

*Greetings
From the President*

NOVEMBER 13, 2024



Welcome to the 60th *Norwalk Old Timers' Sports Award Dinner*. It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve as president of the Norwalk Old Timers as this night has become a great tradition for the City of Norwalk. It reunites friends and honors those who have made significant contributions to the Norwalk sports scene.

Tonight we honor nine people who have distinguished themselves in sports and beyond.

I want to thank all of you attending this evening, especially those who come every year. Your support has enriched the City of Norwalk with this event and sustained the scholarship fund that has grown to three scholarships each annually for Norwalk and Brien McMahon High Schools.

I must also thank our dedicated Old Timers executive committee, the members of which put in many hours of work to make this a special evening.

Finally, we are grateful also to our many sponsors, patrons, and donors for their vital support.

I hope everyone will enjoy this great Norwalk Old Timers' evening.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Tucci". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pete Tucci
President

Congratulations to Todd Philcox & the 2024 Old Timers Honorees

From the
Norwalk High School
Lacrosse Alumni



CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN KENNEDY!

SUCH A WELL-DESERVED
HONOR!



~Your friends at Greenwich
Parks and Recreation

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the 2024 inductees into the
Norwalk Old Timers'
Athletic Association

Wishing you continued
success in all that you do!

Dr. John M. Lasala
BMHS Class of 1971

BMHS Hall of Fame Inductee 2009
Varsity Football, 3 years
Varsity Baseball, 2 years
Varsity Wrestling, 1 year

 Washington University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

John M. Lasala M.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Medicine

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the

2024 Norwalk Old Timers' inductees

Enjoy your evening!



The Moffett Family

Frank, Sheila,
Patrick, Katelyn,
Brayden, and Connor

CONGRATULATIONS

to all the

2024 NORWALK OLD TIMERS' HONOREES

on their lifetime of achievements
both on and off the field

From



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Congratulations

DEE DEE COYNE #15



**Congratulations on being inducted to
the Norwalk Old Timers!**

**From Coach Janet Ficke and your
Adelphi Panther Teammates**

1985-1989

As a proud Senator, **Lyndon Johnson** turned every game into a masterclass in sportsmanship, showing us that being a champion isn't just about the score, but the spirit of the team. It's not every day that a school gets to recognize someone who has gone from star player to coaching legend. May your legacy continue to inspire future generations. Cheers to a remarkable brother-in-law, individual, player, and coach whose skills on the field were only matched by his character off of it. *Once a Senator, always a Senator!*

LOVE, HEATHER & PAUL



CONGRATULATIONS

to the

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Congratulations to the
2024 Norwalk Old Timers Honorees
Special congratulations to awesome Brian Kennedy!

The Bobrowsky Family

Congratulations 2024 Norwalk Old Timers Honorees!



ROCK BOTTOM
FURNISHINGS & FLOORING



FAIRFIELD COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE, INC.

Congratulations to those with FCIAC
 connections as Norwalk Old Timers
 Inductees!

Lyndon Johnson	Todd Philcox
Brian Kennedy	Sheila Mortell Stolarski
Alison Kuczo Laney	Gerald Roman

The FCIAC is proud of you!

*The McMahon Football Family
would like to send out much deserved*
CONGRATULATIONS
*to the
2024 Norwalk Old Timers inductees!*
*Your impact on student athletes is
immeasurable.*

**GO
McMAHON FOOTBALL!**



**THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY
FOOTBALL OFFICIALS
ASSOCIATION**

*Congratulates all the
Norwalk Old Timers
2024 Honorees!*

President
Tom Sportini

1st Vice President
Gary Sperling

2nd Vice President
Mary Riehl

Secretary/Treasurer
Bill Howard

Commissioner
Don Christopher

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL
2024 NORWALK OLD
TIMERS' ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION
HONOREES**

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CONGRATULATIONS DEE DEE COYNE!!

Not only are you an athlete,
you are an amazing team player,
a giver, a carer, and an
all-around incredible human being.

**“JOY IS A NET OF LOVE BY WHICH YOU
CAN CATCH SOULS.”**

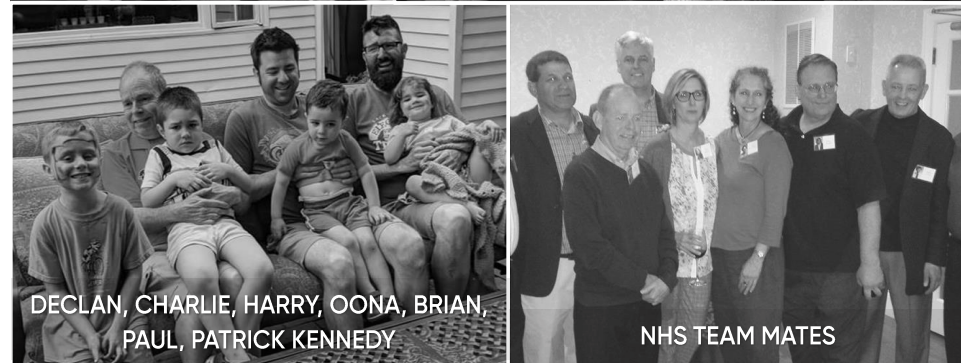
Thank you for bringing love and joy to all our lives.
You are our little sister, friend, wife, “mother,” aunt,
and great aunt. We love you to the moon and back.

*From the Coynes, Lupis, Fitzes,
and the other family you have created
with your friends.*



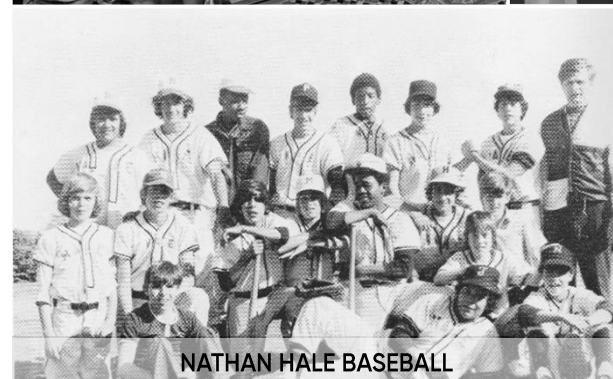
MOM & DAD

LARRY, JUDY, BRIAN, JOHN & LYNN KENNEDY

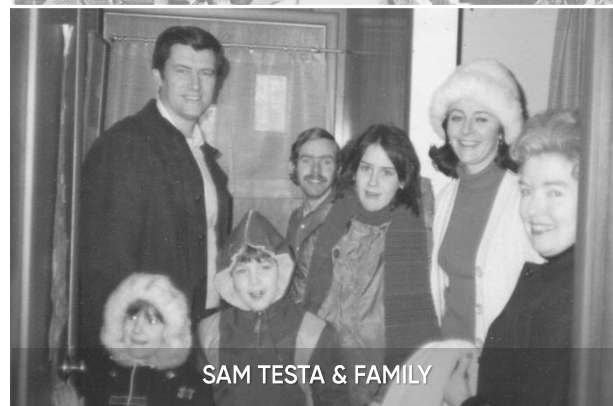


DECLAN, CHARLIE, HARRY, OONA, BRIAN,
PAUL, PATRICK KENNEDY

NHS TEAM MATES



NATHAN HALE BASEBALL



SAM TESTA & FAMILY

Thank you all,
and
congratulations
to my fellow
honorees.
Brian

Congratulations to Norwalk's Newest "Old Timers"

Dee Dee Coyne
Lyndon Johnson
Brian Kennedy
Alison Kuczo Laney
Sheila Mortell Stolarski
Todd Philcox
Gerald Roman
Maurice 'Mo' Vaughn

Posthumous Honoree

Timothy Paul Currie

Mike Errico Award

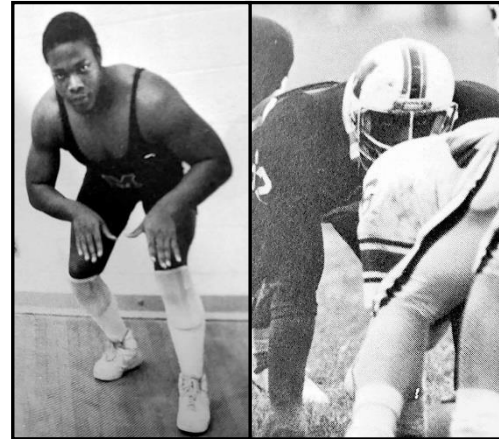
The Billmeyer Family

from Larry Cafero and



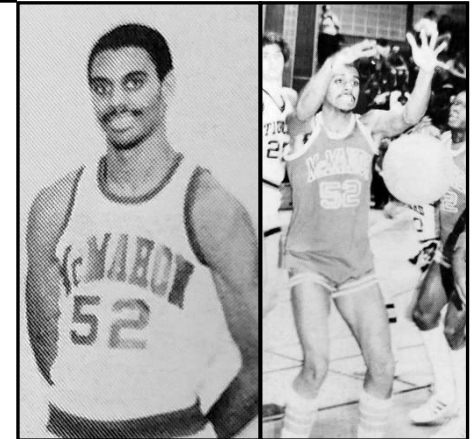
CONGRATULATIONS

to a pair of former
State Champion Senators &
2024 Norwalk Old Timers Honorees



**Lyndon
Johnson**

**Gerald
Roman**



... and CONGRATULATIONS to
Norwalk High School State Champ
Alison Kuczo Laney

from Ralph & Joan King
and The Brien McMahon Athletic Family

“50+ YEARS”
THE ACES

(1964 – 2020)

*Salute all the
2024 Old Timers’
Honorees*



*“Not Just Softball,
But a Lifestyle”*



Congratulations Brian!

