

ellis island champions

A brief resume of athletic competition at Ellis Island Coast Guard Station would not do justice to the athletic record compiled by the scores of Coast Guardsmen who made up the ever changing personnel of the RAMBLERS. They rightly deserved this nickname because the teams played no home games due to lack of gymnasium and field facilities. This also meant that the opportunity for regular practice was missing.

Over 50 titles were attained by the Islanders and covered such sports as basketball, baseball, boat racing, pistol shot, tennis, golf, badminton, table tennis, horseshoe pitching, volleyball, football field day, touch football, boxing, swimming, wrestling, track and cross country, soccer and bowling.

Ellis Island won the Commandant's Cup Competition three times consecutively against the best of Navy, Marine and Coast Guard entrees in the Third Naval District. This competition is emblematic of the highest proficiency in athletic competition over a six months period and covered all types of seasonal sports activities.

The Island Basketball Team twice won the coveted East Coast trophy awarded by Coast Guard Magazine which is emblematic of basketball supremacy on the Atlantic Seaboard.

Our intramural athletic activities, particularly the daily softball games—and later in the season, the touch football contests—supplied Islanders with much amusement, broken windows, and lots of protests about officiating. However, no officials were lynched, although we did hear of a

couple of them hiding in the gear locker for a whole afternoon.

There were many names identified with the Athletic history of Ellis Island and it is possible some name may be left out of this honor roll, and if there are some — apologies are in order.

Under the guidance of Lt. Doyle, Athletic Officer and coach "Rab" Jacobson some of the competitors were: Cy Block, Fuz Levane, the Rossi boys (Gill, Pete, and Mario) Gene Hermanski, Ted Swieconic, John Pawlick, Timmy Sullivan, Ray Wagner, John Danyo, Gordy McKinnon, Ted Pajda, Ben Ferraioli, Ted Madjeski, Mike Kuntz, Gene Trow, Al Falzone, and Eddie Clayton.

Eddie Brems, Bobby Wallach, Will Rice, Bob Haenszel, Ralph Larsen, Ed Biehler, Gene Kenny, Bobby Taylor, Clayton Farrar, Pete Huemenic, Vince

Mazzei, Emil Baron, Sam Siciliano, Joe Shelly, Wieno, Stokes Homan, Tee Wee Tyrell, Marty Servo, and Gus Lesnevich.

Lou Ambers, Eddie White, Earl Turner, George Abel, Bill Farley, Cy Blanchard, Leo Kane, Johnnie Goonen, Chuck Aragon, Tony Paganico, Ed Ostroski, Sarge Gallerani, Frank Kohlsh, Tom Barry, Red Hoffman, Ralph Sandoz, Clusman, Jack Landen, Lou Wendrowicz, Dick Winner, Tom Hammang, and George Cameron.

Al Murray, Larry Munro, Chaplain Shell, Red Costa, George O'Hea, Steve Ristau, Jack DiGrace, Jack Aragon, Russ Thomas, Ben Harrell, Jimmy Shearer, Rocky Porter, Carl Griffin, Lou Sirota, Joe Mongello, Rod Kennedy, Mel Osborne, George Short, Len Cuddy, John Freshwaters, Felix Wroblewski, and not forgetting Softball Coach, John Lipman.

Some of the trophies won.

