

# Coach gets a new start

■ Ex-Ward Melville icon Cuozzo, 68, takes over at Mount Sinai

BY GREGG SARRA  
STAFF WRITER

This was no ordinary Joe standing in the rough on the par-4, 16th hole at Fox Hill in Calverton yesterday afternoon. This was Joe Cuozzo, the Hall of Fame coach from Ward Melville High School who amassed 699 boys lacrosse victories in 38 years.

While contemplating his next shot on Fox Hills' toughest hole, Cuozzo answered his cell phone to address a more exciting challenge: recently becoming Mount Sinai's new varsity coach.

"I am absolutely pumped," said Cuozzo, who led Ward Melville to seven state titles and 22 Suffolk championships. "I'm psyched. I still wanted to coach and I appreciate this opportunity because they could have gone with a younger

guy. I'm bringing the Division I mentality to a Division II school and trying to raise their level of play."

Cuozzo, 68, co-coached Ward Melville last year with Mike Hoppey and left the school with a career record of 699-73.

"It wasn't an ideal situation last year, but it was OK," said Cuozzo, who retired from teaching in June 2005. "It was time to walk away from Ward Melville and let Hoppey work alone. It's his gig now and I wish him the best."

Cuozzo isn't exactly taking over a program in need of rebuilding. Mount Sinai finished 14-4 and was the Suffolk Class C runner-up last year. He replaces Jason Sanders, who was not rehired after one year. The Mustangs have a strong youth program, a new turf field and enough expertise to make a title run again in 2007.

"We're ecstatic about the addition of Joe Cuozzo to the Mount Sinai coaching staff," district athletic director Scott Reh said. "He's a lacrosse legend with great networking ability at the college level and he brings a ton of knowledge and experience to our student-athletes. He is a proven winner and brings instant credibility to our program."

Cuozzo said he is looking forward to working with assistant coach Harold Drumn, a 1994 graduate of Ward Melville and an All-American at the Massachusetts.

"I don't know much about the division and where we should be seeded," Cuozzo said. "I'll lean on Harold and we have a lot of work to do. I'm going to expose these guys to the best lacrosse that I can find in the bigger schools. And we're going to be a real good team."

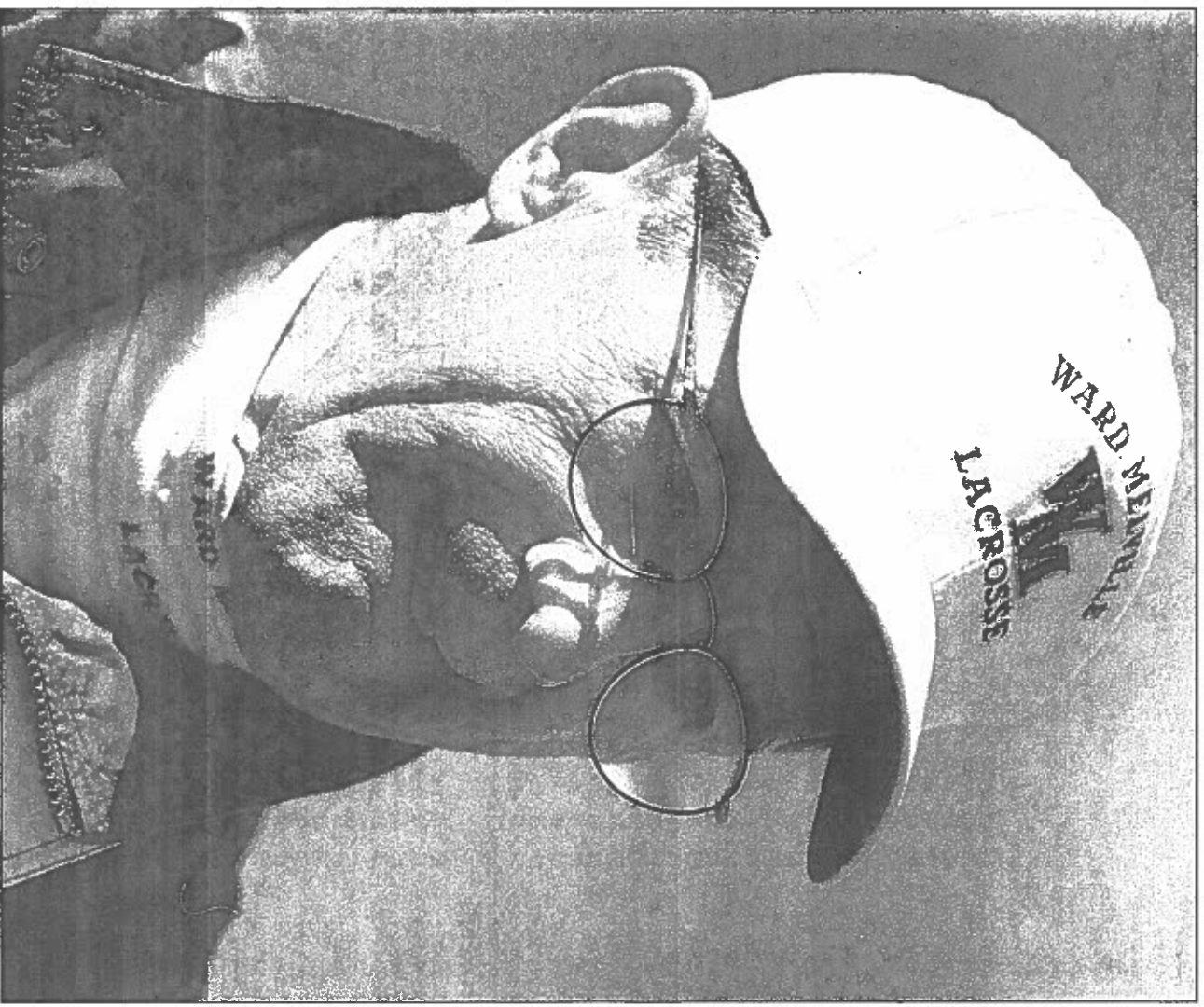
So is playing Ward Melville on the horizon?

