

“Before the war , most of Loyola’s championship teams were built from Baltimore players; Ed Barczak, Barney Goldberg, Vic and Franny Bock, Bernie Thobe ,etc. After the war ,players from out of State started to come in; Andy O’Donnell, Mike Zedalis, Bob Anderson, Nap Doherty and many others.”

Loyola’s “Reitzmen” were and are more than just champions of the basketball court and baseball diamond .They were among “America’s Greatest Generation”, who grew up in the Great Depression of the 30’s, and then fought and won World War II. Thirty Loyola men were killed in World War II .Twelve were student –athletes, including varsity basketball players Franny McDonough ’42 and Charlie McCollum ’45.Even Lefty himself ,despite having a wife and child entered the Navy in 1944.

Loyola Greyhounds began enlisting in the armed forces immediately after Pearl Harbor. A few years later, others would serve their country in the Korean War. Even while at Loyola ,students were being prepared mentally , physically and spiritually to face adversity on a world scale.

Down through the years, these special players would call themselves with pride ,”Lefty’s Boys” .By the example of their lives ,they made Loyola proud to call them ,”her sons” .This is the story of Lefty’s Boys ,”The Reitzmen”.



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