

Manning Field



Grand opening and dedication ceremony

September 8, 2008

Lynn, Mass.

Program

WELCOME
Paul Halloran

INVOCATION
Rev. Monsignor Paul V. Garrity
St. Mary's Parish

PRESENTATION OF COLORS
Lynn English JROTC

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Lynn Public Schools Band

REMARKS
Mayor Edward J. Clancy Jr.
Kevin F. Coppinger
Chairman, Manning Field Commission

J. Timothy Phelan
City Council President

Nicholas P. Kostan
Superintendent of Schools

U.S. Rep. John F. Tierney

Sen. Thomas M. McGee

Rep. Robert F. Fennell

Rep. Steven M. Walsh

RAISING OF THE SCHOOL FLAGS

GOD BLESS AMERICA

RIBBON CUTTING

ADJOURN

A Bowl full of memories

And the answer is: Henry Pazik and Mike Ofanos.

If you got the question – who scored the first and last touchdowns in the history of the stadium – consider yourself a master of Manning Bowl Jeopardy.

Pazik scored the initial TD on Thanksgiving Day 1937, but it wasn't enough for Classical, which lost to English, 13-6. Ofanos registered the final TD on Thanksgiving Day 2004 as the Bulldogs closed The Bowl with a 28-8 win over the Rams.

In between, Lynn's Manning Bowl made its mark as a hub of sporting – and sometimes entertainment and cultural – events on the North Shore.

From football at all levels, Pop Warner to pro, to soccer, track, basketball and softball, the sod at The Bowl played host to thousands of contests.

The Rolling Stones kicked off their 1966 North American tour at Manning Bowl, and Aerosmith played to a crowd of 25,000 in 1985. In between, Ray Charles, Lawrence Welk and Mötley Crüe all took to the stage at The Bowl.

Drum and bugle corps came from far and wide to compete at The Bowl. There were jazz festivals, rodeos and pro wrestling. People also came to The Bowl to mourn, as memorial services for FDR and JFK were held in 1945 and 1963, respectively.

The decision was made in 2004 to tear down Manning Bowl and build a new Manning Field, a state-of-the-art facility that is being hailed as one of the best in the state. As new memories are created at Manning Field, the milestones that were marked at Manning Bowl will not be forgotten.

◆
Ground was broken for a new stadium in September 1936 under the direction of Mayor J. Fred Manning. The Works Project



Administration (WPA) project was estimated to cost \$300,000.

Lynn Municipal Stadium was not completed when the first game was played in 1937, yet 12,000 fans were there to witness history. English quarterback Ray Bessom threw a TD pass to Angie Nicketakis, while halfback Andy Cogliano, a Classical transfer, scored a TD for the Bulldogs a year after scoring the only points for the Rams in a 6-0 win.

In addition to Pazik, Classical standouts included quarterback Harold Pass, halfback Harlie Masters, linebacker Joe McNulty and guard Lawrence Weddleton.

On April 4, 1938, the Lynn Stadium Commission voted to name the new stadium Manning Bowl.

The 1940s were the Halcyon days for Manning Bowl. Notre Dame-bound Boley Dancewicz led Classical to the New England championship in 1941. In 1945, Harry Agganis

took over as Classical quarterback and the Rams routinely drew crowds of more than 20,000.

Agganis led Classical to an 11-0-1 record and a mythical national championship in 1946. The only game the Rams didn't win was the Thanksgiving tilt with English, when Nick Ricciardelli scored three TDs for the Bulldogs in a 27-27 tie in what many consider the best game ever played at Manning Bowl.

More than 23,000 fans saw Classical fall to Peabody in 1947, Agganis' senior year. In 1948 at The Bowl: St. Mary's played its first football game, a 19-6 loss to Swampscott in front of 3,500 fans; Lynn Tech and St. Mary's played for the first time; and 10,000 fans watched English beat Salem, 7-6, on a game-winning PAT by future Boston Celtic Lou Tsiropoulos.

Holy Cross played Dartmouth at Manning Bowl in 1953 before a crowd of 10,000 and a national television audience. The Chicago

Bears beat the Philadelphia Eagles in an exhibition game at The Bowl in 1954. English star Tippy Johnson scored five TDs in a 46-14 rout of Classical in 1956. In 1961, quarterback Tony Conigliaro and his St. Mary's teammates beat the Lynn Lions – a combined public high school team – 22-6 in front of 14,000.

Lynn Tech went undefeated at The Bowl – and everywhere else – in 1973, including a 6-6 tie with heavily favored Swampscott. In 1976, Classical beat English to secure a MIAA Super Bowl berth. English kicker James Smith kicked a last-second field goal to give the Bulldogs a thrilling 16-14 win on Thanksgiving Day 1986. In 1990, the Bowl was the home field for its first Super Bowl team in 10 years, as English went 10-0 in the regular season.

◆
The inferior condition that led to the closing of The Bowl in 2004 was not the first time the grand structure had fallen into a state of disrepair. The overall condition of the facility had deteriorated by the late 1950s, and new lights were installed in 1959. Emergency repairs were necessary in 1961 and 1963. The Bowl was condemned by the state in 1974 and closed for a year. A \$1 million overhaul included the patching of walls in 1976 and new aluminum seats that were installed from 1975-78. One side of the stands was closed to spectators in 1976.

The running track was deemed unfit for use in 1993, leading to \$300,000 in improvements, a new track and a concession building/comfort station that opened in 1996. The changes were primarily cosmetic, however, and The Bowl's physical condition deteriorated to the point that tearing it down became the only economically feasible alternative.

◆
The new Manning Field opened for play in 2006, with temporary seating. Final work was completed in July 2008.

Manning Field Commission

Kevin F. Coppinger, *Chairman*
Beth M. Clancy
John P. Hoffman
John A. Kasian
James Kebreau
Nicholas P. Kostan
Skip Mageary
Jeffrey T. Newhall
John R. Olson

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Paul T. Crowley
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Jeffrey T. Newhall
Vincent J. Spirito

2006

Daniel F. Cahill
Arthur Fiste

City of Lynn

Michael G. Conlon
Michael J. Donovan, P.E.
Jay J. Fink, P.E.

State Legislators

Rep. Robert F. Fennell
Sen. Thomas M. McGee
Rep. Steven M. Walsh

Architect

Design Partnership of Cambridge, Inc

General Contractors

J & J Contractors, Inc.
Quirk Construction Corp.

Clerk of the Works

Edward T. Calnan



More than 25,000 fans crammed into The Bowl for an Aerosmith concert in 1985.