Your family is so proud of what you have given over the years to athletes, coaches, students, sports fans, and the entire community!



*John and Lynne, Judy and Larry
Patrick and Andrea, Paul and Maribel
Declan, Oona, Charlie, Harry, and Olivia*



NHS BEARS BASEBALL

On behalf of the
Norwalk High School Baseball team
we want to extend our
congratulations to all the
2024 Honorees.

Through your accomplishments,
you have been and continue to be a
shining example for all of our
current and future players.

CONGRATULATIONS to all 2024 Norwalk Old Timers' Honorees

PHYL-VIC LLC –
THE PALADINO FAMILY
proudly endorses the
Old Timers' Athletic Association's
Scholarship Program for
Brien McMahon and
Norwalk High School students



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The Tucci family wants to thank and congratulate all the 2024 honorees.

Each of you has helped to make the City of Norwalk the “Sports Capital” of the state.

CONGRATULATIONS!

PETE CORRENTY
and
THE HOME OILERS HOCKEY CLUB

salute
The Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association
and all the 2024 honorees



PETE CORRENTY

(Team Founder, General Manager, Head Coach)
2010 Old Timers Honoree

HOME OILERS ROSTER

- | | |
|---|---|
| Peter Correnty (Coach) 1931 Norwalk, CT USA | Larry Davenport (F) Glencoe, ON, CAN |
| Mark Burns (G) 1948 Boston, MA, USA | Frank Grace (F) 1948 Toronto, ON, CAN |
| William Diercks (G) 1947 St. Louis, MO, USA | Carl Kraft (C) 1939 Elora, ON, CAN |
| Charlie Brown (D) 1947 Minneapolis, MN, USA | Russ McClenaghan (C) '39 Huntingdon, QC, CAN |
| Christopher Gurny (D) Andover, MA, USA | Kent Parrot (F) 1946 Boston, MA, USA |
| Don Newman (D) 1943 Kamloops, BC, CAN | Johnny Sherban (RW) 1928 Vonda, SK, CAN |
| Paul Patrick (D) 1950 Riverside, CT, USA | Dick Toomey (F) 1947 Newtonville, MA, USA |
| Paul Tanguay (D) Montréal, QC, CAN | Bob Veilleux (LW) '39 Thetford Mines, QC, CAN |

<u>Season</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Games Played</u>	<u>W L Tie</u>	<u>Pct</u>
1962-63	Norwalk Home Oilers			
1963-64	Norwalk Home Oilers	16	10 4 2	0.688
1964-65	Norwalk Home Oilers	16	14 2 0	0.875
1965-66	Norwalk Home Oilers	22	19 2 1	0.886
1966-67	Norwalk Home Oilers	22	18 3 1	0.841
1967-68	Norwalk Home Oilers	21	18 3 0	0.857
1968-69	Bridgeport Home Oilers	21	17 3 1	0.833
1969-70	Bridgeport Home Oilers	18	16 2 0	0.889
1970-71	Bridgeport Home Oilers	22	17 3 2	0.818
1971-72	Bridgeport Home Oilers	18	13 4 1	0.750
1972-73	Bridgeport Home Oilers	19	12 4 3	0.711



*The Brien McMahon High School
Alumni Association*

CONGRATULATES

BMHS Class of '83

GERALD ROMAN

and

BMHS Class of '86

LYNDON JOHNSON

and all the

2024 OLD TIMER HONOREES

MCMAHON



CONGRATULATIONS

to the

2024 Norwak Old Timers' Inductees

McMahon Baseball

GO SENATORS!

THE COYNE FAMILY

CONGRATULATES

DEE DEE COYNE

We are all so proud of you.

This Honor is certainly well deserved.

*As people sometimes say,
they saved the best for last.*

We Love You!

**JIM, DAVE, HOWIE,
PAM, KIM & KEVIN**

Dee Dee Coyne



In a city that has produced its fair share of gifted high school girls softball players, **DEIDRE ‘DEE DEE’ COYNE** secured her place as one of Norwalk’s all-time greats during an outstanding four-year career at Central Catholic.

Dee Dee shined on the softball diamond for the Cavaliers from 1982-85, winning back-to-back city triple crowns, while leading the city in home runs three straight years. She was also a three-time All-City selection and a two-time All-Western Connecticut Conference and All-State pick.

But what might be the most impressive achievement on Dee Dee Coyne’s scholastic resume was the astonishing 52-game hitting streak she put together over her final three seasons. It began as a sophomore when she hit safely in the Lady Cavs’ final 12 games, then getting at least one hit in all 21 games her

junior year, and registering a hit in her first 19 games as a senior to make it 52 straight games.

Dee Dee captured the first of her two Norwalk triple crowns as a sophomore by hitting .528 with six home runs and 40 RBIs, and then repeating the rare feat her junior year with a robust .613 average, four HRs, and 33 ribbies. Her 46 hits during that 1984 season included eight doubles and four triples to go with 37 runs scored and 25 stolen bases.

As a senior, Coyne fell just short of a third straight triple crown when she hit .526 to finish runner-up in the city. But she did top the city of Norwalk again in HRs with five and RBIs with 32. She also scored 38 runs to personally account for 70 runs in her 76 at-bats. Dee Dee’s cumulative batting average over her final three seasons at Central Catholic was a sparkling .556. She also excelled on defense as a shortstop and outfielder, posting a .920 fielding percentage with her strong arm at short throwing out runners from the outfield grass.

But softball wasn’t the only sport Dee Dee Coyne excelled in on West Rocks Road. She was also a four-year starter for the CCHS volleyball team in the fall and helped the Lady Cavaliers—who never had a winning season up to that point—turn their fortunes completely around. As a freshman, she helped Central Catholic to its first winning season and state tournament appearance in program history. As a junior, the team won its first Wild Division title. Then as a senior captain, Coyne helped lead Central to a best-ever 18-3 finish, a second straight Wild Division crown, and its first Western Connecticut Conference championship, which was also the school’s first league title in a girls sport. The Cavaliers then advanced all the way to the Class S state final and finished runner-up. Dee Dee was named team MVP and First-Team All-WCC in each of her final two volleyball seasons while as a senior she received All-State Honorable Mention.

In between volleyball and softball seasons, the versatile Coyne was a key member of the CCHS girls basketball team. She was the first player off the bench as a freshman and a starting forward the next three seasons, finishing in the top 10 in scoring and rebounding all three years. Dee Dee helped the Cavaliers reach the second round of the state tournament three straight years, including a program-best 16-7 record her senior season.

continued **COYNE**, p.54

LYNDON JOHNSON



Your friends from the **BMHS Class of '86** congratulate you on a well-deserved honor. We all enjoyed playing with you but more important, you have been a great role model for so many high school and college athletes for 30+ years. You have carved out a great sports legacy and Norwalk is proud to call you one of their own.



**Marvin • Kevin • Brian • Will • Rich
Kenny • Bill • John • Tim**

Lyndon Johnson



LYNDON JOHNSON has been involved in the sport of football for nearly half a century, first as a standout player and for the past four decades as a highly respected coach.

But according to him, he got into his favorite sport by accident.

Born in Jamaica, Lyndon was six years-old when he and his family moved to the U.S. and settled in Norwalk. It was shortly after that he heard about a sign-up meeting to play football.

“In Jamaica, football means soccer,” Johnson explained, noting soccer is known as “futbol” in his homeland. “So when I showed up at the field on Strawberry Hill Avenue, I saw all these kids with helmets and shoulder pads on and I showed up with a soccer ball.”

It turned out to be a pretty good “accident.” Lyndon landed on the Rockets and helped them win the Pop Warner Football league championship that season. That was also the start of his love affair with football, American style. It didn’t take him long to learn the game and excel at it, and by the time he got to high school he had developed into an outstanding two-way All-FCIAC lineman at Brien McMahon.

In fact, in the fall of 1984 Johnson was the only junior in the conference selected All-FCIAC Defense while also earning All-State Honorable Mention. Then as a senior, the 6-2, 225-pound captain helped lead McMahon to the 1985 FCIAC championship as the defensive tackle led the Senators with 86 tackles, including six sacks. He was also a force on the offensive side, blocking and opening holes for McMahon’s high-powered running game.

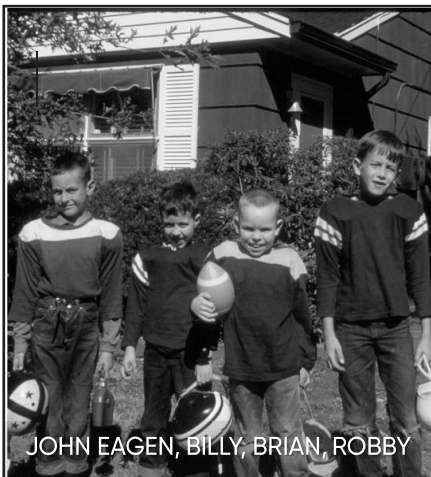
Lyndon not only repeated as All-FCIAC, but was selected first-team all-state on defense and all-state honorable mention on offense. He capped off his scholastic career by being named co-MVP of *The Hour*’s 1985 **All-City Football Team**.

“A Lyndon Johnson comes along once in a while,” McMahon head coach Jack Casagrande, a part of the BMHS coaching staff for nearly four decades, said. “He is as fine a player as we have ever had.”

