

## **Gary M. Gillis**

*Sportscaster*

Class of 1973



During his years at Needham High School Gary Gillis was a member of the football team, the indoor track team, the outdoor track team, and the Thirteen Club. He was the co-captain of the outdoor track team in his senior year.

Following graduation from Needham High School, he attended Harvard University, where he received a degree in Psychology and Social Relations. While at Harvard he played on the freshman and junior varsity football teams.

After college Mr. Gillis worked for six months on a political campaign in San Francisco and then returned to the Boston area to start his broadcasting career. He began at WITS Radio in the sales department. He then became Director of Promotions and subsequently moved to broadcasting. From WITS he moved to WBZ Radio as a broadcaster.

He left broadcasting briefly to work as Public Relations Director for the Boston Breakers of the United States Football League. One year after he joined the Breakers, the team moved to New Orleans, but Mr. Gillis elected to stay in Boston.

Mr. Gillis then joined the sports department at WNEV-TV Channel 7 as a reporter/anchor. During the eight and one half years he has been with Channel 7, the Sports Department has received six New England Emmy Awards for best sportscast. While at Channel 7 he has covered all four major Boston sports teams at their post-season championships - The Celtics at the National Basketball Association Champi-

onships, the Bruins at the Stanley Cup Championships, the Red Sox at the World Series, and the Patriots at the Super Bowl. He has interviewed many of the great Boston sports figures, including John Hannah, John Havlicek, Bobby Orr, and Larry Bird. He recently journeyed to French Lick, Indiana, to interview Larry Bird after his retirement announcement. Two of his most interesting interviews were with Mr. and Mrs. Wing, a couple who are in their eighties and are a synchronized swimming team and Armand LaMontagne the sculptor who created the statues of Larry Bird, Bobby Orr, and Carl Yastrzemski that are in the New England Sports Museum and the wood-carvings of Babe Ruth and Ted Williams that are in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Gillis serves on the Board of Directors of New Alternatives, a San Diego based organization that is concerned with the evaluation and treatment of abused children. He was a member of the Channel 7 team at the Needham Education Foundation's Spelling Bee last spring. He plays tennis, enjoys reading, and delights in spending time with his children.