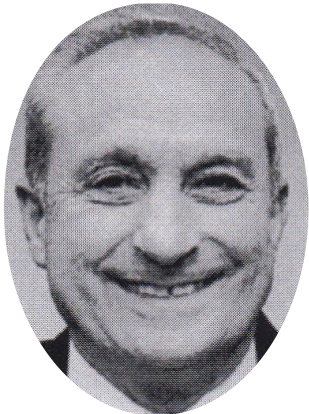


## *Charlie Provenzano*



**C**harlie Provenzano was a big part of the local sports scene, both on the field as an athlete as well as off of it as a successful administrator and organizer.

Provenzano, who just turned 74 in October, grew up in the Flax Hill area of Norwalk and excelled in several sports. While at Ben Franklin Jr. High School in the mid 1930s, he played shortstop for the baseball team and center forward for the soccer team. He also played basketball for a local YMCA travel team as well as baseball in the summer for the Braves.

The versatile Provenzano continued his athletic career at Norwalk High School, playing second base for the NHS baseball team as a senior in 1940, while in soccer he tied Harold Bean for the team lead in scoring as a senior.

He also played three solid seasons of second base for the Laurels AC baseball team in town as well as center forward for the local St. Ann's Soccer Club of the Connecticut State Soccer League.

Changing sports in the late '40s and '50s, Provenzano was a forward on the Hat Corporation basketball team in the Foreman's League, a player-coach for the Hodshon-Berg basketball team in the same league, and a third basemen on the Hat Corporation softball team, which played in the Industrial League.

But even when his playing days were over, Provenzano remained active in sports. In fact, after buying a home in East Norwalk, he was surprised to find St. Thomas Church did not have a CYO basketball team. So all Provenzano did was form a team, hold tryouts, and in its very first year won the District CYO championship, the Diocesan title, and went to the semifinals of the New England CYO championship tournament.

Provenzano would later become director of CYO basketball for the four-town district and also served as Lay Apostolate of Recreation in the Western Region for the Diocese of Bridgeport. He also coached the St. Joseph baseball and basketball teams in the City Parochial League.

Provenzano's administrative duties weren't restricted to just basketball, however. For years he and his wife, Marion, ran a popular bowling league for approximately 100 senior citizens at Rip Van Winkle Lanes. He also served as secretary/treasurer for 18 years for the 36-team Holy Name Bowling League, one of the largest leagues in the Bridgeport Bowling Association.

A father of four and grandfather of 12, Provenzano retired 12 years ago after a career in sales and is still a part-time golf starter at Oak Hills.