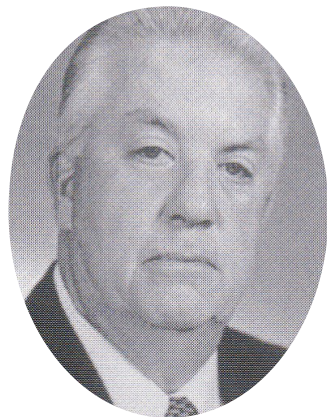


Jim Deering



Jim Deering owns the distinction of having not one, but two pretty good athletic careers in his life.

The first came during the 1950s when Deering established himself as a standout baseball player at Norwalk High School and in several amateur leagues. His second career was launched after his playing days were over and he went on to become one of the city's top golfers.

Born in Norwalk and growing up in the Strawberry Hill section of town, Deering was a pitcher and third baseman for VFW in the National Little League in 1951, the year before the local league captured the Little League World Series in Williamsport. In fact, Deering played with and against many of the players on that world championship all-star team, although he himself played in the Norwalk Pony League during that 1952 season.

Deering attended Fitch School, Nathan Hale Jr. High, and Norwalk High School, where he played three years of varsity baseball during the 1955, '56, and '57 seasons, and as a 17-year-old earned tryouts with both the New York Yankees and Brooklyn Dodgers, the two best teams from that era.

Following his graduation, Deering continued his baseball career in the City Recreation League as well as in the Danbury and Stamford twilight leagues. Ralph DiMeglio, Julio Landa, who were both on the '52 world champs, and Willie Stevens and Jack Redway were among his teammates.

While baseball was his first love during his youth, Deering also played three years of varsity football and basketball at Norwalk High, as well as fast pitch softball and baseball while in the Air Force.

Even when his playing days were over, Deering stayed involved in local sports by coaching in the same Little League he played in, renamed the Ben Whone National LL. He was also a basketball official on the high school level as well as in the local recreation league for 10 years.

But it was on the golf course where he really remained active. With his baseball career behind him, Deering had found a new love and he went on to win the Oak Hills 'A' Flight championship four times.

Deering has also been very involved with the local public golf course in an administrative capacity. Twenty-five years ago, he helped organize the Oak Hills Men's Golf Association and served as its president. In addition, he was an Oak Hills Park commissioner for eight years and chairman twice.

The 59-year-old Deering, who retired in 1996 after a successful career in sales, still resides in Norwalk with his wife, the former Harriet Joyce Dunford, and they have three children as well as three grandchildren.

And, not surprisingly, Deering spends a good deal of his time in retirement — you guessed it — playing golf.