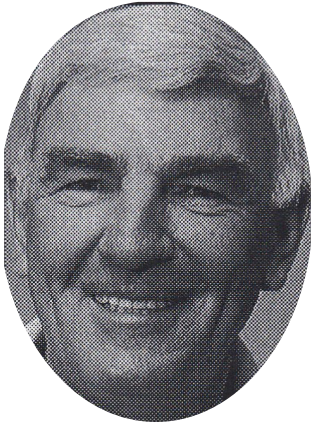


## *Ed Luczkowski*



**E**d Luczkowski has been a big part of the Norwalk sports scene for most of his life. Born in Highland, PA, he moved to Norwalk at age five and grew up in the Springwood (Whistleville) section of South Norwalk, attending local schools at Columbus, Ben Franklin, and Norwalk High.

During the late 1940s, Luczkowski played football, basketball, and baseball with various boys clubs in South Norwalk, including the Springwood Boys Club, the Meadows Street Police Athletic League, and the Washington Village Boys Club.

It was in the sport of softball, however, where Luczkowski really made a name for himself. He started pitching softball around the age of 15 and played with Class A and B teams such as the Norwalk Tigers, St. Vincent's, and O'Brien's Press as well as with Lessing & Rudner of the Industrial League.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1952 and pitched softball for the USS Salem in the sixth fleet from 1953-'55, and for the USS Columbus in the seventh fleet in 1955 and '56.

Following his discharge in 1956, Luczkowski joined the Norwalk Fire Department in 1957 and pitched with the NFD and for Castro Convertible, where he was number two pitcher behind the great Rocky Marucci, his mentor.

In fact, Luczkowski recalls one of the great moments in his career occurred in 1957 as a rookie pitcher for the Norwalk Fire Department. Facing the New Haven Fire Department in a benefit game before a large crowd of over 2,000 people including Mel Allen, the famed voice of the New York Yankees who announced the game over WNLK, Luczkowski pitched the Norwalkers to victory thanks to a spectacular game-saving catch by another rookie, Bud Smith.

Even after his playing days were over, Luczkowski remained very close to local sports. During the 1960s, he became involved in coaching with the YMCA Cousy Basketball League and later the YMCA Bidy Basketball League and with the St. Phillip's Parochial League team.

Then in 1974-'75, Luczkowski was one of a group of founders of the Norwalk Small Fry Baseball League, where he coached and was the league's first vice president. He also coached in the Cranbury Baseball League.

But softball was always his first love as Luczkowski was also one of the founders of the successful Norwalk Mariners Class A women's softball team, serving as president of the perennial state and regional powerhouse from its inception to its final year in 1989.

Another great memory of Luczkowski's came in the early 1980s in Grand Junction, CO, when the Mariners were introduced and assembled during the opening ceremonies of the National Class A Softball Tournament. Everyone in the Mariners' organization had worked so hard for that accomplishment and the look on the players' faces, Luczkowski says, will always remain with him.

One of those Mariners players back then was Luczkowski's daughter, Lynn, who was one of the best high school softball pitchers to ever come out of the city while at Norwalk High and is a member of the Connecticut High School and Collegiate Softball Hall of Fame. Lynn is one of four children Luczkowski and his wife, the former Marie Manzi, have along with five grandchildren. Following a 23-year career with the Norwalk Fire Department, Luczkowski has spent the past 11 years as a safety officer with King Industries.