAM* Basketball

- 1938-1939 -Independent schedule; won 18, lost 1.
- 1939-1940 - Independent schedule; won 10, lost 1.
- 1940-1941 -Won Eastern Connecticut League championship.
- 1941-1942 -Finished second in Eastern Connecticut League.
- 1942-1943 - Finished second in City League (of New London),
- 1943-1944 -Independent schedule; won 2, lost 5.
- 1944-1945 - Trojan basketball team disbanded.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

VARSIY FOOTBALL

1934 - Won 3, lost 1, tied 2.
1935 - Won 4, lost 1, tied 2.
1936 - Won 8, lost 2.
1937 - Won 6, lost 1, tied 1.
1938 - Won 4, lost 2, tied 2.
1939 - Finished fourth in Connecticut Semi-Pro League. Won 2, lost 5, tied 2.
1940 - Finished second in Connecticut Semi-Pro League. Won 5, lost 4, tied 1.
1941- Won 3, lost 4, tied 2.
1942 - Claimed New England Pro championship, Won 6.1051 2.
1943 - Won 4, lost 2.
1944 - Won 6, lost 1, tied 1.
1945 - Won 1, lost 3.
1945 - 1984 - No team.

VARSIY TOUCH FOOTBALL (NORWICH LEAGUE)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Finish</u>
1982	1st
1983	2 nd
1984	1st

VARSIY HOCKEY

1977 - Joined Bolton Men's League, finished fifth.
1978 - Finished third in Bolton League.
1979 - Won Bolton League championship (undefeated).
1980 - Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship (undefeated); E.J. LaFleur, leading scorer (45 points).
1981 - Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship (undefeated, one tie); E.J. LaFleur, leading scorer (53 points).
1982 - Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship; Wayne Hanson, leading scorer (51 points).
1983 - Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship; E.J. LaFleur, leading scorer (49 points).

EBAC VARSITY GOLF TEAM

Eastern Division General Dynamics Golf Tournament

<u>Year</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
1967	1st Place	Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson, Harold Jarvis, Elliott Johnson, Phil Jones, Ernie Tobey. Sam Toscano, Walt Wiggins

EBAC History - 1934-1985

1968	1st Place	Ed Anderson, Jim Cleary, Tom Edwards, Tom Henderson, Elliott Johnson, Phil Jones, Ernie Tobey, Walt Wiggins
1969	1st Place	Walt Boyle, Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson, Elliott Johnson, Phil Jones, Paul Tangari, Ernie Tobey, Sam Toscano, Walt Wiggins
1970	1st Place	Bob Anderson, Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson Elliott Johnson, Charlie Parker, Paul Tangari, Ernie Tobey, Sam Toscano

NEW ENGLAND INDUSTRIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

<u>Year</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Team Members</u>
1966	2nd Place	Jim Cleary, Elliott Johnson, Phil Jones, Sam Toscano
1967	1st Place	Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson, Phil Jones, Walt Wiggins
1968	2nd Place	Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson, Phil Jones, Walt Wiggins
1969	2nd Place	Phil Jones, Paul Tangari, Sam Toscano, Walt Wiggins
1970	1st Place	Jim Cleary, Elliott Johnson, Ernie Tobey, Sam Toscano
1971	3rd Place	Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson, Elliott Johnson, Walt Wiggins
1972	3rd Place	Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson, Elliott Johnson, Sam Toscano
1973	2nd Place	Bob Anderson, Walt Boyle, Jim Cleary, Sam Toscano
1973	3rd Place	Bob Anderson, Sam Toscano, Bob Vanasse, Earl Wilson
1975	1st Place	Jim Cleary, Bob Vanasse, John Ward, Bill Zembruski
1976	2nd Place	Jim Cleary, Ernie Tobey, John Ward, Earl Wilson
1977	1st Place	Joe Cote, Sam Toscano, John Ward, Earl Wilson
1978	2nd Place	Dave Collier, Sam Toscano, Bob Vanasse, Earl Wilson
1979	5th Place	Brian Campbell, Dennis McCabe, Walt Wiggins, Earl Wilson
1980	1st Place	Joe Ayres, Jim Cleary, Tom Henderson, Dennis McCabe

EBAC History - 1934-1985

1981	3rd Place	Joe Ayres, Pete Stefanski, John Ward, Earl Wilson
1982	4th Place	Dennis McCabe, Jon Morosini, John Ward, Earl Wilson
1983	3rd Place	Art DeWolf, Pete Stefanski, John Ward, Earl Wilson
1984	1st Place	Dennis McCabe, Pete Stefanski, Ernie Tobey, Jr., John Ward

