MONTE POOLE

Monte Poole has been writing sports since 1983, full-time since March of 1985, two months before graduating from San Jose State – and nine years before he moved to Castro Valley.

Monte’s love of sports goes back to his Oakland childhood, a second-grade boy who never got into comic books or the comic pages but always reached for the sports page of the Oakland Tribune. His journey from reading the Tribune to writing for it was filled with labor, advice and support.

The journey began at Chabot College where one of Poole’s professors, Tom Driscoll, persuaded him to join the staff of the Spectator, the school’s weekly tabloid. Before long Monte was writing columns on any sports topic of his choosing.

After four quarters at Chabot, he transferred to San Jose State, where he spent five semesters, the pre-graduation highlight being the spring semester of his junior year (1984) when he covered men’s basketball for the Spartan Daily.

Poole began his professional career covering preps for the Oakland Tribune. From preps to colleges to pros to sports columnist, he stayed with the Tribune for 28 years, under four different ownerships. Among the legends Poole interviewed and wrote about were Rickey Henderson, Joe Montana, Jerry Rice, Al Davis, Carl Lewis, Don Nelson and Tim Hardaway. He once had dinner at the same table as Muhammad Ali, whom Monte calls “the greatest of them all.”

With the newspaper business shrinking, Poole jumped at an offer from Comcast SportsNet Bay Area, now NBC Sports Bay Area, to become their Warriors Insider in 2013. Nearly seven years, six playoff appearances, five NBA Finals appearances and three championships later, he’s still there.

Monte considers himself fortunate to have survived a serious automobile accident in 2015. His SUV was broadsided by a car running a red light at Castro Valley Boulevard and Crow Canyon Road, a stone’s throw from his home.

“The SUV was totaled, but I was resting at home five hours later, released after tests and treatment by the good people at Eden Medical Center,” he says gratefully.

Poole has called Castro Valley his home since 1994.