



**Clifton A. LaPlatney
(1904-1984)**

Clifton A. LaPlatney graduated from St. Lawrence University in 1927 and began his teaching career in Bay Shore that same year. He married Virginia O'Connell in 1931 and had two children, Sandra and Clifton Jr. He taught Earth Science, Chemistry, and Physics at Bay Shore High School. He also promoted and developed athletic programs in football, wrestling, and track; sports in which he had lettered while at St. Lawrence. He went on to coach football for 28 years. His teams won numerous league and county championships. The school district later named the high school football field and scoreboard in his honor.

In 1952, a testimonial to Mr. LaPlatney states that "he was able to get the most out of an individual without physical activity." One could be inspired by simply observing his demeanor in the classroom or on the football field. Mr. LaPlatney's approaches were always the most honest, ethical, and direct ways to solve any problem. He taught his students to think through situations and to approach the solutions to problems in a logical manner. He always had time for students who needed extra help with class work or a personal problem. He never tolerated anything but honesty and sportsmanship, and there was no substitution for getting a job done completely and correctly.

Mr. LaPlatney retired from teaching in Bay Shore in 1977 after 50 remarkable years, and he tutored for many years into retirement. Because of his involvement, interest, and dedication to athletics, Mr. LaPlatney was inducted into the Suffolk Sports Hall of Fame in 1991. His persona, teaching, and coaching had a positive impact on many Bay Shore students, athletes and faculty. He will forever remain part of Bay Shore High School's history.