"That's not going to happen," he said. "I wouldn't want to do that."

By the way, Cuozzo boycotted the 16th, but had a good outing.

"Any day on the golf course is a good day," he said.

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After 38 years at Ward Melville, coach Joe Cuozzo will take over at Mount Sinai in the spring. PHOTO BY JOSEPH D. SULLIVAN, 2007

## Aurricchio saves the day for West

Alex Aurricchio made a diving save on a breakaway shot by Angel Velez with four minutes left as Half Hollow Hills West edged Copiague, 2-1, yesterday in Suffolk League IV boys soccer. Gavin Ade scored in the 49th minute on a cross from Jay Crawback that put West (7-0) up 2-0. Copiague is 2-5-2.

Hauptpage 2, Deer Park 0: Mike Power's first of two goals came off a cross from Kyle Stimpf in the 20th minute for Hauptpage (5-1-3). Gary Poulin made 10 saves for his fifth shutout of the season. Deer Park is 2-4-2.

Ward Melville 2, Patchogue-Medford 2: Ward Melville (5-1-1, League I) tied the score on an own goal by Patchogue-Medford (4-3-1) in the 88th minute. Mike Molinare scored twice for Patchogue-Medford.

Brentwood 1, Longwood 0: Wilber Bonilla scored the winner for Brentwood (6-0-1), off his own rebound in the 65th minute in League I. Longwood is 2-6.

Sachem North 1, Bay Shore 0: Tim Jones scored on a penalty kick with 19:40 left for Sachem North (3-4-1 League II). Bay Shore is 4-3.

East Islip 1, Centereach 1: Chris Knoh scored the tying goal with



PHOTO BY JOSEPH D. SULLIVAN

Farmingdale's Chris Gerzmann hits header over Massapequa's Brian McLachlan.

115 to go for East Islip (7-0-1) in League III. Chuck Paracat scored for Centereach (1-5-2). Hicsville 4, Freeport 3: Daniel Musinski scored off a direct kick in the 39th minute for Hicsville (6-1-1) in Nassau Conference AA-1. Kevin Escobar had three goals for Freeport (3-4-1).

Massapequa 3, Farmingdale 0: Jimmy Altadonna had three goals for Massapequa (5-2-1) and has 13 on the season. Farmingdale is 3-2-3.

Elmont 4, Plainview JFK 2: Chris

Clarke scored three goals for Elmont (5-1-1 Conference AA-III). Plainview JFK is 1-3-2.

New Hyde Park 2, Great Neck North 1: Zach Santangelo scored the winner in the 54th minute for New Hyde Park (4-3-1 Conference ABC-II).

**GIRLS SOCCER**

Lawrence 3, Jericho 2: Sophomore Katie Molinski scored a goal and had an assist in the first half, and made two saves while playing goal for Lawrence (1-9) in the second half in Nassau Conference IV. Jericho is 7-3.

Seaford 1, West Hempstead 1: Michelle Locast tied it in the 66th minute for West Hempstead (7-1-2). Seaford is 7-3-1.

Floral Park 5, Elmont 3: Andrea Slavin scored two goals for Floral Park (6-4 Nassau Conference IV). Elmont is 1-7.

Rocky Point 1, Coneswogue 0: Amy Capps scored off a corner kick from Laura Iannotti with 21 minutes to go for Rocky Point (4-2-1) in Suffolk League V. Coneswogue is 2-2.

Shoreham-Wading River 1, Mount Sinai 0: Erica DeVito scored off Allie Schechner's rebound in the 13th minute for SWR (8-1 League VI). Allie Rivera made 10 saves for her sixth shutout of the season. Mt. Sinai is 4-4-1.

Kellenberg 3, St. Anthony's 1: Patricia Carroll converted a cross from Liz Early in the 10th minute to give Kellenberg (8-3 CHSAA) a 1-0 lead. St. Anthony's is 7-1.

## No ordinary Joe

Joe Cuozzo's career highlights as Ward Melville's boy lacrosse coach:

Years	38 (1969-2006)
Record	699-73
Winning percentage	.905
League/Division titles	35
Playoff appearances	37
Suffolk finalists	30
Suffolk titles	22
Long Island titles	15
State finalists	11

## Also

Seven state titles  
71-game winning streak:  
1988-1990

Won 88 of 89 games:  
1997-2000

49 All-Americans

Compiled by  
Andy Lawson

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