

## Dick Buonerba



Dick Buonerba made a name for himself as an outstanding high school and college football and baseball player.

Buonerba may be better known as “Dick B” of Station WNLK, where he spent more than a quarter century as program manager, newsman, staff announcer, assistant general manager, and sports director. His voice is familiar to Norwalkers as play-by-play announcer for many years and as one of Norwalk’s top vocalists. But in his high school days, Dick was an all-county centerfielder, as well as an aggressive, tough-hitting defensive back.

He played football in 1939/1940 with holdovers from the famed 1938 Jacksonville team, including Ernie Marriott, Ray Kirkman, Jack Staff, Tom Kindilien, Don Wagner, and Ben Preece. In this first game in 1939 he replaced an injured Jack Staff and played the game of his life against Crosby High at

Amusement Park. When it was over he received the accolades of his coach, athletic director Joe Andrews, and all of his teammates. And Williard R. Williams of *The Hour* devoted a large part of his article to Buonerba’s play.

Despite his size, he was a tough competitor, a trait which earned him a varsity spot on his college team at Middlebury College, where he started as a walk-on. It wasn’t long before he demonstrated his worth, especially on defense, although he was an excellent runner as well.

A fleet-footed centerfielder who was an excellent hitter, Buonerba played baseball for Norwalk High in 1939 and 1940, and then pursued two years with Coach Buck Day’s American Legion. At Middlebury, he played centerfield and captained the college team in his senior year, after spending four years in the service.

As a member of the Occupation Forces in Omiya, Japan with the 1<sup>st</sup> Calvary, he played baseball with the military team against Japanese competition, and on his return from active duty he played baseball with the Knights of Columbus, with Jack White, Mickey Connolly, Jack Cronin, and others.

Dick has been active in local activities, with the Norwalk YMCA and as a past director of the Red Cross, Multiple Sclerosis, and Cerebral Palsy Associates. Following his retirement from WNLK, he spent 10 years with WMMM and, although retired, still does commercial and industrial narrations and voiceovers for commercials.

He lives at 34 Adams Avenue in Norwalk with his wife, the former Penny Klim.