



## JUST ASKING

BY MARY KLEST

### Who holds the scoring record in a season for the BHS Bronco football team?

I asked the record holder, Frank Shellenback Jr.

**The first football team Frank Shellenback Jr.** played on was at Barrington High School his freshman year in 1971. He was a fast halfback. The experience was “easy going” at a time when the team consisted of 32 players, all of whom played. “Everyone was in the game. It made our practices good,” he says. Like many athletes at the time, he shifted sports with the seasons – inside the gym during winter and outside with baseball in the spring. “We didn’t focus on one sport 365 days of the year.”


What makes him remarkable is that in 1974, his senior year, Frank scored 36 touchdowns in 12 games scoring 216 points in one season. His record stands today. When asked about Frank’s performance, current head coach Joe Sanchez said, “We haven’t had anyone come close to beating that.”

How did Frank do it? “We had a good quarterback, good receivers and strong defense. I could run fast and had some good moves. I didn’t have any injuries and never missed a game,” he said. His fondest memories are not of personal glory, but of being a member of the team. He had the most rushing carries that year with Coach Bill Graham letting him loose against their opponents. The team went to the playoffs, ranking 4th in state that year. Frank’s voice drops when he says the word “fourth.”

He describes his athletic ability as “natural.” It may well be. Two of his brothers Eric (1977) and Carl (1975) hold Bronco football records as well. Their paternal grandfather, also named Frank, was a winning pro pitcher who became a baseball manager, coach, and later a scout for the New York Giants. Their father, Frank Sr. of Lake Barrington, was a hockey player while at Boston College. Unaware that his boys’ records’ still hold at BHS, he said, “I never told them what to do, only that when they do something, they should try to excel at it.” He shared this advice for parents: “Don’t push them when they are young. Don’t overmatch them. They’ll get banged around and feel disheartened. And, don’t get on the coach’s back.”

Frank Jr. set some baseball records too while at BHS but is sure those no longer hold. He played baseball while at the University of Wisconsin. Now a general contractor living in Wilmette, Frank Jr. is married with two daughters. He attends Bronco games every now and then, but doesn’t make himself known. Mostly he likes watching his eldest daughter Rachel play on her high school soccer team. He echoes his father when he says he has only one rule when it comes to athletics: “I don’t care if she’s good or bad. I just want her to play hard.”

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