

Executive Assistant
to the
Athletic Director

HARVEY M. JESSUP

Harvey M. Jessup, who served as athletic director and head coach of basketball and baseball at Danbury (Conn.) State College since 1949, has joined the Tulane staff as executive assistant to the athletic director. The 35-year-old New York City native attended Iona College for one year before joining the Navy, then upon his return from service enrolled at New York University where he earned his bachelor and master degrees.

While attending NYU, Jessup served as recreational crafts instructor at the Madison Square Boys Club in 1946-47, and as director of physical education and health and head coach of track and football at Power Memorial Academy high school in New York City.

Introducing Tulane's New Athletic Director . . .



HORACE RENEGAR

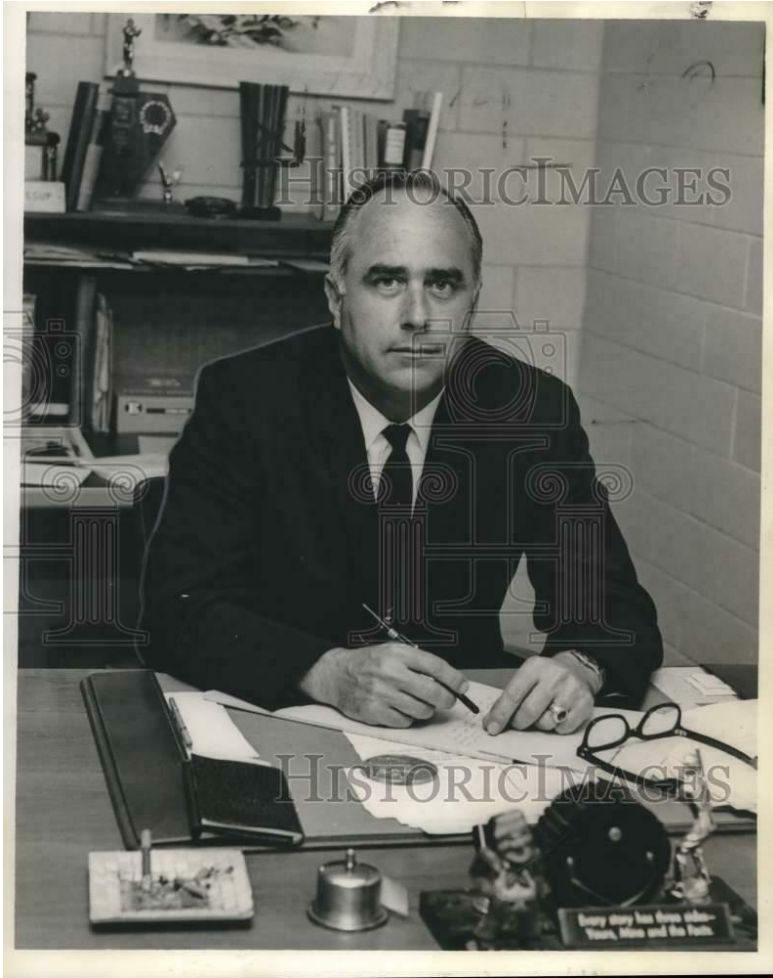
Serving as the Wave's director of athletics is Horace Renegar, a regular on the Tulane "team" since 1929 when he first joined the athletic staff. Since that time he has served in several capacities, but was named director of athletics and assistant to the president last spring.

And His Executive Assistant . . .

HARVEY JESSUP

Newest member of the Greenie family is Harvey M. Jessup, who serves as executive assistant to the director of athletics. He comes to Tulane from Danbury (Conn.) State College, where he was athletic director and head coach of several sports. He is a graduate of New York University.