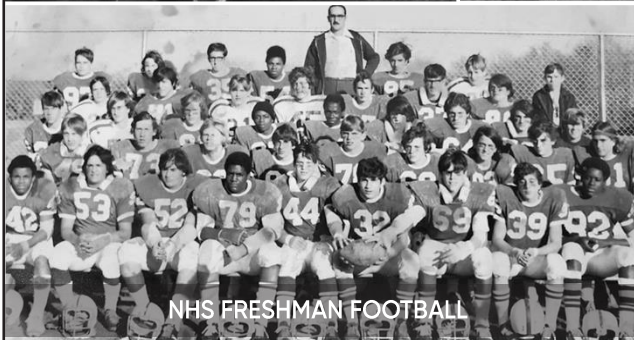
Casagrande, a Norwalk Old Timers honoree himself, also recruited Lyndon to wrestle for him in the winter sports season and that also proved to be a good move. As a senior he was named All-FCIAC in the unlimited weight class while finishing runner-up at both the FCIAC and Class L state championships and fifth at the State Open.

But football was Johnson’s true passion and he continued his gridiron career at UConn, where he was a four-year letter winner from 1989-92, started all 33 games on the offensive line over his final three seasons, was team captain as a senior and named the Huskies’ *Most Valuable Offensive Player*. He was also an All-Yankee Conference second-team pick in 1989 and second-team All-ECAC in 1990.

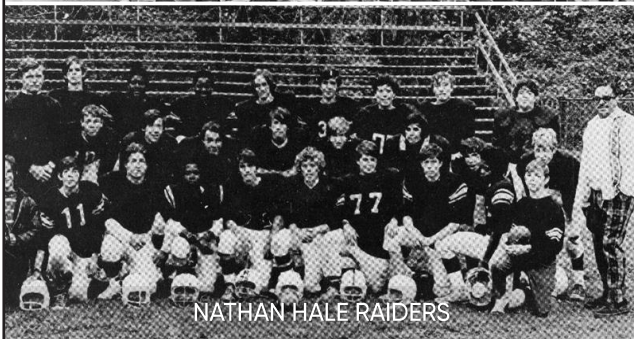
With his playing days behind him, Johnson turned to coaching and joined the McMahon staff as an assistant from 1993-96. As defensive coordinator, he oversaw one of the best defensive



JOHN EAGEN, BILLY, BRIAN, ROBBY



NHS FRESHMAN FOOTBALL



NATHAN HALE RAIDERS

Thank you to
my family,
friends, and
colleagues.
**Brian J.
Kennedy**

Brian Kennedy



BRIAN KENNEDY refused to let obstacles and challenges in his life keep him from fostering an active and successful career in athletics.

Despite being born with Cerebral Palsy and never able to play competitive sports, Brian took a different route to become a key part of several teams while growing up. His journey began at Wolfpit Elementary School, where he became the manager of the basketball team. Kennedy's passion for sports followed him to Nathan Hale Middle School, where he was the manager of the football and basketball teams.

Then when he arrived as a freshman at Norwalk High School in the fall of 1972, Brian started attending all the freshmen football team's games as a fan. That's when Jack Cronin, the former NHS football coach who later became a football official, recruited Kennedy to work the "chains" on the sidelines. Before long, Carl Paight, the Bears' head football coach at the time, brought Brian on board as the team manager.

When fall turned to winter, Norwalk High basketball coach Don Quinn asked Brian to be the Bears' team manager, and in the spring, Cronin, still the NHS baseball coach, did the same. With that, Kennedy became a "three-sport" participant.

In 1975, Sam Testa replaced Paight as head football coach and Brian, who lived across the street from the Bears' new coach, developed a special friendship. Testa would even give him a ride to and from school every day.

"Brian Kennedy was our 12th man," recalled Joe Madaffari, the Bears' quarterback back then and now a member of the Norwalk Old Timers Board. "He was a real part of the team. When we walked on the field, Brian Kennedy walked with us. He was even the Homecoming King his senior year."

All four coaches Kennedy served as a team manager under—Carl Paight, Jack Cronin, Sam Testa, and Don Quinn—are all past Norwalk Old Timers honorees.

But Kennedy's involvement in local sports wasn't limited to just Norwalk High. After his freshman year, he became the timekeeper for the Norwalk Recreation summer basketball league and he took on more responsibilities with the rec department over the next three summers. Between that and his experience as a team manager, it was no surprise that Brian went on to major in Recreation and Leisure Studies when he attended Southern Connecticut State University.

Then after graduating with his degree in 1980, Kennedy landed a job as a recreation supervisor in Norwalk, and a few years later he joined the Greenwich Parks and Recreation Department. That in turn led to a security position at Greenwich High School, and with his background in sports, he eventually added the position of the Cardinals' athletic manager. He retired from his full-time security job in 2022, but has continued as athletic manager on a part-time basis.

And similar to his time in Norwalk, Kennedy became a popular figure in the Greenwich sports

CONGRATULATIONS ALISON!!

“We are so proud
of you!”

Norwalk's Kuczo Takes State Title

It only took Norwalk's Alison Kuczo exactly one season to do what most high school athletes try four years to do and sometimes never accomplish: win an individual state championship.

The Bears' talented freshman gymnast capped off a brilliant "rookie" season, Saturday, when she won the state title in the floor exercises at the 1978 FCIAC Girls' Gymnastics Individual State Championships, before over 1,000 fans at Haddam-Killingworth HS.

GYMNASTICS

The diminutive 4'11", 91 pound Kuczo has enjoyed a banner season right throughout and topped it off in fine fashion this past weekend by accumulating a first place score of 32.65 in the floor exercises to garner the state crown.

The 14 year-old freshman needed every one of those points to edge out Karen Hungerford of Conard who finished runner-up, just one-tenth of a point back at 32.5.

"It was very exciting, but also very fun," a modest Kuczo said afterward. But when asked what she can possibly do for an encore

the next three seasons, she said, "I guess I'll try to win the all-around championship."

Lynn Rosenberry, of Simsbury, who ironically didn't win any of the four events but was the only girl to place in all four, won the coveted 1978 All-Around championship with 32.65 points. Only three girls qualified in all four events and the first three places in the all-around competition, were between them.

Seven other girls qualified in three events and third through sixth place was between them.

In addition to Kuczo, Darien's Mary Metayer was the only other area girl to place, finishing third on the uneven bars with a 7.6. Metayer also finished 15th on the balance beam (5.85), tied for 17th on the floor (7.3), and just missed placing in the all-around, finishing seventh at 30.0.

Other area girls competing were Anna Fauser, of Darien, 13th in vaulting (7.65), and Staples' Jayne Dean, who tied for eighth in vaulting at 7.9, and teammates Jennifer Butler and Holly Teitelstein, who both tied for 15th place in vaulting at 7.5.

In addition to her first, Kuczo also placed 12th on the bars with a score of 6.9. Joining Kuczo in the state championship circle were Rosemary Dassillakas, of Newington, in vaulting (8.95), Sue Hopkins, of Norwich Free Academy, on the bars (8.7); and Barbie Lord, of Greenwich, on the balance beam (8.2).

"Alison had a very good season, and I think she'll stay right near the top the next three years."

Continued on page 38

The Kuczo Family

Mom & Dad, John Kuczo Jr.,

Andrew Kuczo, Jimmie Kuczo, and

your four children Ryan, Megan, Kevin, Emma, and
four grandchildren Austin, Jackson, Lola, Ella

*Alison
Kuczo Laney*



ALISON KUCZO LANEY made Norwalk sports history in 1978 when she became the city's first state champion in high school girls gymnastics.

Four and a half decades later she's making history again as the first gymnast to be honored by the *Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association*.

The Norwalk High School girls gymnastics program was in only its second year during that 1977-78 winter sports season when Kuczo, a 14 year-old freshman, captured the floor exercise event at the Class L state championship meet. It would be the start of an outstanding scholastic career by the Lady Bears' talented all-around gymnast.

Alison also won the FCIAC championship in the floor event as a freshman, and as a sophomore missed by just a half-point of repeating as state champ. She was named first-team All-FCIAC as a freshman, sophomore, and junior—the first three-time gymnast in conference history—and she likely would have been the first four-time all-league selection if not for an ankle injury that sidelined her most of her senior year.

The 1981 NHS grad had planned to continue her gymnastics career at William & Mary College in Virginia, but that same ankle injury curtailed what would have been a promising collegiate career. But as one door closed, another opened as one of Alison's college coaches asked her to help teach gymnastics in a local youth program the coach ran.

That experience came in handy a few years after graduating college when Alison and her family moved from Virginia Beach to Westport and she taught gymnastics at the Westport YMCA. She took a break after having her third child, but Alison's passion for the sport resurfaced some years later when the late Ro Carlucci, the head gymnastics coach at Westhill High School, told her there was a shortage of gymnastics judges in the state and convinced her to give it a try. So in 2000 Alison officially became a gymnastics judge and quickly rose through the ranks. As she gets ready to embark on her 25th season as a judge, she is now regarded as a top-level judge and one of the best in the FCIAC and state.

"She's absolutely one of the best and still is after all these years," said Wilton High School coach Gary Chadwick, who's won numerous FCIAC and state titles in his three decades as a coach. "She really knows the sport and coaches are happy when they see Alison sitting at the table judging their meets."

And as a tribute to her friend and mentor, Alison replaced Carlucci as the "assigner" of judges for all FCIAC gymnastic meets.

