

Alex Sabo (AS)

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interviewer Tom Harris, Bayville, NJ

This is Tom Harris. I'm interviewing Alex Sabo at the Bayville, New Jersey Veteran's of Foreign Wars. Alex, you were born February 14, 1912 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Is that right? How many brothers and sisters did you have?

AS- Just two sisters.

Where did you go to high school?

AS-I went to New Brunswick High School and from there I went to prep school.

OK, I just want to ask you when and how you started playing baseball? Did you play in Little League?

AS-Well, I played ball all my life. I was down there in the depression days. I had no money but I did develop up in the park and in the New Brunswick area and up around that area and all the youth all day long played baseball. So I was started with the playground league up there and I liked it so much that I played ball every day that I could.

OK, you played at your high school?

AS- I played at New Brunswick High School.

OK, what position did you play?

AS- Catcher. They probably had me catching and playing in the field, too.

Was your team a good team. Did you have a good team?

AS- Oh yeah. We were up there as far as the state's go. We were a few of the top notchers.

What about after high school? You said you went to a prep school?

AS- I went to a prep school known as Vermont Academy.

Where was that?

AS- Up right near Bellow's Falls.

OK, how long were you there?

AS- I liked it so much I went three years.

Did they have a baseball team?

AS- Oh yeah. We had a good baseball team. We were undefeated there, too.

Is that right? OK. After that?

AS- After that I went to Fordham University.

Did you say Fordham? In the Bronx. OK, go ahead, please

AS- Yes, Fordham University. And, I went out for the baseball team there and this is good. Do you know what they did? This is funny. They cut me. So, of course, the reason they cut me was to make sure I was out there for spring football. Jim Crowley was there. You know, of the Four Horseman.

The Four Horsemen. So, you knew Jim Crowley?

AS- And Frank Leahy was the line coach. Gee, I liked that Frank Leahy. He was a good one. I was there playing football. So, I decided to go out again my senior year and he cut me again. So, I said, you know, the heck with this! And, in the meantime, I'm playing for a semi-pro team in Pennsylvania known as Line xxxxx, Pennsylvania. It was a semi-pro league known as the East Penn League. There I had a very, very good year. I was catching and playing in the field. I was hitting the heck out of the ball so I guess that's what did it.

What kind of pay did you get in the semi-pro league? How did it work? Do you recall?

AS- There I got \$15 a game. But, we only played, this is a weekend league. In other words, we only played on weekends and then we played on holidays during the summer. So, we started off one game on a Saturday and then a doubleheader on a Sunday which is three games. Then, on holidays we had doubleheaders. Weekends, after about two or three weekends, we had doubleheaders. So, I was making pretty good money there.

-Transcribed by J. Thomas Hetrick, April, 2005.