

Almost 1,000 people were on hand on June 14 in Anderson Park, Upper Montclair, New Jersey for the unveiling of a memorial for former Montclair High lacrosse coaches, Gil Gibbs and Homer Robinson. In their 10 seasons together they led Montclair to seven state championships and a varsity record of 144-10. Gil Gibbs died of cancer in 1978, at age 39. Homer Robinson's battle with cancer ended in 1999.



During the decade of the '70s, Montclair became arguably the first nationally recognized high school lacrosse program located outside of Maryland or Long Island. Montclair grads played in 42 NCAA final four games, with six players winning Division I championships and 10 selected to college All-America teams. Gil Gibbs was the 1977 recipient of the USILA's Howdy Meyers Man of the Year Award. While recovering from cancer surgery, he led Montclair to a 20-0 record which included a 9-4 win over MSA champion Gilman in a game played at Princeton's Palmer Stadium.

Both Gibbs and Robinson are members of the New Jersey Lacrosse Foundation Hall of Fame. When Gil began coaching at Montclair High in 1966, only 10 teams played lacrosse in NJ. In 1979, the year after his death, 48 teams were playing lacrosse in NJ. The New Jersey Lacrosse Foundation has grown to become one of the largest Chapters of US Lacrosse.