Individual Low Gross

<u>Year</u>	
1967	Phil Jones (71)
1969	Phil Jones (72)
1976	Earl Wilson (72)
1980	Pete Stefanski (73)
1983	Pete Stefanski (73)
1984	Pete Stefanski (71)

VARSIITY HOCKEY

1977	Joined Bolton Men's League, finished fifth.
1978	Finished third in Bolton League.
1979	Won Bolton League championship (undefeated).
1980	Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship (undefeated); E.J. LaFleur, leading scorer (45 points),
1981	Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship (undefeated, one tie); E.J. LaFleur, leading scorer (53 points).
1982	Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship; Wayne Hanson, leading scorer (51 points).
1983	Won Southeastern Connecticut League championship; E.J. LaFleur, leading scorer (49 points).

VARSIITY SOCCER

1935	First Electric Boat Soccer team organized for season of 1935-1936.
1936	Runnerup to G. C. Moores in Eastern Connecticut League; defeated Moores in Connecticut Intermediate Trophy playoffs.
1937	Electric Boat team disbanded in midseason due to lack of players; Jewett City won Eastern Connecticut League championship.
1938	No team.
1939	No team.
1940	Electric Boat team organized for 1940-1941.
1941	Won Connecticut Protective Trophy series.

EBAC History - 1934-1985

- 1942 Electric Boat relinquished the Connecticut Protective Trophy without defense but organized a team for a two-game series with visiting British Navy team, losing first game 6-5 and winning second game 2-1.
- 1943 Electric Boat defeated British Navy team in a special match at Fitch High School athletic field, Groton, and won both ends of a wartime benefit doubleheader at Hartford against a British Navy team and another team composed of Hartford defense workers.
- 1944 Electric Boat won one game against Middletown, split two games with U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and lost two games to Yale.
- 1945-1949 No team.
- 1950 Electric Boat reassembled team of early 1940's to play two games with team of visiting Peruvian submarine sailors, Peruvians winning both games. (An international match between two foreign teams was played at Mercer field, New London, in which a team of visiting Turkish submarine sailors defeated the Peruvian submarine team 1-0.)
- 1951-1984 No team.

EBAC VARSITY (FAST PITCH) SOFTBALL

- 1944 Entered Groton League and finished second.
- 1945-1949 No team
- 1950 Re-entered Groton League and finished fourth.
- 1951 Finished second.
- 1952 Finished third (Vinnie Archer, EB, league batting champion, .393).
- 1953 Finished third (Jim French, ES, league batting champion, .413; Gene Cedle, EB, League home run leader, 10). Electric Boat finished second to New London Combos in New London County playoffs.
- 1954 Finished fourth.
- 1955 Finished second.
- 1956 Finished second. (Jim Heffernan, EB, league home run leader),
- 1957 Finished second.
- 1958 Won League championship with 26-4 record. Lost to Roess Jers of New Haven in semi-finals of Connecticut tournament. (Roger Tamer and Robert Bodach, EB, tied for league home run leadership; Howard Sagar, ES, was named league-leading pitcher and league's Most Valuable Player.)
- 1959 Won League championship with 23-2 record. Lost to

EBAC History - 1934-1985

Stratford Brakeliners in quarter-finals of Connecticut tournament. Won Thames Valley tournament (Jim French, EB, Most Valuable Player in Thames Valley tournament).

1960 Won league championship; won championship in Coast Guard Invitational tournament.

1961 Finished second.

1962 Finished second.

1963 Won League championship; won championship in Connecticut Amateur Association tournament.

1964 Entered Norwich League and won championship; defeated King and His Court in exhibition game; finished second in Connecticut Amateur Association tournament.

1965 Won Norwich League championship.

1966 Entered New London Softball League and won championship; won Connecticut Amateur Association tournament championship; won Coast Guard Invitational tournament championship,

1967 Re-entered Norwich League and finished third.

1968 Re-entered New London Softball league and finished second.

1969 Won Norwich League championship; finished second in Connecticut Amateur Association tournament.

1970 Finished second in Norwich League.

1971 Won Norwich League championship; finished second in Connecticut Amateur Association tournament.

1972 Won Norwich League championship; finished second In Connecticut Amateur Association tournament; won Atlantic Seaboard tournament.

