

Louis J. Bottone



Lou Bottone was a hard hitting lefty first baseman who played outstanding baseball for several local clubs in the '30s and '40s. As one of this year's honorees, Lou joins his Hat Corporation teammates Tommy Price, Lou Bardani, and Johnny Ingram who received their Norwalk Old Timers' award in previous years.

Lou Bottone was born in Norwalk in 1917 and was raised in the Stratwberry Hill area. He displayed his baseball skills with such teams as the Strawberry Hill AC, the American Legion, the Hat Corporation of America, the Wilton Farmers, and later on as a player coach of the Connecticut Potato Chip team. The Hat Corporation teams won the city championship several times and played exciting exhibition games against the House of David and the Black Yankees at the old Amusement Park under the lights. The Strawberry Hill AC team won the

city championship in 1936 and his Connecticut Potato Chip team won the title in 1943. Lou's league leading batting average was .365 in 1936.

Lou played for two years in Virginia in the NY Yankee farm system where one of his teammates was Phil Rizzuto. His greatest moment in baseball was playing against the parent Yankee club, which featured Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio. Lou collected three hits that day and was thrilled to be standing on first base next to Lou Gehrig (his idol).

Lou was a building contractor up until his retirement. He lives in Weston with his wife, Helen. They have one daughter, Jan Wrotnowski, and a granddaughter, Jessica.