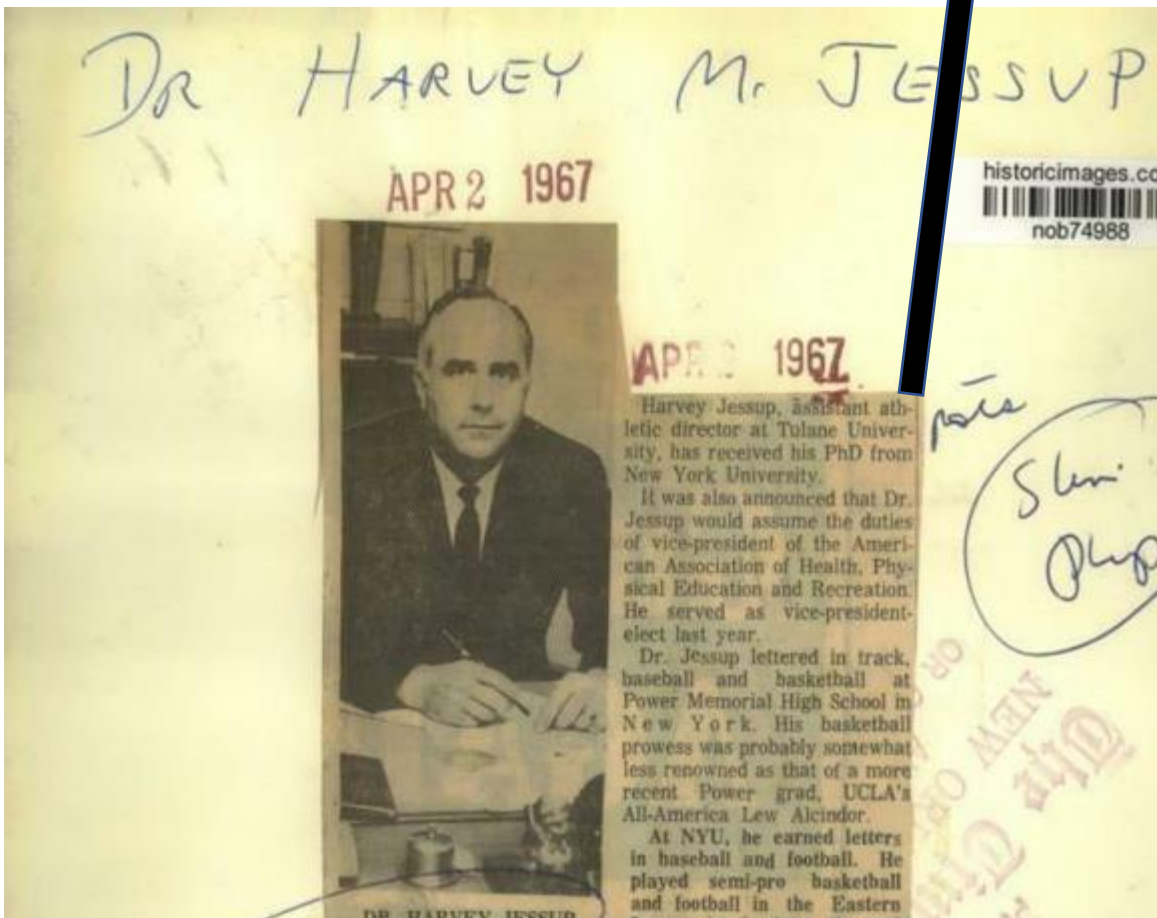


Harvey Jessup, assistant athletic director at Tulane University has received his PhD from New York University.

It was also announced that Dr. Jessup would assume the duties of vice-president of the American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. He served as vice-president-elect last year.

Dr. Jessup lettered in track, baseball, and basketball at Power Memorial High School in New York. His basketball prowess was probably somewhat less renowned as that of a more recent Power grad, UCLA's All-America Lew Alcindor.

At NYU, he earned letters in baseball and football. He played semi-pro basketball and football in the eastern League in the late 40's and early 50's. He coached semi-



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HONORING COACH HARVEY
JESSUP

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 2, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the posthumous induction of Harvey Jessup into the Athletic Hall of Fame of Western Connecticut State University. I never had the honor of knowing Mr. Jessup, but I do have the pleasure of having his daughter Debbie Jessup, a nurse midwife, working in my office as my health care policy advisor. Debbie recently shared news with us that her father was being honored for his work at the then-named Danbury State Teacher's College. It is a testament to Mr. Jessup that 50 years after their graduation, the Class of 1959 at Danbury State chose to nominate him for induction into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame. I was touched when Debbie recounted stories of her father's athletic accomplishments, and more importantly, how he impacted the lives of his students and athletes. I am submitting to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the remarks Debbie made when she accepted the award on her father's behalf to share with my colleagues the story of Coach Jessup, and all his good works which prompted the Class of '59 to bestow this honor on him.

HALL OF FAME ACCEPTANCE

Thank you all for honoring my father—and our family—with this award. That my father would be remembered as a great coach and teacher almost a half century after leaving Danbury State Teacher's College is a remarkable tribute and very touching for those of us who loved him. But this award is particularly meaningful for me because it paints a picture of a man that I had been too young to know, and it gives some insight into the life and career that followed his years in Connecticut.

When I remember my father, it is always during the Tulane years when he was a Professor, Department Chair, and Assistant Athletic Director. Our family's lives were structured around the university calendar, campus activities, and my dad's teaching, recruiting and administrative responsibilities. Our home was always a haven for students and athletes who needed comforting, mentoring, or just a good home cooked meal.

During those years my dad was my greatest hero, and to me he always seemed larger than life. I lived in awe of his athleticism and his intelligence, of his ability to command a room with his words, and his gift for bringing out the talent in the least promising of students. He pushed me and everyone in his life to their greatest levels of achievement, but at the same time he always had amazing compassion and patience for anyone who was vulnerable. Although it has been 21 years since he left us, hardly a week goes by that I do not remember something that he taught me with his words or modeled with his life.

