



Weequahic names new gymnasium after the late Principal Ron Stone

By Phil Yourish, 1964, WHSAA Executive Director

I remember the old gym so well - tiny for today, but big enough then for our basketball games. The wooden bleachers open on both sides hugging the playing court. The ropes and rings hanging high near the ceiling. The horses and parallel bars pushed to the side. The white backboards made of wood. The balls with leather covers. Students packed tightly into the stands - eyewitness to the action unfolding on the hardwood. The cacophony of collective voices. The vicarious pleasure of watching Weequahic basketball at its best. And the glorious memories of so many unforgettable moments in the 60's. Three state championships, an undefeated season, and the number 1 team in the country. Our heroes: Pervall, Friedman, Bemby, Talley, Layton, and Lewis to name a few with Coach Fein choreographing more than a decade of hoops success. Could going to school be any better than this! Read on...



We've all been waiting so long. We began to think it would never happen. Promises were made and promises were broken. We always seemed to be on the bottom of the new construction list. We wondered how a school with such a stellar basketball tradition could be overlooked so often. For too many years, frustration and disappointment abounded - and then we saw the blueprints and the rendering ...

So you can imagine how emotional I was at age 64 in the year 2011 when I entered the new building erected in a place where we used to play knock hockey, touch football and "HORSE" on the asphalt and where generations of kids spent their after-school and weekend hours. Then I heard the balls bouncing in the new gym...

On Thursday, January 20th, something spectacular took place. I didn't know it was going to happen, so I was surprised when the announcement came. At 4 in the afternoon the Weequahic girls' basketball team would be playing Bloomfield High at the Ronald G. Stone Community Gymnasium - the high school's new athletic complex.

The last vestiges of waiting were over. After so many years of anticipation, the new gym was finally open. Yes, this was a remarkable day. To understand the grandeur of this moment, you have to know that the last home game played in the old

gym was in 1971. That was 40 years ago. Since then, the basketball teams have been playing at George Washington Carver School, an elementary school on the corner of Clinton Place and Lyons Avenue. And fitting for such an occasion, the girls launched the new arena with a victory over Bloomfield, continuing their fine play and winning ways.

Weequahic's new athletic facility, constructed in Chancellor Avenue playground, facing Goldsmith Avenue in the front, connected to the high school in the back, and adjacent to Untermann Field, is what they call a state-of-the-art building. It has a 2000-seat basketball court large enough to host tournaments; the Indian logo at center court; two professional-looking electronic scoreboards; a huge gymnasium that divides into three areas for physical education classes; locker, training, and exercise rooms; offices for the Athletic Director and Physical Education staff; a multi-purpose room for large meetings; booths for selling tickets and food - and so much more. In front of the building there is a parking area and another parking lot across the street.

Soon the banners will be hung and the basketball court (seeking approval) will be named to honor the memory of Weequahic's greatest basketball coach, Les Fein, and a formal opening will take place. Can being an "alumni" be any better than this!



COACH LES FEIN ARENA

Weequahic High School
1966-1967
Undefeated
Boys Basketball Team
#1 in the USA
Coach Les Fein

Weequahic
High School
Boys
Basketball
Team
Group 4
1962
State
Champs

Weequahic
High School
Boys
Basketball
Team
Group 4
1966
State
Champs

Weequahic
High School
Boys
Basketball
Team
Group 4
1967
State
Champs

Weequahic
High School
Boys
Basketball
Team
Group 4
1973
State
Champs

Weequahic
High School
Boys
Basketball
Team
Group 2
2001
State
Champs