1973 No further teams.

VARSIITY SOFTBALL - SLOW PITCH

<u>Year</u>	<u>Groton League</u>
1977	6th Place
1978	4th Place
1979	1st Place
1980	3rd Place
1981	3rd Place
1982	3rd Place
1983	3rd Place
1984	2nd Place

OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS

In the annual poll conducted in Southeastern Connecticut by the Sports Department of The Day and published in New London, the following Electric Boat athletes have been named in the honor roll of outstanding performers since 1935:

EBAC History - 1934-1985

- 1935 Edward (Lefty) Yvon, baseball (No,1 athlete of the year); John Cawley, football, basketball; James LaPietra, baseball
- 1936 James LaPietra, baseball; John Cawley, football, basketball; Edward Yvon, baseball
- 1937 John Cawley, football, basketball; James LaPielra, baseball; Elwyn Chase, football: Jesse Shonts, football
- 1938 James LaPielra, baseball; Joseph Murphy, baseball; Elwyn Chase, football; Paul Thomas, football; Joseph Daly, football; Stephen Zbierski, football; William Donovan, football; Byron Wineke, football
- 1939 James LaPielTa, baseball; Anthony Osinski, basketball, baseball; Edward Kurpiewski, football; Joseph Murphy, baseball; Daniel Czekala, baseball; Chester Pavlak, baseball
- 1940 Anthony Osinski, basketball; William Cluzeski, baseball; Victor Baylock, football; Ernest (Joe) Laurion, golf; Chester Pavlak, baseball; Michael Petrosky, basketball; James LaPietra, baseball; Billy Rose, basketball; David Austin, football; Ernest Miller, baseball
- 1941 Chester Jaworski, basketball; William Cluzeski, baseball; Ernest (Joe) Laurion, golf; Tommy Lang, soccer; Anthony Osinski, baseball, basketball; Fred Mitchell, football; James laPietra, baseball; Joseph Kane, basketball, baseball, football, 1942 Michael Wallace, basketball, baseball, football; Clark Hinkle, footbll; James McKenna, football; Anthony Osinski, baseball; Joseph Kane, basketball, baseball, footban; Gary Murano, golf; John Angeles, tennis
- 1943 Robert Calihan, basketball (No,1 athlete of the year); Ernest (Joe) Laurion, golf; Fred Mitchell, baseball, football; Michael Wallace, basketball, baseball, football; Edward Ryan, golf; Chesler Pavlak, baseball; John Angeles, tennis; Lawrence Freeburn, tennis; Wilfred Chaney, golf; Joseph Kane, basketball, baseball, football; James LaPietra, baseball; Albert Abelt, Boxing
- 1944 Michael Wallace, basketball, baseball, football; Ernest (Joe) Laurion, golf; James McKenna, baseball, football; Edward Stevens, football,
- 1945 Ernest (Joe) Laudon, golf
- 1946 , 1948 None
- 1949 Sam Toscano, golf

EBAC History - 1934-1985

1950 Tom Daniels, baseball; James Wetmore, baseball
1951 Daniel Rourke, baseball
1952 Daniel Rourke, baseball
1953 Daniel Rourke, baseball; Roger LaFrance,
basketball; Wilfred Chaney, golf; George McCooey,
baseball
1954 Lou Job, baseball; Wilfr•d Chaney, golf; Alex
Dubovick, baseball
1955 Lou Job, baseball; Phil Jones, ba sk etball, golf
1956 Phil Jones, basketball, golf; Wilfred Chaney,
golf; Lou Job, baseball
1957 Phil Jones, basketball, golf; Lou Job, baseball;
Alex Dubovick, baseball
1958 Lou Job, baseball; Phil Jones, basketball, golf;
Howard Sagar, softball
1959 Lou Job, baseball; Phil Jones, basketball, golf;
Ron Berthasavage, basketball; Arthur Quimby,
basketball
1960 Lou Job, baseball; Phil Jones, basketball, golf
1961 Lou Job, baseball; Ph il Jones, golf
1962 Wayne Lawrence, basketball; Ron Locke, baseball;
Phil Jones, golf
1963 Wayne Lawrence, basketball; Phil Jones, golf;
Marcus Job, baseball
1964 Phil Jones, golf; Wayne Lawrence, basketball
1965 Wayne Lawrence, basketball; Phil Jones, golf;
Wayne Potvin, baseball
1966 Wayne Lawrence, basketball
1967 Bob Simoni, basketball
1968 Phil Jones, golf; Bob Simoni, basketball
1969 None
1970 Paul Williams, baseball,
1971 Paul Williams, baseball
1972 Paul Williams, baseball; Jim Cheeseman, softball
1973 Jim Cleary, golf
1974 Frank Slivinski, baseball
1975. 1984 None

EBAC History - 1934-1985