Now known as Alison Laney, the mother of three is the daughter of former longtime FCIAC commissioner John Kuczo, a 2008 *Norwalk Old Timers* honoree, while her grandfather, the late Paul Kuczo, a legendary coach at Stamford High, was one of the founders of the FCIAC in 1961. ■

Norwalk Old Timers Association Past Sports Award Recipients

1963
John J. McGarrige
John McGrath
Arthur Olson
1964
Joseph Beres
Harold Cutchall
Russell Day
1965
Snow Keene
Frank Riley
Charles Volk
Benjamin Whone
1966
Louis J. Gardella
Herbert Herring
Louis Tarlov
1967
Phil Baker
Leo Frank
Thomas Ireland
1968
Dr. Harry H. Hefferan
Joseph Kerekas
Andrew Richards
1969
Donald N. Bredice
James J. Paul
Horace McMahon
1970
George B. Buschbaum
Joseph Marino
James F. Sutton, Sr.
1971
James Bellantoni
Norman Flewellyn
Donald Shufelt
1972
Everett S. Bulkeley
Patrick J. Davey
Edward Herring
1973
John Ingram
Alfred Middleton
John Miller
John Rogers
1974
Rudy Costa
Len Fanning
Steve Kravarik
John McGuirk
Bill Meehan
Betty Philcox
1975
Jerry Epstein
Len Harris
Frank Lombardi
Al Naggie
Ralph Venezia
1976
Joe Buschbaum
John Buschbaum
Guy Cocchia
Harry Combs
Clarence Fanning
George Fuller
Tony Reda
Jimmy Sutton
1977
Joe Kulscar
Joe Lonchak
Lou Nazzaro
Tom Price
Louis (Duke) Yoczik
1978
Lou Bardani
Chick Ciccarelli
Eugene "Ike" Kern
Benny Masion
Fred Palumbo
Williard Williams
1979
Alva "Al" Cocchia
Bob Edge
Mike Errico
Clyde Joyal
Willis Overton
Bob Smith
Naomi Wargo
1980
Edward Bonello
George H. Bredice
Vic D'Amato
Frank Gaudiano
Frank J. Impy
Eric C. Malmquist
Francis D. Martin
William J. Miller
Leo P. Skidd
1981
Ralph Caruso
David Fromer
Robert Hunt
John Johns
Chris Lysobey
Vincent "Peck" O'Brien
Angelo Radano
Edgar Raymond
Dean Russell
Jack Squires
Jack Staff
1982
Dennis Callahan
Americo Christopher
William J. Cibere
Louis J. D'Orso
William F. Gonch
Eleanor Davenport Hart
Frederick M. Janci
Joseph Janci
William Lauder, Jr.
Dave Ragaini
Carmine A. Santarella
1983
Louis J. Bottone
Nicholas J. Bredice
Lloyd Fuller
Herbert Launiere
Al Palumbo
Frank Palumbo
Joseph P. Sheehan
1984
Larry J. Anastasia
Earl "Lala" Bellia
Robert A. Corbo
Jack Cronin
Norm Donnelly
Bill Dudas
John Dwyer
Mike Lombardi
1985
Dom Christopher

"Mickey" Connolly
John D'Amato
Jim Ellis
Irv "Lefty" Geddes
Joe Lametta
Frank Lippolis
Nick Melfi
Sal Spinola
1986
Anso Belardinelli
Fred Belinsky
Bob Callahan
Jay Callahan
Lee Corbo
Ernie Imri
Norm Sculley
Vinnie Vellotti
1987
Joseph A. Bellantoni
Otto Buchholz
William D. Ireland
William J. Kish, Sr.
George "Mimi" Lawrence
Michael Marucci
Sylvio "Babe" Spinola
Frances "Frank" Troy
1988
Thomas R. Corbo
Frederick J. Foldeak
Douglas Morrison
William O'Malley
Louis Renzulli, Sr.
William A. Ripley
William Rogowski
Sergio "Abbie" Spinola
1989
George C. Arseniadis
Karl J. Bassone
Walter F. Court
Dominick A. Cundari
Walter F. Dudding
Basil Marella
Rocco "Rocky" Marucci
Nicholas J. Santo
1990
Mauro (Mac) Bossone
Jerry Courville, Sr.
George Herman
Elsie Testa Imri
John Krysiuk
Bob "Rivets" Miller
Ted Tedesco
George Weed
1991
Eugene Callahan
Charles Cundari
Leo Fagan
Stew Leonard, Sr.
Ted Lowry
Frank Morgan
Bernard Nowak
Leroy Vaughn
1992
Art Bobrowsky
Guido Bossone
Lou Bredice
Dick Buonerba
Ed Cerulli
John A. Mendence
Nick Santaniello, DDS
Wayne Shadbolt

1993
Jimmy Beau
Romas Bossone
Dick Cross
Nick Garfield
Ferd Gottscham
Jack Redway
Jim Romanello
Gene Seymour
1994
Robert Colbert
James Creagh
Joseph Cusack, Sr.
Fred DeFinis
Allen Helfant
Joseph Marchese
Joseph Morrison
Alan Seymour
1995
Jack Casagrande
Ralph DiMeglio
Don Gustafson
Don LaJoie
Ed Luczkowski
Joseph Raymond
Art Reale
Mary Roman
1996
Sal Canal
Mike DiDio
Don Gaynor
Vinny Grillo
Ralph King
Marie Corridon Mortell
Charlie Provenzano
Mario Salomone
1997
John "Jr." Bieling
Al Canevari
Joe DeFlorio
John Harris
Lou Mola
Vin Santagate
Pat Spinola
Ralph Tavella
1998
Jim Deering
Arnie Evans
Frank Fay
Mary Kehoe
Tom Kelly
Tom O'Connor
Ladislau Rastocky
Lee Seymour
1999
Thomas Horton
Fred "Moose" Miller
George "Bud" Moseley
Richard M. O'Grady
Stan Poremba
Robert "Bobby" Ryan
Anthony "Bobby" Santo
Earl Stabell
2000
Ray Barry
Fred Bondi
Mary Combis
Roger Devine
Robert Dowling
Roger Gendron
Edward McSally

Jack Ryan
2001
Rollie D'Avanzo
Richard Fuller
Lee Johnson
Nicholas Mastolillo
Roger Shoals
Jerry McGee
Alan Staack
Merv Tarlov
2002
Bob Avery
Al Boczer
Quinto Christopher
Bill Connery
Jack Devine
Mike Santa Lucia
Reggie Spears
Jack Weisheit
2003
Mike Barbarula
Ed Fahan
Joe Iannacone
Joe Magyar
Otto Makowsky
Calvin Murphy
Bob Schaefer
2004
Dennis D'Amato
Russ Dennis
Vincent DePanfilis
Jerry Fishman
Bill Granata
John Huminski
Bill Krause
Elaine Woodward
Setapen
Charlie "Bud" Smith
2005
Pete Barrella
Lou Cundari
Steve Guback
Bucky Iannacone
Frank Lapak
Lew Marino
Dave Mills
Charlie Mitchell
2006
Terry Blitz
Dennis Christopher
Ted Fecenko
Phil Kydes
Gary Liberatore
Milt Peckham
John Peters
Jeff Rousseau
2007
Bob Barate
Al Buchta
Connie Carpenter
Steve Gulyas
Billy Howard
Joe Liberatore
Harvey Melzer
Pete Tucci
2008
Ed Faulkner
John Kuczo
Pete Lopusznic
James McLean
Ralph Tucci

Norwalk Old Timers Association Past Sports Award Recipients

Frank Vigilante
Don Wilson
Dick Zakhar
2009
Dan Letizia
Rich MacDonald
Bob Mendence
Dick Packer
Fred Petrini
Don Quinn
Dan Santarella
Phil Tegano
2010
Pete Correnty
Jack Couch
Don Foust
Gary Lawrence
Jerry McDougall
Lynn Spagnesi
Pat Vigilio, Sr.
John Zeoli
2011
George Albano
Stan Czulewicz
Paul Krasnavage
Mark Kurimai
John Newton
Doug Peoples
Dave Raila
Dr. John Santorella

Past Presidents

1963–Thomas P. Skidd
1964–John C. Miller
1965–John D'Amato
1966–William Lauder, Jr.
1967–Andy Richards
1968–Don Shufelt
1969–Anthony Reda
1970–John McGuirk
1971–John McGuirk
1972–Edward J. Bonello, Sr.
1973–Robert J. Smith
1974–Robert J. Smith
1975–John McGuirk
1976–Eugene Kimmel
1977–Robert J. Smith
1978–Robert J. Smith
1979–James Ellis
1980–James Ellis
1981–Robert A. Corbo
1982–Robert A. Corbo
1983–Edward J. Bonello, Sr.
1984–David J. Ragaini
1985–David J. Ragaini
1986–Michael E. Errico
1987–Michael E. Errico
1988–Edward J. Bonello Sr.
1989–Al Palumbo
1990–Al Palumbo
1991–Stanley Poremba
1992–Stanley Poremba
1993–John V. D'Amato
1994–John V. D'Amato

2012
Ron Dominici
Paul Gerken
Bobby Miller
Frank Moffett
Wayne Mones
Leo Motyka
Andrea Seger
Tom Shostak
2013
Mike Angione
Celia Bobrowsky
David Coyne
Drew Czulewicz
Art Kadish
Joe Madaffari
Randy McCue
Franklin Melzer
2014
Joe Andrews*
Lorin Beresnyak*
Tim Bishop
Kevin Connolly
Fred DeFinis
Alvin Faust
Rudy Gisolfi
Paul Jacoby
Eric Lund*
Sam Miller
Cleve Penberthy
Sam Testa*

2015
Willie Brooks
John Eagen
Lloyd Fuller
John Keogh
Sheila Moffett
Dewey Raymond
Sal Nuzzo
Tom Scarso*
Marvin Spencer*
Sandy Weed Austin*
Maryann Wehrheim
2016
Paul Atkins
Jerry Courville, Jr.
Tom Delmoor
Margaret Diaz*
Bruce Kirby
Jim Matregrano*
Phil "Skipper"
Matregrano*
Gary O'Malley
Jerry Tavella
Joe Troy*
Kevin Welch
Mike Wrinn
2017
Angelo Bruno
Mary Buschbaum*
Walt Czekaj*

