

*Special Award
American Legion
Post 12 Baseball Team*

The Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association is proud to present a Special Award this year to the **2003 Norwalk American Legion Post 12** baseball team after another outstanding summer.

In five years as head coach, Craig Katz has made Norwalk one of the top American Legion baseball teams in the state. A former Norwalk Legion player himself, Katz guided this year's Post 12 team to a third straight Zone IV championship while compiling a 24–8 record and finishing in third place in the 2003 state tournament.

But perhaps this team's greatest accomplishments were the thrills and excitement it provided local baseball fans during a summer to remember. It was a summer that saw the Norwalk team win 20 of its 26 regular season games en route to the Zone IV crown.

Then seeded sixth among the 38 teams in the state tournament, the Norwalkers were upset 6–3 in their opening game against Orange, but then bounced back to win four straight games:

- 6–5 over South Windsor,
- 25–12 over East Haddam,
- 6–4 over Naugatuck,
- and 4–2 in a rematch against Orange.

That earned Post 12 a berth in the state semifinals where its magical run finally ended with a tough 4–2 loss to Bristol, which lost to Simsbury 7–6 in the state championship game.

But that final loss couldn't diminish an otherwise memorable summer by Norwalk's American Legion baseball team. Or for that matter, an incredible three-year run, which saw Norwalk go 25–9 in 2002 and 29–7 in 2001, for an overall record of 78–24 and a winning percentage of .765.