



WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
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2011 WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Leo J. "Bud" Dillon 43'



Leo (known to his family as "Bud") was born in Michigan in 1924 and grew up in Drexel Hill, Pa. He was the second of seven children of Leo and Adelaide Dillon. He attended St. Andrew's grammar school where he met his wife-to-be, Marjorie Bath. The highlight of his stellar athletic career occurred while he attended West Catholic High School from 1939 to 1943.

According to his friend and teammate, Clifford Edgecumbe, who nominated Leo for the Sports Hall of Fame, Leo was an All-Catholic and All-City standout in both football and track, earning varsity letter in 1941, 1942, and 1943. Back then, they played football on Sundays before capacity crowds at Finnesy Field (St. Joseph's University) and Shibe Park (Connie Mack Stadium). Monday's newspapers, including the Inquire, The Bulletin, the Record and the Daily News, were full of stories and photos of West Catholic athletes and Leo was prominent in all the coverage. His coaches, Bob Dougherty and Fritz Brennan, had him playing running back because of his "magnificent speed". He starred on undefeated Catholic League and City Championship teams.

In track, Leo ran the sprints, half mile, relays, hurdles and the running long jump. On sports reporter wrote, "Red-haired Leo Dillon pounded to victory in the 100-yard dash, nosing out LaSalle and St. Joseph's runners, virtually assuring West Catholic of the 24th Annual Catholic League track and field championships while still at the half-way mark." His time in that 100-yard dash was 9.3 seconds.



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Like so many young men in 1943, Leo's life was interrupted as World War II was in full force. Shortly after graduation, he left for the Navy Training Station in Sampson, NY. He served in the Navy until the end of the war.

Upon his return from the service, Bud was recruited by the legendary Villanova track coach, Jumbo Elliot. He graduated from Villanova and in 1947, married Marjorie, before beginning his lifelong career in automobile dealership sales and management. He is survived and sorely missed by Marjorie, four children and five grandchildren, who are all thrilled that he is being honored by West Catholic on this, the 25th anniversary of his passing.