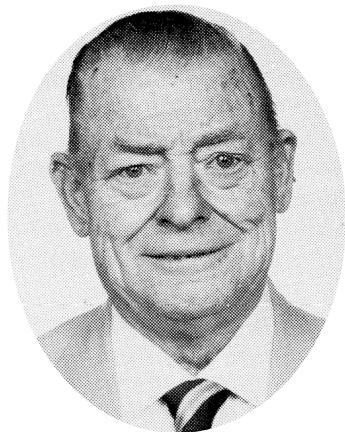


## Otto Buchholz



**O**tto Buccholz was the second city griddier ever named to the all–state high school football team.

Buccholz played football, hockey, and golf at Norwalk High in the mid–’40s, but he started his career at the age of 12 in 1940 as a catcher with the Hawks. Two years later he joined the 7–Up team as a catcher, helping the team to the city championships in 1943–’44. In the latter years, he led the team with seven home runs with a .355 batting average.

As a guard, he played three years of varsity football at NHS from 1944–’46 under both Mike Wilson, the interim coach, and “Ike” Kern, who returned to his coaching position from the service in 1946. In ’46, Buccholz was named first team on the *New Haven Register* All–State squad. The first NHS player to receive this honor was Old

Timers’ honoree Dennis Callahan in 1943.

Later, Buccholz played football with the Pastimes in the local recreation league. He also played defenseman on the NHS hockey team, where he won the Father’s Club Award. He followed up with several years as a defenseman for the Rowayton Firehouse sextet, which won the league championship three years in a row.

He also played on the NHS golf team for two years under the coaching of Mike Wilson and later coached in the Pee Wee Hockey League.

Buccholz’s gridiron exploits were recognized in 1971 when he was named to *The Hour*’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary all–time greatest high school football team.

He and his wife, the former Jeanette Cooley, have two children and four grandchildren and live at 14 Hideaway Lane in Norwalk. He is retired after a career in refrigeration and air conditioning with Buchholz Refrigeration.