

Lee Seymour



One of the more familiar scenes in Norwalk in the late 1940s and early '50s was seeing **Lee Seymour** on a pitching mound. Receiving congratulations from his teammates after a win was almost as common.

Seymour was a standout pitcher for several local baseball teams. After attending Tracey School and Center Jr. High, Seymour went to Norwalk High School where he pitched three years of varsity baseball for the Green & White in 1948, '49, and '50. It was also right around that time Seymour would emerge as a successful pitcher for the Norwalk American Legion baseball team from 1940-'51.

In addition, Seymour played baseball with the Spring Hill Tigers, Knights of Columbus, and the Laurels, pitching one season with each of the three local teams in the City

Recreation Baseball League.

Even when he went into the service in 1954, Seymour couldn't get too far away from a pitcher's mound as he played for his Marine Corps division baseball team and helped lead them to the championship.

But baseball wasn't the only sport Seymour excelled in. He also played three years of varsity football at Norwalk High where he saw action as a center, linebacker, and kicker. As a junior, he was a key member of the 1948 NHS state championship football team, kicking several big extra points during that memorable season 50 years ago.

In fact, despite all his success on the baseball diamond, Seymour lists winning the state title in football as his greatest feat in sports.

The multi-talented Seymour also played basketball and was a forward on the Norwalk High School teams during his three years on The Hill. In 1951, he played on the YPHA basketball team at the Stamford Jewish Center and led the club in scoring and rebounding. He also played for the Riverside AC basketball team in the City League in 1955-'56.

Seymour played with some of the top athletes to come out of Norwalk during that era, including Gene Callahan, Al Canevari, Bill Rogowski, Eddie O'Brien, Jack Hanzlik, and fellow honoree Tom Kelly. His coaches included Ike Kern, Walter Dudding, Ralph Venezia, and Tommy Price.

The 66-year-old Seymour never did get too far away from sports in general and baseball in particular. He coached for seven years in the local Cranbury Community Baseball League and later served as the league's player agent for its 11-12 year-old division.

Seymour also coached girls softball for two years, no doubt learning the finer points of the sport while watching his three daughters play at Norwalk High School. Following in their father's footsteps, all three were standout scholastic and collegiate athletes during the 1970s and early '80s. Just last month the oldest, Melissa, was inducted into the Quinnipiac College Hall of Fame in Hamden. Stephanie Seymour, who was a member of the first two All-City softball teams while at NHS and later played at the University of New Haven, is a member of the Connecticut High School and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame. Meanwhile, Seymour's youngest daughter, Dana, is former All-City MVP in softball.

Seymour, a self-employed carpenter, is married to the former Gaye Franks.