

Allen Helfant



Allen Helfant, the oldest of this year's honorees, was a standout Norwalk High School athlete both in basketball and baseball more than 70 years ago.

Helfant actually started his athletic career in 1921 as a member of the Center Junior High School basketball team, where he amassed a record as a high scoring forward. In one game, played at Hoyt's Theater Hall Court, he scored 24 baskets, surpassing the 14 baskets recorded by his teammate Moey Feinson.

At Norwalk High School, he played left field for Ferrol B. Green's baseball teams of 1922 through 1924, playing with such old timers as Norm Flewellin, Fred Hart, Jackie Anderson, Irwin "Ears" Homes, Sam Sallick, Tom Skidd, Stretch Flewellin, and Moey Fienson.

A long ball hitter, he was always a threat to break up a game in the late innings, but his steady average was a constant comfort to Coach Green.

During the same period, Helfant played right guard on the basketball team at the high school. Many of the same players also were his teammates on the basketball court. He was a defensive player, but showed his prowess under the basket as a scorer as well.

For some years during his high school period, and in later years, he was a standout with the Crescents baseball team, where he alternated between first base and second base on a team that played at the old Baxter Grounds in South Norwalk.

Among his teammates were his brother Ed Helfant, Jimmy Sheehan, Fran Ianz, the Ladrigan Brothers, Ed Hoyt, Lor Ellis, and Dick Warm, who was later to star with the Pastimes A.C. The Crescents played against many of the leading teams of the period, including the Wilton Farmers and Westport/Saugatuck.

In the 1953-'54 period, Helfant sponsored the Allen Helfant International Little League with Ted Flugmacher and Conrad Miller as co-managers. This team played Klaff's, Elks, Lions, and Pastimes, among others.

Helfant has been a lifetime automobile executive, retiring after 33 years. He was a member of the Norwalk Exchange, acting as president in 1953, and is currently a member of the Retired Men's Club and the Norwalk Club.

He was married to the late Margaret Marooney and they had two children. He resides at 14 Blue Mountain Road.