

***Lodi High School Opens: 1934    Lodi History Highlights***  
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In January of 1934 the fast growing Borough of Lodi proudly announced the opening of its own High School. The Thomas Jefferson Junior and Senior High School located on 1st Street and which is now serving as the Middle School. No sooner did the bell ring to begin classes when 150 Lodi students, attending Garfield High, demanded an immediate transfer home.

The angry students circulated a petition listing three reasons why it would be in the town of Lodi's best interest to allow them to enter their new High School: That there is no reason for attending an out of town High School since they now have one of their own. That the expense to the community would be cut down by a transfer, and that it was a major inconvenience for everyone involved. After presenting their case to both the Lodi and Garfield Boards the homesick kids from Lodi entered Thomas Jefferson, soon to be known as plain old Lodi High.

Lodi, even in the 1930s, was a sports minded town. An organization called the Lodi Pleasure Club was the first of its kind to offer the children of the Borough a variety of sports activities to participate in. It wasn't long before an offshoot of the Pleasure Club was formed called the Lodi Junior League which was organized by chairman of the town's athletic committee; Frank Volpe. Some of the league's earliest young athletes were Charles and Samuel Luna, Vincent Macognone, Sal and Joseph Lascari, Rocky Lamartino, Steve Sadora, Charles Tumminelli, and Joseph and Nicholas Luciano.

Another club in town called the Hilltops was known for producing some fine young boxers. Golden Glovers Al Andre and Jim Tailor were renowned Pugilists whose ring prowess was much publicized. In 1933 they both won the championship in their prospective divisions...they were managed by a fellow by the name of Anthony Averso.

by January of 1935, the sports clubs boasted 147 members and gave birth to the Hilltop Girls Softball team. The opening of Lodi High School eventually afforded many of these youngsters the opportunity to achieve greatness. In 1938 Lodi High produced its first championship football team. It was unbeaten, untied and not scored upon The record holds till this day.