



## **61 Straight Games!**

Southampton set and still holds the longest winning streak in Long Island history by winning 61 straight games from 1967 through 1970.

After losing in the 1967 County semifinals to eventual champion West Islip 95-64, Southampton defeated Half Hollow Hills 90-80 in the consolation game. Little did anyone know that game would be the start of a miraculous winning streak.

The 1967-68 season had Southampton going through the regular season unbeaten and was the favorite to take the title. They rolled through the playoffs, scoring 107 points in one game, and defeated Pierson 99-79 to take the title.

The 1968-69 season again had Southampton again rolling along. However, their star player, Clarence "Foods" Walker who was averaging 26 ppg., was suspended at mid-season. The team still continued to win without him. Walker was reinstated just in time for the playoffs after missing 9 games. In their 88-73 semifinal win over Half Hollow Hills, Southampton broke Mattituck's Long Island record of 41 straight wins. They then defeated a 19-0 Copiague team 83-55 to win their 2<sup>nd</sup> title in a row.

But they weren't done yet. With "Foods" Walker again leading the way, 1969-70 produced a third straight undefeated regular season. They entered the playoffs as the No. 1 seed and promptly showed their strength by beating Sachem 103-76 in the opening round for their 61<sup>st</sup> consecutive win.

In the quarterfinals, Southampton played North Babylon, a team which had been somewhat of a disappointment during the season and entered the game with a 14-6 record. North Babylon led from the outset and built a 15 point lead in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. Southampton wouldn't quit and cut the lead to 67-65 with 3:19 left but North Babylon quickly rebuilt the lead and won going away 82-69 ending Long Island's longest boys high school basketball winning streak at 61.

"Foods" Walker eventually had a 10 year NBA career, playing for both Cleveland and New Jersey.

Congratulations to Coach Joe Romanosky and his team for a truly great run!