Past Mike Errico Award Recipients

1974–Tom Skidd
1975–Nick Santaniello
1976–Nash Engineering Co., Inc.
1977–Bill Walden
1978–Norwalk Family YMCA
1979–Harry "Mickey" Connolly
1980–Germain G. Glidden
1982–Vincent G. Ryan
1983–Laurel Athletic Club
1985–Russell A. Kelly
1987–American Legion Post 12
1990–Lou Brodersen
1991–Mace Norwood
1993–Pete Tucci, Sr.
1994–Jeff Smith
1995–Rev. John Livingston
1996–Ray Barry, Rob Trifone
1999–Mark Lambert
2000–Norwalk Babe Ruth
(14/15) All Stars
2000–NHS Girls Basketball
Team
2002–Ben Whome National Little
League, 1952 Little League
World Champions
2003–American Legion Post
12 Baseball Team Craig
Katz, Coach

John Davis
Janine DeLise Deering
Jeanne Vallerie DeRosa
Dan Hughes
Calvin Jordan*
Kern Jordan*
Mark Kreyborg
Patti Richmond
Al Tortorella
2023
Laura Brunner Gulden
Jennifer Buonerba
Prescott
Mike Epstein
Doug Marchetti
John Paladino
Chris Santopietro
Kevin Stevens
Tony Ward
Joe Santo, Sr.*

**honored
posthumously*

Norwalk Old Timers 2024 Officers

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Vice President..... Frank Moffett
Treasurer..... Tim Hefferan
Recording Secretary Steve Annunziato
Corresponding Secretary..... George Albano

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Program design & layout by Judie Szuets, advanced business support
Biographies of 2024 Honorees written and produced by George Albano
Cover design by Heide Follin, Creative Advertising

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies..... George Albano
Welcome..... President, Pete Tucci
Greetings from the City of Norwalk..... Mayor Harry Rilling
Greetings from the State of Connecticut..... State Senator Bob Duff

DINNER

* * * * *

TONIGHT'S HONOREES

Presentation of Sport Awards

Dee Dee Coyne
Lyndon Johnson
Brian Kennedy
Alison Kuczo Laney
Sheila Mortell Stolarski
Todd Philcox
Gerald Roman
Maurice 'Mo' Vaughn

Posthumous Honoree

Timothy Paul Currie

Mike Errico Award

The Billmeyer Family

TODD PHILCOX

Your friends at Smitty's Service Center Inc. are extremely proud of all your accomplishments, both on the field and in life. **You are like family to us.**

Smitty's
Service Center

Dave Sr., Dave Jr., Sean, Mark
207 Westport Avenue, Norwalk
(203) 847-2240



Todd Philcox



When **TODD PHILCOX** arrived at Norwalk High School as a freshman in the fall of 1980, he assumed he would be playing tight end for the Bears' football team the next four years.

Little did he know at the time that he would become an All-City MVP quarterback, go onto start at QB for a nationally ranked Division I college program, and then carve out a nine-year career as a signal caller in the NFL.

Not exactly the way he planned it when he began playing football in the local Pop Warner youth program as a 10 year-old.

"I started out as a lineman in Pop Warner. I was an offensive tackle and defensive end," the 1984 NHS grad recalled. "Then when I got to Norwalk High I wanted to play tight end, but on the first day of freshmen practice we didn't have a quarterback.

The coaches knew I had done some pitching when I played baseball so they figured I had an arm and decided to try me quarterback."

It turned out to be a good move for the Bears and for Philcox, who became the starting QB as a junior.

"Then I grew six inches and put on 20 pounds before my senior year," he pointed out.

As a result, the now 6-foot-4, 200-pound senior captain passed for nearly 1,300 yards, threw a city-leading eight touchdown passes and completed 50 percent of his pass attempts while averaging nearly five yards a carry, including a pair of rushing touchdowns.

Todd saved one of his best performances for last as he rallied Norwalk from a 13-point deficit to pull out a thrilling 20-19 win over rival Brien McMahon in his final high school game. Trailing 19-6, Philcox personally had a hand in the Bears' final 14 points to spark the comeback victory. He scored on an eight-yard keeper and threw a two-point conversion pass in the final minute of the first half to make it 19-14. Then with just over five minutes left in the fourth quarter, he fired a nine-yard touchdown pass to give his team the dramatic one-point win and the Sam Testa Trophy in the 23rd annual city rivalry game.

He capped off his career by being named MVP of the 1983 *All-City Football Team*, only the second QB to be named MVP, as well as just the second NHS player at any position to earn the top honor.

Philcox was recruited by a long list of major colleges around the country, including Notre Dame, Nebraska, Georgia, USC, UCLA, and several Ivy League schools. When he finally announced his decision, Syracuse University, one of the top programs in the East, was the sweepstakes winner.

After playing behind All-American and Heisman Trophy runner-up Don McPherson, Todd took over the starting QB position as a senior in 1988. Just like his Norwalk High career, he had a big final season, throwing for 2,076 yards and 16 touchdown passes while completing 60.3 percent of his throws.

In his final collegiate game, he helped lead Syracuse to a 23-10 win over No. 16 LSU in the Hall of Fame Bowl on Jan. 2, throwing a fourth-quarter TD pass to clinch the

continued **PHILCOX**, p.55

Thoughts from the Proud In-Laws and Family of Gerald Roman



We first met Gerald when our daughter brought him to our home in Weston, CT to meet us, visit, and teach him to play pinochle. As we came to know more about Gerald, we realized he was an athlete who excelled especially in basketball, football, and track, though we didn't have much opportunity to see him play, but we did get to see him in action coaching his children in several sports through the years.

It was easy to see he was an intelligent, competitive, and caring young man.

As time went on, he married our daughter, Jennifer. We relocated to Cary, NC, and Gerald and Jennifer moved down to join us where opportunities for work and community were attractive.

Gerald was a go-getter, securing a great job with John Deere Corp., and, after completing his BS degree, he promoted his into management.

We attended church together, and Gerald was one of the first to volunteer to coach in their "Upward Basketball" program—enjoying the direct contact with sports and young people.

Gerald was always willing to help us or neighbors in whatever the need turned out to be—such is his caring nature.



We have been very proud of our son-in-law to be a good man, provider, husband, and father to two children, our grandchildren Makinze and Jordan, whom we adore.

From your wife Jennifer and Kids: Thank you dad for always being there for us with all your love, support, and faith you have shown us through the years. John 3:16 and Phillipines 4:13 "You need to want it as bad as you want to breathe"—Eric Thomas and *Our Greatest Fear* from the movie *Coach Carter*

**We love you, Jennifer, Makinze, Jordan
Gary & Pat Gosda**

Gerald Roman



GERALD ROMAN gave a pretty good indication of his athletic talent and a peek at things to come at a very early age.

The future Brien McMahon three-sport standout was only nine years-old when he entered his first 'Punt, Pass and Kick' skills competition in 1974 and made it all the way to the national semifinals in his age group at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, home of the NFL Steelers. The popular event, which was offered by the NFL and ran from 1961-2017, was sponsored by the Ford Motor Company.

"My mother was at Ritar Ford looking to buy a new car and she saw an application for the Punt, Pass and Kick," Gerald recalled, referring to his mother, the late Mary Roman, a 1995 Old Timers honoree. "So she brought one home and filled it out for me to enter."

Gerald advanced past the local and sectional qualifiers to make it to the national semis, finishing fourth in the country that first year. He would compete the next several years and made it back to the national semifinals when he was 13, this time at the Houston Astrodome.

"I always fell a little short," he said.

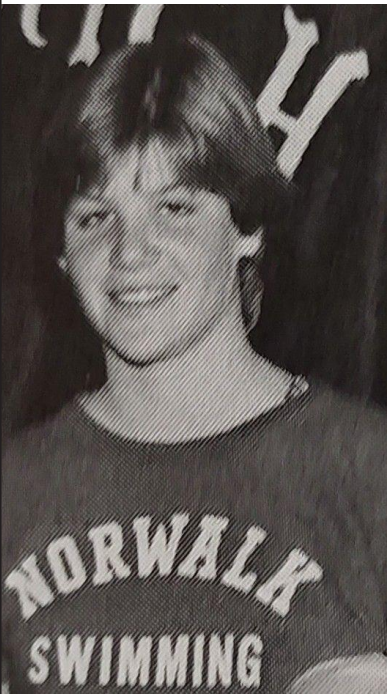
But his all-around athleticism continued to shine and the accolades kept coming when he got to high school. After two solid years as a freshman and sophomore at McMahon, Roman transferred to Trinity-Pawling School in New York for his junior year. That's the same private boarding school another 2024 *Norwalk Old Timers* honoree, Maurice Vaughn, attended.

But Gerald returned to BMHS for his senior year and the Senators were glad he did. He was a two-way player for the 1982 football team, which finished 8-2 that season. Despite missing three games, Gerald still finished second on the team and third in the city in scoring with four touchdowns, all on receptions. His best day in a McMahon uniform was the second game of the season, a 28-6 win over Andrew Warde, when he caught four passes for 124 yards, including two TD passes from quarterback Mike Correnty, covering 67 and 46 yards. He also picked off an interception on defense to set up the final touchdown.

And given his history growing up, it was no surprise that Roman handled the kicking and punting duties for the Senators. In one game against unbeaten league champion Greenwich, he got off punts of 64, 46, and 48 yards.

