



Manuel Balbis, '53, wrestled above his weight – and won!

We heard Manuel speak at the 2010 Reunion last year where he but barely mentioned his athletic prowess.



But he was the captain of our wrestling team in each of his last two years at Augusta.

He was undefeated in 1952 and 1953. In 1952, he earned a Silver Medal in the Virginia Prep School Wrestling Championship.



Wrestling was a very competitive sport in the 1950's and his impressive wins were against strong and able opponents in and above his weight class.

While the team his senior year did not have a good season, "Mawweet" shone as he pinned or decisioned opponent after opponent. In the 1953 yearbook, Manuel Balbis was voted as one of the school's best athletes.

Balbis versus Gantz from the University of West Virginia. Manuel won!

He played Tiger Football and was co-captain of that team his senior year. He also played baseball as well as wrestling.

He was at AMA for six years and made a name for himself in academics as well as athletics – earning seldom matched grades in biology and chemistry.

Balbis was the Student Body Treasurer and the Class Prophecy said that he would be elected President of Cuba after Batista was driven from power. This prediction was made in 1953 and unfortunately for many of us, it never became true.

He left a great athletic and academic record at AMA we welcome Manuel Balbis from the Class of 1953 to the AMA Sports Hall of Fame.

