

# SEEING STARS

By POLLY VAN RAALTE

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Freeman McNeil



Ted Banker

**MAN OF THE HOUR...**  
Mickey Mantle's Restaurant and Sports Bar in Manhattan was the place to be for the "All-Pro Dinner" held by



Brandon Steiner



Joe Klecko, Walt Michaels and Debbie Klecko



Photos by Polly VanRaalte

Camp Sussex of New Jersey to honor former New York Jet defensive tackle and end Joe Klecko (#73).

Founded in 1923, Camp Sussex is a non-profit co-ed facility for disadvantaged children. Proceeds of the evening benefitted the camp.

You'll never guess the names of some of the camp alumni. They were Gabe Kaplan ("Welcome Back Kotter"), Louise Lasser ("Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman") and even Mel (Kaminsky) Brooks ("Blazing Saddles").

Over the years Joe has given time and support to many charitable organizations including Camp Sussex. He was surrounded by the love and admiration of friends, former teammates, sports stars, and fans. (Of course I'm one of the fans.) Who could forget the "New York Sack Exchange?"

Former Jets who remembered those very special years included outstanding guard and tackle Ted Banker, agile running back Rocky Klever, dynamic cornerback Bobby Jackson and super running back Bruce Harper. Present New York Jets who miss his prowess on the field included handsome quarterback Kenny O'Brien and his lovely wife Stacy, center Jim Sweeney, and record breaking running back Freeman McNeil. Also on hand was former Jet coach Walt Michaels who looked terrific in his red tie and suit. (Walt I'd never seen you "suited-up" before. You look great!)

Jet PR man Frank Ramos and director of operations Mike Kensil shared their thoughts about the condi-



Heather. I heard wedding bells will be ringing this spring.

The New York Knicks were also well represented. Earl "The Pearl" Monroe looked great in his basketball theme Nicole Miller tie. Earl broadcasts Knick basketball games onMSG. Star guard John Starks looked cool and comfortable in his Nike warm-up suit.

MC for the evening was former Jet Dave Jennings. Dave has become a super announcer of Jet games on the radio. The dynamic duo and Dave and Marty Glickman will really be sorely missed.

A special guest was boxer Lennox Lewis. Lennox was recently given his WBC belt as heavy weight champion. He will make his first defense in London on April 24. Good luck, Lennox.

One of the organizers and sponsors of the event, Brandon Steiner of Steiner Sports Marketing, looked wonderful in his Nicole Miller sports tie. Did you know Brandon handles over 250 athletes for social and charitable events? Brandon also attended the camp and was a counselor.

Selling raffle tickets were Five Towns newlyweds Audrey and Elliott Polinsky. Audrey is the daughter of Al Epstein former director of sports in the Lawrence Public Schools. Must run in the family.