Then a few months later Gerald helped the McMahon boys basketball team go 22-4 and win its second state championship in program history as the 6-foot-6 center averaged 13.5 points and 8.4 rebounds a game while shooting over 56 percent from the field. In the biggest game of the year—and arguably the biggest game in city history—Roman came up big as he scored 14 points in the Senators' 73-65 win over city-rival Norwalk High in the 1983 Class LL state championship game.

That wouldn't be the last state title Gerald experienced at McMahon. In the Spring of '83, he won not one, but two individual state championships in track, capturing the Class LL crown in both the 110



Congratulations

SHEILA

Sophomore season
1977

- ◆ Norwalk High School State Champion ◆
- ◆ University of Arizona All-American ◆
- ◆ U.S. Masters Swimming Champion & National Record Setter ◆

*From Your Friends
and Neighbors
at Charles Cove*

*Sheila
Mortell Stolarski*



When the Norwalk High School girls swim program became an FCIAC and state power in the 1970s, **SHEILA MORTELL** was one of the major reasons why.

The four-year record-breaking swimmer carved out a highly decorated All-American career at NHS, displaying her talent right from the beginning. A product of the Norwalk YMCA swim program in her early years, Sheila was only a freshman in the fall of 1976 when she helped spark the Lady Bears to their first—and still only—FCIAC championship in girls swimming. A year later, as a sophomore, she was front and center of another title run as the Norwalkers captured their first state championship in program history.

Mortell was at her best in the biggest meets. At her very first FCIAC Championships, the freshman won two individual events and set new conference records in both, while adding another first-place finish as the anchor on the Bears' medley relay team which also set a new FCIAC record. Two weeks later, Sheila added three more first-place medals at the Class LL state championships, and a week after that she claimed the State Open title in the 200 IM.

Her sophomore season was more of the same, repeating as a double winner at the Class LL state meet while breaking her own state record in the IM as NHS celebrated its first state crown. As a junior, Sheila broke her own state record in the 100 freestyle at the LL trials and was part of the medley relay team—along with sisters Kate and Margaret—that also set a new state record. That same relay team broke the state mark again at the Class LL finals and then again when it won the State Open title.

Sheila capped off her outstanding scholastic career as a senior with another double victory at the FCIACs, setting a new record in the 50 free while just missing the record in the 100 backstroke in her final conference meet. Between the FCIAC, Class LL, and State Open meets, Sheila finished her high school career with more than three dozen medals, many of them for first-place finishes.

That outstanding career at Norwalk High earned Mortell a full scholarship to the University of Arizona, where she earned All-America honors and served as captain of the Wildcats her senior year. Her competitive swimming days were far from over, however, as Sheila soon became a regular at U.S. Masters Swimming meets where—not surprisingly—she continued to enjoy success at every age level.

In fact, in the summer of 2011, she won five gold medals in the 45-49 age group at the Y National Championships while setting a new national record in the 100 meter backstroke. She also ranked as high as third nationally and fourth in the world in both the 100 and 200 back in her age group.

Now 62, Sheila continues to excel in the pool and just this past May she captured six gold

CONGRATULATIONS MAURICE!

We are so proud of all your accomplishments both on and off the field. I was lucky to call you my teammate, and even more fortunate to still call you my good friend!



All the best to you,
Kevin, Dana, Taylor and Korey Morton

CONGRATULATIONS LYNDON!



We're so happy to
celebrate you today!

Best wishes from your friends,
Kevin, Dana, Taylor and Korey Morton

Maurice 'Mo' Vaughn



From the Cranbury League to the American League MVP, Norwalk native **MAURICE 'MO' VAUGHN** left an indelible mark on baseball diamonds everywhere he played.

But it all began in his hometown when he played in the Cranbury League and belted monstrous home runs off the wall of the former Honey Hill Elementary School on Midrocks Road. Players, coaches, parents, and anyone else involved with local league back then still talk about some of the moon shots he crushed into orbit.

In fact, when he was 14 years-old and playing in the Pioneer division, Maurice set a league record with 14 home runs. His 25 hits that season were also a new league mark while Vaughn led the unbeaten Cranbury all-star team to the annual intra-city *Kinlock Tournament* championship.

More home runs would follow in the Norwalk Babe Ruth League and with the Post 12 American Legion team. It was at Trinity-Pawling School in New York, however, where college baseball coaches began taking notice of the power-hitting slugger from Norwalk. Vaughn also played football and basketball at the private boys boarding school located in the Hudson River Valley, where he would earn 12 varsity letters and was captain and MVP in all three sports.

His future, though, would be in baseball and the 1986 graduate received a baseball scholarship to Division I Seton Hall. He made an immediate impact with a school-record 28 homers as a freshman while batting .429 and earning *Big East Conference Rookie of the Year* honors. During his three seasons in South Orange, NJ, Vaughn would set career records with 57 home runs, 218 RBIs, and a cumulative .417 batting average. He was named *All-Big East* and *All-American* all three years as well as the *Big East Player of the Decade*. And it was also during his Seton Hall career when Maurice Vaughn became more commonly known in baseball circles as "Mo" Vaughn, a nickname given to him by his coach Miles Hubbard.

Mo's collegiate numbers would have been even more impressive if he played a fourth year, but after his junior year the Boston Red Sox made him the 23rd overall pick in the 1989 Draft. He began his professional career in his home state at Double A New Britain and was promoted to Triple A Pawtucket in 1990 where he hit 21 homers and batted .295.

He began the '91 season back at Pawtucket, but after 67 games, on June 27, 1991, the Red Sox called Norwalk's Maurice Vaughn up to their Major League team in Boston. He was in the starting lineup that night and playing first base at Fenway Park against the rival Yankees, the team he rooted for growing up in Norwalk. He became just the second native Norwalker to make it to the Majors, joining Art Olsen, who pitched for the Detroit Tigers in 1922 and '23. Known as "Ole" Olsen, the 1913 Norwalk High graduate was part of the first class of *Norwalk Old Timers* honorees in 1963.



Remembering and Celebrating Our Favorite 'Old Timer'

TIM CURRIE

With Love from Your Biggest Fans
Kim, Tim Jr., and Adam Currie
The Gang at Currie's Tires
Your Motown Bandmates

Posthumous Honoree *Timothy Paul Currie*



While the late **TIM CURRIE** may have been best known for running his family's successful tire business in town, and later for forming his popular Motown Band that attracted a huge local following, there was something else the Norwalk native was passionate about: **Sports**.

Indeed, Timothy Paul Currie was quite the avid sportsman growing up in Norwalk and later as an adult playing and excelling for several teams in local softball and touch football rec leagues.

That athletic journey began at a young age as a left-handed pitcher in the early 1960s when he played in the Cranbury League for Lane Motors and took the mound at the old Roosevelt School. As he got older, he continued to move up the youth baseball ladder.

"He was a sidearm pitcher and very tough to hit," recalled 2013 Old Timers honoree Mike Angione, who pitched professionally in the minor leagues and played with Tim in the Cranbury League. "Tim was what we called a sidearm sling-dinger, someone who could throw hard and would strike you out."

All roads led to Central Catholic High School where Tim pitched for the Cavaliers before arm problems curtailed his scholastic career. He also shined on the football field while at CCHS.

"This was back when Central Catholic football was in its heyday," pointed out Tim Eagen, a 2017 honoree who played football at Central with Currie. "He was a big part of that history. Tim played both defensive end and tight end. He was a good football player.

"I remember he was a very good athlete," Eagen, one of the Cavaliers' senior captains, added. "But what I remember most is he was always a tough kid. He never let any kind of injury get him down. He was just a good player and a great guy. The type of person you wanted to be around.

"If you were a friend of his, he was a friend for life."

Eagen and Currie would reunite as teammates some years later on DRJ Builders, a perennial powerhouse in the Norwalk Recreation Adult Touch Football League in the 1980s and '90s. Eagen played quarterback and Currie was one of his favorite targets.

"He was a rusher off the end and always managed to get open downfield," Eagen said.

Currie also eventually transitioned from baseball to slow pitch softball and played for multiple teams, including Lawrence's Tigers, another local power. He eventually started his own team as a player, coach, and sponsor for Currie's Tires, which won the Norwalk Recreation Wednesday Night League championships in 1981. That same season Currie's Tires won the Men's Division A-1 Wilton Softball Tournament, while in 1982 they captured the Arthur Bennett Memorial Tournament. Tim closed out his softball career as a member of the Norwalk Aces.

With a desire to coach his sons, Tim eventually circled back to baseball with the Connecticut Wolfpack AAU program. The team won a state tournament and qualified for the National AAU



Norwalk Hospital

Congratulations, Billmeyer family!

Thank you for making our community better

For nearly two decades, your steadfast support for Norwalk Hospital's C. Anthony and Jean Whittingham Cancer Center has been truly remarkable. Your generosity is propelling advancements in cancer care within our community. We are profoundly grateful for your dedication and commitment. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey! We couldn't do it without you!

nuvancehealth.org



*Mike Errico Award
The Billmeyer Family*



THE BILLMEYER FAMILY of Norwalk, which started an annual golf tournament in 2005 and nearly two decades later have raised over \$400,000 for the Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital, is the recipient of this year's *Norwalk Old Timers' Athletic Association Mike Errico Award*.

The award, named in honor of the late local sportsman who helped start the Norwalk Old Timers in 1963, is presented to an individual or group for the positive impact it's made in the local community.

The word "impact" is an understatement when one looks at what the Billmeyers have done. When the family lost both Audrey and Don Billmeyer to cancer just six months apart in 2005, their seven children—six daughters and one son—wanted a way to thank the Whittingham Cancer Center for the excellent care their parents received.

