

## *Sal Canale*



**S**al Canale played a variety of sports growing up in the “Whistleville” section of South Norwalk, but there’s no doubt in which one he made a name for himself. The 66 year old Canale was one of the top fast pitch softball players of his time, winning championships with several local clubs while also traveling extensively throughout the entire state of Connecticut.

Canale attended local schools at St. Joseph, Ben Franklin Jr. High, and Norwalk High, but burst on the local sports scene in 1946 as a 16-year-old shortshop with the Lexington Avenue fast pitch softball team. Playing for coach Mack Fusco, Canale teamed up with Jimmy and Ralph “Yit” Fusco along with Ralph Tucci to lead the Lexington gang in some memorable battles with the Norwalk Lone Stars at the old Duffy’s Field.

Canale eventually left Lexington Avenue to join the much older Lone Stars, where he played for coach Peter Leone and with players such as Sam Valoff, Carm Santorella, and Lenny Ialeggio. From there, he went on to play for coach Bob Pollard and a South Main Street team called the “L.Z.,” where his teammates included Mike Marucci and John D’Amato.

After a stint with L.Z., Canale played and coached the Terrace “A” team, which featured standouts Eddie Luczkowski, Larry Anastasia, Nick Falcone, Al Lametta, and Joe Cusack on its roster. In fact, Canale calls reaching the ASA state regional championship game as both a player and manager his “greatest feat in sports.”

Canale’s athletic skills, however, weren’t limited to just the softball diamond. While serving in the U.S. Army from 1951–’53, he fought on the 43rd Division 169AAA Company boxing team as a 135–140 pounder in Algsburg, Germany. He also played on the company basketball team.

In addition, he’s been actively involved with the Oak Hills Golf Association as well as the Connecticut Senior Golf Association, and is a 30-year member of the Laurel AC.