

BILLY "BUBBLES" MYERS

Bill Myers was born on September 7, 1923 in St. John, New Brunswick. He grew up in Toronto after his parents first moved to Montreal and then to Toronto in 1927.

Bill attended Humewood Public School and Vaughan Road Collegiate Institute in Toronto. Bill was an exceptional athlete. At Vaughan he played football, basketball and ran track & field. Bill won the individual Sr. TDIAA Track and Field Championship and led Vaughan to the Sr. TDIAA Football Championship in 1943.

After graduating from Vaughan, Bill attended Victoria College at the University of Toronto. He played football for Balmy Beach in 1943, made the Toronto Argonauts Football Team in 1944, playing Quarterback and Halfback and leading the Argo's in winning the 1944/45 Grey Cup. In Argo's Grey Cup run, Bill scored 6 touchdowns in playoff games (then a CFL record), scored 2 touchdowns in the Grey Cup Game and was the last Toronto Argonaut Canadian Quarterback to be elected to the CFL Eastern All Star Team. An incredible accomplishment for a 5'7", 132 lb. athlete who played offense, defense and returned kicks.

It was during the 1944/45 football season that Bill was given his nickname "BUBBLES". Bill had an extreme case of near-sightedness and was the first CFL player to wear contact lenses. The lenses were the size of small egg cups. To achieve a good "fit" the lenses were first rinsed with a special solution. When Bill was hit during a play, the contacts would shift, letting in air which mixed with the residue left by the solution and formed bubbles inside the lenses – hence the nickname "BUBBLES" given to Bill by his Argo teammates.

After graduating from the University of Toronto, Bill worked for Lever Brothers then enrolled in Teachers College and had an outstanding teaching and coaching career at Earl Haig Collegiate Institute from 1955 until his retirement in 1985. Bill pioneered collaborative student/teacher teaching methods and had an extremely positive impact on many of his students' lives. He coached Earl Haig's Sr. Football Team to winning four North York Football Championships including the 1960/61 season which was Earl Haig's first Sr. Football Championship since the school's opening in 1928.

Bill continues his passion for excellence in teaching & athletics , mentoring and coaching young talent in developing their skills. In 2010, he and his wife Jenny were honoured by the Ontario Tennis Association by being awarded the OTA's Distinguished Service Award. This was in recognition of their contribution to tennis by helping to run a vibrant and growing, youth oriented tennis club in their cottage community of Southampton, Ontario.

At the time of Bill's induction into Vaughan's Hall of Fame in 2012, Bill and Jenny have been married for 57 years, have 4 children, 3 grandchildren and reside in Maple, Ontario.

