

Remember Me?

Johnny McLaughlin was my name.
There was a time I got some fame
As the smallest Eagle in the football game.

120 lbs someone said
“..with full uniform, extra large shoes
And four quarters on a wet field.”

It was a challenge, that I will say!
To fight the big guys for a chance to play.

But play I did and that year was good.
Shoulder to shoulder our team stood.
We won glory on the football field
When to our opponents we would not yield.

In the end we won the game.
All-city champs we became.
We heard the cheers ring loud and clear.
That was 1937! What a year!

1942 brought a new challenge to meet. .
We were at war!
There were opponents to beat
And I joined the Navy.

A tail gunner I was on a small Navy fighter
I fit in the tail because I was lighter.
From England and Ireland we flew over the sea
A long way from home
Where they remembered me.

Our team did not finish the war.
I was one of a courageous crew
On the final mission that we flew
When our plane went down in the water.

The battle was over,
We fought no more.
That was February, 1944

A final treaty was signed at last
That big war is in the past
But our plane and crew still rest at sea
And all we ask is “remember me”.

Johnny McLaughlin was my name.

Pat Sullivan Rosenkranz (1949)