So they put their collective efforts together and organized a tournament at the Silvermine Golf Club to raise money and donate to Whittingham Center. Little did they realize that 19 years later the tournament—now known as the 'Billmeyer Memorial' and always held on Columbus Day—is still going strong and selling out year after year.

"It's taken on a life of its own. I never would've thought it would become what it has," Blake Billmeyer, the lone son in the family, said. "When we lost our parents I called and emailed my sisters and said let's do something to raise money for the Whittingham Center. Both our mom and dad were there and the care and respect the staff there gave them was amazing and we wanted to say thank you.

"So we all decided to do a golf tournament and I really thought it would be for a year or two. That first year we made \$10,500 and we were so excited. Now here we are 19 years later and we've made over \$400,000."

In fact, proceeds from the 2024 Billmeyer Memorial reached that milestone mark when this year's event on Oct. 13 raised \$40,000 to bring the tournament's 19-year grand total to \$403,000. And not just through playing golf.

continued **BILLMEYER FAMILY**, p.57

Norwalk Old Timers Scholarships

The Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association also honors “Young Timers” with six high school scholarships.

The 2023–24 school year marked the 33rd year of the *Eugene 'Ike' and Alberta Kern Scholarship Award*, which is named after the late legendary Norwalk High School football coach and his wife, and is presented annually to an NHS senior football player. Presented in the spring, the 2024 recipient was **SAUL LILES**.

Since 1993, the Old Timers have presented the Williard R. Williams Scholarship Award in memory of the longtime *Norwalk Hour* sports editor who covered local sports for more than half a century. The scholarship recognizes a male student-athlete at Norwalk and Brien McMahon high schools. This year’s recipients were **SAVVAS KODONAS** of NHS and **PABLO JASIR** of McMahon.

The *Thomas C. O'Connor Scholarship Award* was created in 2001 and recognizes a female student-athlete at each high school. O'Connor, the former Mayor of Norwalk, was a big fan of girls sports and this scholarship was started shortly after his passing. The 2024 recipients were **MAREN GILCHRIST** of Brien McMahon and **JULIA BELLA** of Norwalk High.

The Norwalk Old Timers also created a new scholarship in 2011 in the memory of Jack Casagrande, the former coaching legend at Brien McMahon who passed away in December 2010. It recognizes a senior football player for the Senators, and the 2024 recipient was **EMERARD CHARLES**.

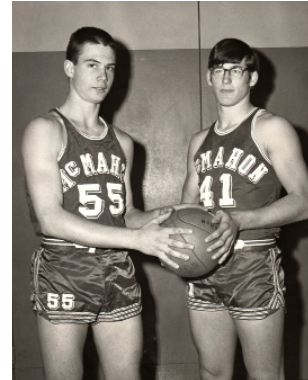
All six high school scholarship winners were awarded \$1,000.

'Ike' Kern, Williard Williams, Tommy O'Connor, and Jack Casagrande are all past Old Timers honorees.

Robert 'Doc' Dowling, right, was the oldest living *Norwalk Old Timers* honoree until he passed away in July of this year at the age of 102. He was a 1939 graduate of Norwalk High School, where he played football and ran track. George Albano of the Old Timers committee visited him at his Rowayton home in August 2023, a week before his 102nd birthday. Dowling is holding a photo of himself at age 76 running the 100 meters at the 1997 National Senior Olympics in Arizona. 'Doc' Dowling passed away a month before he would have turned 103.



IN MEMORIAM Gary 'Moose' Lawrence



On Thursday, October 3, 2024, 2010 *Norwalk Old Timers'* Honoree **GARY C. LAWRENCE**, 70, died in Norwalk Hospital, Norwalk, Conn. Gary 'Moose' Lawrence was a member of the Lawrence dynastic powerhouse of sportsmen. He was the husband of Sharon Lawrence.

Gary was one of Norwalk's greatest all time athletes coming from Brien McMahon High School in the early 1970s where he excelled and co-captained the basketball team. After high school he was recruited to play softball professionally and for many local teams, including his father George Mimi Lawrence's Tigers, Sonny's, Devito Bros, Snellman Construction, and many others. Gary also played football for Partner's Cafe, winning many championships.

Gary is widely regarded as possibly one of the best athletes to come out of Norwalk. He's recognized across many sports as a legend and will be deeply missed by his family, loved ones, along with many Norwalk sports men and women and the Norwalk Old Timers' Association organization.

“Moose” was a regular at Norwalk Old Timers dinners and was an Old Timers honoree himself at the 2010 awards dinner, joining his father, who was honored in 1987. ■

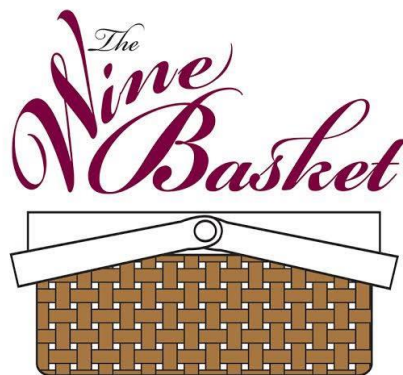


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Be sure to visit the website often as photos of the 2024 Awards Dinner and this year's Honorees, as well as all Honoree bios, will be posted.

www.norwalkoldtimers.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2024 Norwalk Old Timers Honorees



In loving memory of **Faith J. Ippolito**, Mother, Sister, Wife and Friend to all, and a fan of many local sports teams who sat on many field benches cheering our teams on for decades!

Please help us keep the Faith J. Ippolito Scholarship Fund going at NHS. Donations can be sent, in check form, made out to NHS, and mailed to 140 Harborview Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06605

COYNE, from p.27

A captain in all three of her sports, Dee Dee culminated her outstanding athletic career by receiving the 1985 *Norwalk Fire Fighters Athlete of the Year Award*, presented each year to the city's outstanding athlete—male or female—among the three local high schools. Two years after her graduation, she was back at her alma mater to be inducted into the CCHS Hall of Fame.

Dee Dee, who also excelled in the classroom, received a full softball and academic scholarship to Adelphi University in Long Island, where she graduated *cum laude* in 1989. She played catcher and outfield for the Panthers and as a sophomore finished second on the team with a .302 average

JOHNSON, from p.29

units in the state in 1994 as the Senators posted an FCIAC-record eight shutouts en route to a perfect 12-0 season, another conference championship and the program's first state title. With Lyndon's defense again leading the way, McMahon repeated as FCIAC champs in '95.

After one more season on Highland Avenue, Johnson embarked on a collegiate coaching career, beginning as the defensive coordinator at Sacred Heart University in 1997 and then as defensive line coach at Fordham in '98. The following season Lyndon returned to another one of his alma maters when he joined the coaching staff at UConn and over the next 12 seasons he held various positions, including special teams coordinator from 2006-10. Under his watch, the 2009 Huskies were ninth in the FBS in kickoff returns (including three TD kickoff returns) and No. 18 nationally in punt returns. Then in 2010, UConn ranked third nationally in kickoff returns as the Huskies won the Big East championship and played in Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

KENNEDY, from p.31

community. So much so that in 2014 he was honored by the Greenwich Old Timers.

"I built my foundation in Norwalk and I was able to bring it to Greenwich. But I don't forget

while her junior year the Panthers went 38-14 and reached the College World Series.

"Dee Dee Coyne etched her mark in Adelphi softball history with an impressive array of natural abilities and hard-earned skills," Janet Ficke, the Panthers' legendary head coach, said. "Dee Dee was an integral part of Adelphi's road to the 1988 Division I College World Series. (She) left a truly unique and illustrious mark on the soul of Adelphi Softball."

Growing up with four athletic brothers, Dee Dee Coyne is the younger sister of Dave Coyne, the former Central Catholic athlete, coach, and athletic director who was honored by Norwalk Old Timers in 2013. ■

When UConn head coach Randy Edsall stepped down following that bowl appearance to become the new head coach at the University of Maryland, Lyndon was the only assistant from his previous staff he asked to join him. Johnson spent five seasons with the Terps, serving as outside linebackers coach and special teams coordinator before being elevated to assistant head coach prior to the 2014 season.

Following the 2015 season, Lyndon went to Towson University in Maryland and spent seven years on the Tigers' coaching staff, including part of the 2022 season as interim head coach. He thought he had retired from coaching following that season, but was "talked into" returning to the sidelines this fall as an assistant by the coaching staff at Reservoir High School in Ellicott City, Maryland, who knew him from past recruiting visits he made. ■

where I came from," Kennedy, who still lives in Norwalk, said at the time. "I wouldn't be in Greenwich without the people in Norwalk." ■

PHILCOX, from p.39

victory and a 10-2 season by the Orangemen, who were ranked No. 12 in the final national Coaches poll. In addition, during his time at Syracuse Todd was the holder on extra-point attempts for part of SU's 11-year NCAA-record 262 consecutive successful kicks, which ended the season after he graduated.

Todd completed both his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Syracuse, but his football days were far from over. Following the 1989 NFL Draft, he signed with the Cincinnati Bengals and became their backup quarterback that season. He would play for six NFL teams during a nine-year career, which also included stints with the Cleveland Browns, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Jacksonville Jaguars, San Diego Chargers and New England Patriots. While a backup most of his career, when pressed into service Todd delivered. One of his career highlights came during the 1992 season when,

ROMAN, from p.41

meter high hurdles and 300 meter intermediate hurdles. He became the first trackman from McMahon to win an individual state title in seven years. The last to do it before him was his brother Craig Roman, who was also a hurdler and won the State Open in 1976. Gerald was also the first city athlete in 17 years to win a pair of state championships, the last being McMahon's Kelly Myrick, who won both hurdle events in 1966. Gerald finished second at the Open in the 110 hurdles, just 1/100th of a second (14.66 seconds to 14.67) behind the winner. He also finished fourth in the 300 intermediate hurdles.