When I remember those years with my father at work I always recall a flock of female students vying for his attention, or an athlete needing his guidance, or a young teacher seeking his advice. Every homecoming I met alumni who told me of the impact he had had in their lives, and I have proud memories of honors and awards he received over the years. So truthfully his selection for an Athletic Hall of Fame award would not have been particularly surprising to me—if it had come from his Tulane years.

Instead this Hall of Fame award comes from a time that I hardly remember. And the nomination comes from a class of students and athletes who knew my father 50 years ago. I am honestly overwhelmed that the class of 1959 would remember my father's impact on their lives five decades after they graduated. It is extraordinary just in the amount of time that has passed, but even more so when you know something about the four years during which the Class of 1959 was taught and coached by my father. It is a story that I think is worth sharing, because I believe it is what makes this nomination and this award truly remarkable. I also believe that it presents an opportunity for one last lesson from your Coach and Teacher.

When this 50 year reunion class entered Danbury State Teachers College in the fall of 1955 my father was a young teacher and coach at the beginning of his career. Three years earlier he had married the love of his life, they had a two year old daughter (me) and a three month old baby girl. With a little home overlooking Candlewood Lake, he was living the American Dream.

During the four years that my father taught and coached this class of 1959, his entire world was shattered. His infant daughter (Doreen) was diagnosed with uncontrolled seizures and irreversible brain damage—his third child (Dolores) was born with Down syndrome—and we buried Doreen six months before her fourth birthday. My parents spoke very little of that time in their lives, and so it really wasn't until I had children of my own that I began to understand the magnitude of their struggles and their suffering.

Even in the best of circumstances, parenting three children under the age of five is exhausting and all-consuming. I've been there—and I am sure that many of you have also—and you know how much work and attention it takes. Most people in that situation who are faced with even one of the tragedies that my parents lived through would be lucky to simply survive emotionally. But somehow my father managed to remain the strength and the sunshine for his family during these four difficult years, while coaching three teams, teaching his classes, and mentoring a group of students who still remember his influence on their lives fifty years later.

Several years after coming to Tulane my father gave a commencement speech in which he described the core element of a great teacher or leader. "Moral courage," he said, "is standing still and saying—this is what I believe, that I will do and that I will not do, this is my code of behavior and that is outside it." I believe that the man I loved and admired my entire life found his moral courage during those four years with the Class of 1959. Perhaps that is the reason you still remember him fifty years later. Hopefully it was the core lesson that you took with you when you graduated.

My father's years of teaching and coaching were guided by the belief that the true mark of greatness for any coach or teacher is not found in his record of games won, or his list of publications—but rather is measured in the accomplishments of his students, or the athletes he coached. For that reason, I am certain that his greatest pleasure in this evening's award ceremony would be hearing the life stories of his former students. Your lives and your accomplishments are truly his Hall of Fame.

I know that my dad would have been particularly thrilled that he is being honored along side his student and athlete and lifetime friend, Teddy Smigala. I extend my congratulations to Teddy and to all the other awardees here tonight. And I thank all of you—not only for this honor that you have given my father, but especially for the insights and memories you have shared with our family.

Greenwich Time

Chris Leone, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Oct. 24, 2009 Updated: Oct. 24, 2009 10:30 p.m.

DANBURY -- Sunshine and defense might have taken the day off on Saturday, but the Western Connecticut State University football team finally had something to celebrate.

NOTES: On Friday night, Western inducted seven new members into its Athletic Hall of Fame. The Class of 2009 inductees were Harvey Jessup (Coach, 1949-1961); Matt LeFever (Football, 1997-2000); Kate Maning (Softball, 1997-2000); Wayne Mones (Coach, 1988-2003); Ray Parry (Lifetime Support, 1990-2001); Carl Rivers (Baseball, 2000-2003); and Theodore Smigala (Baseball/Basketball, 1956-1959)

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/Late-TD-lifts-WestConn-to-first-win-191051.php>



News Archives

WestConn to hold 'Hall of Fame' induction ceremony

DANBURY, CONN. — For more than a decade, the late Harvey Jessup coached baseball, basketball and golf at Western Connecticut State University. His motto: "All team members must play in every game." And although he was considered the university's Athletic Director for many years, it was a title he never officially held. This year, Jessup will be inducted into the university's Hall of Fame as "Athletic Director" on Friday, Oct. 23, in the Grand Ballroom of WestConn's Westside Campus Center.

Anyone may attend the event, which starts with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by dinner and the induction ceremony. The cost is \$65 per person and reservations can be made by calling (203) 837-8298 by Oct. 9.

<https://www.wcsu.edu/news-archives/halloffameinductionceremony/>