

John D'Amato



John D'Amato was an outstanding baseball and football player in the years during and after World War II, who later became an outstanding executive with local sports organizations, particularly the Laurel AC. An erudite athlete and executive, D'Amato also is extremely successful as a business man, rising to president and general manager of Somers and Somers before taking over his present position as Southern Connecticut sales representative for a Waterbury distributor.

John played both baseball and football at Norwalk High. He was a catcher in 1944 and '45 and played offensive and defensive guard for three years on the football team. He caught for the Aces AC, which own the Senior City League championship in 1943 and '44, and caught for the Sterling AC in 1945. At the same time, he caught fast pitch softball for Terrace Restaurant.

While he was in the Navy, John played fullback for the Laurel football team on weekends, coming up from Washington, DC, where he was stationed, and he played with the Quarters "I" Navy team during the week. And in the next two years, while still in the Navy, he played with the Norwalk Tigers as a guard whenever they traveled to places like Charlottesville, VA.

At the University of Maryland after his Navy service, John played football until he was injured. He graduated in 1954 with a BS degree in physical education.

Returning to Norwalk, John was elected president of the Laurels for a record eight consecutive terms and spearheaded the acquisition of the Laurels' present property.

In 1963, he helped with the founding of the Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association, working with other local sportsmen. He served as president of the Old Timers in 1965.

A past president of the Southern Connecticut Paint Dealers, John lives with his wife Jerry at 12 Cutrone Road in Norwalk. They have two children, Linda and John.