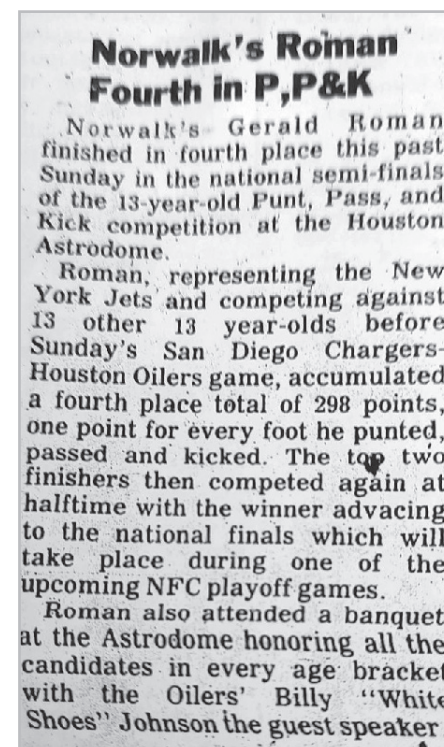
Roman continued his football career at Graceland College in Iowa and wasted no time making an impact. In his very first game as a freshman, filling in for an injured regular, Gerald returned a kickoff 110 yards for a touchdown. He now makes his home in Blairsburg, Iowa, about a two-hour drive from where he played his college football.

Gerald is the son of 1994 Norwalk Old Timers honoree Mary Roman. ■

due to an injury, Philcox was given the start and threw a career-high three touchdown passes to lead the Cleveland Browns—coached by Bill Belichick—to a 28-16 win over the Los Angeles Raiders.

Philcox officially retired following the 1998 season and traded the gridiron for the ocean. With a passion for fishing that began in his teenage years on the Norwalk waters, he earned his USCG Captain's license in 2007 and a year later, Captain Todd Philcox started a new business venture, "Salty Charters of Jacksonville," which offers inshore fishing charters for adults and families along the Atlantic coast of northeastern Florida.

Todd is the second member of his family honored by the Norwalk Old Timers. At the 12th annual awards dinner in 1974, Todd's grandmother Betty Philcox, a legendary Norwalk swim coach, became the first woman honoree in the history of the local organization. ■



MORTELL STOLARSKI, from p.43

medals—four individual events and two relays—in the 60-64 age division at the Y Nationals in Fort Lauderdale. What’s more, her time in the 50 backstroke ranked No. 1 among the all-time top 10 times in her age group while she was No. 2 all-time in two other events and among the top-10 in her other three events. Since 1988, her times in U.S. Masters Swimming meets have consistently landed in the top-10 all-time in the age division she competed in.

VAUGHN, from p.45

Some 68 years after Olsen played in his last big league game, Mo Vaughn made his Major League debut, walking his first time up and finishing 0-for-2. But the next night he collected his first Major League hit against the Orioles in Baltimore, and two days later, also in Baltimore, Vaughn hit his first Major League home run, a 438-foot shot. One night later in Milwaukee, he belted a 435-foot homer and finished with four RBIs.

Those first few games were a preview of things to come. By 1993, Mo Vaughn had established himself as one of the game’s most lethal hitters as he rang up 29 HRs, 101 RBIs, and batted .297 in his third season. It was the best offensive season by a left-handed hitter in Boston in 15 years.

The player who became known as the Hit Dog had a season to remember in 1995 when he hit 39 homers, drove in 126 runs, scored another 98, and batted an even .300 while leading the Red Sox to the AL East Division title. It also earned Maurice Vaughn the *1995 American League Most Valuable Player Award*. He had an even better season in 1996 when he recorded 44 HRs, 143 RBIs, and hit .326—all career highs.

Mo would enjoy two more productive seasons in Boston before playing two years with the Angels and parts of two seasons with the Mets. Hampered by injuries, the three-time all-star retired one month into 2003 season, finishing his career with 328 home runs, 1,064 RBIs, and a .293 batting average.

Sheila still trains three times a week and when not competing she manages to find the time to teach swimming. Of course, her love for the sport is certainly no surprise. Her mother, the late Marie Corridon Mortell of Norwalk, won the Olympic gold medal in swimming at the 1948 Summer Games in London. She was honored by the *Norwalk Old Timers* in 1996 and now, 28 years later, is joined by her daughter. ■

Since retiring, Vaughn has been involved in several successful business ventures, including a real estate company that purchases properties in depressed areas around the country and renovates and restores apartments and units to provide affordable low-income housing. One such property was a building in Yonkers, N.Y., once owned by Jackie Robinson, Vaughn’s hero. Only fitting that Maurice was the last African-American player to wear Robinson’s No. 42 when it was retired by MLB.

“For me, when I’m deciding what form of business to pursue next, it’s been all about what people need,” he once said.

Some of Mo’s other post-baseball business ventures include being president of his own trucking company, ‘Mo Vaughn Transport,’ starting a Big & Tall clothing line called ‘MVP Collections,’ and launching a sports academy in Florida where he transitioned into coaching.

But perhaps the project he’s most proud of was the *Mo Vaughn Youth Development Program* he founded in 1994 during his time with the Red Sox. It was no surprise when he was named American League MVP a year later that Mo held his press conference at a youth center in Boston. That same year, when he was selected to his first MLB All-Star Game, Mo received the *1995 Bart Giamatti Award* for Community Service for his philanthropic work.

Maurice learned all about “giving back” from his parents Shirley and Leroy Vaughn, who was a 1991 *Norwalk Old Timers* honoree. ■

CURRIE, from p.47

Championships in South Carolina. He also coached Pop Warner Football in Fairfield and freshmen football at Fairfield Prep.

Aside from his involvement in sports, Tim Currie has long been a fixture in the community as the third-generation owner of Currie’s Tires, a Norwalk landmark since 1929. Tim began working at the West Avenue establishment as a teenager, first for his grandfather Duke, then his father Len, before taking over the day-to-day operation. His two sons, Adam and Tim Jr., represent the fourth generation of the Currie Family to run the business, now in its 96th year.

In 2013 Tim added another chapter to his life when he started the Motown Review Band, which later became ‘Tim Currie’s Motown Band.’ Many shows, free to the public, took

BILLMEYER FAMILY, from p.49

“The support in the community has been unbelievable,” Blake said. “My sisters and I start collecting raffle prizes in August.”

Local sponsorships also bring in a lot of donations.

“This year we had 10 breakfast sponsors, five more for lunch and seven sponsors for the dinner,” Blake noted.

Tee sponsors have also exploded over the years.

“I can remember the first year we couldn’t cover every hole. Now we get two or three tee sponsors for every hole.”

But perhaps the biggest indication of how much the tournament has grown is the number of golfers who play—or want to play—every year.

“The first year we had 15 foursomes,” Blake pointed out. “This year we had two groups on every hole. Unfortunately we have to tell a lot of people they can’t play because we don’t have room. I never thought we would have to turn people away, but a lot of people who can’t play still come to the dinner to support us. This year

place in the parking lot of his tire business and would draw overflowing crowds. Many of his shows raised money for several charities, including St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and Toys for Tots.

Tim, on drums, and his popular band performed at Calf Pasture Beach, the Oyster Festival, the Mayor’s Ball, and the Norwalk Green. It was on the Green on Aug. 24, 2019, at a show organized by Norwalk’s First Taxing District, when he suddenly collapsed on stage and passed away at the age of 66.

Five years later, however, his accomplishments in local sports annals are remembered as the *Norwalk Old Timers* honor Tim Currie posthumously. ■

we had 144 golfers and about 185 who came for dinner. We’re already sold out now for next year.

“I recall one year it rained so hard, it was pouring, but of the 144 golfers who signed up, 143 still showed up and most of them stayed out there all 18 holes.”

The expanded field of golfers also necessitated a change of venue as the tournament eventually moved from Silvermine to Oak Hills.

“We just outgrew Silvermine and I hated to leave,” Blake said. “My parents both belonged to the Silvermine Golf Club and we played the tournament there the first four years. The first year they planted a tree on the 17th fairway for my parents.”

But while the course has changed, the mission of the Billmeyer Memorial has remained the same and the spirit has continued for 19 years and counting. *The 2024 Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association Mike Errico Award* is a testament to that. ■

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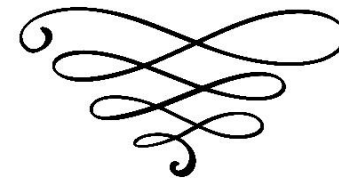
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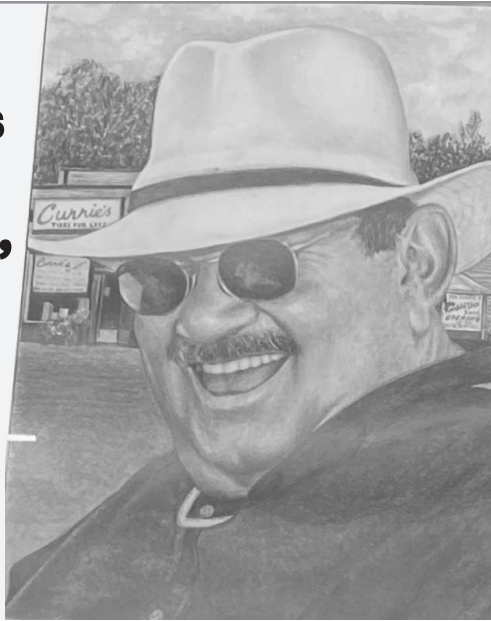
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