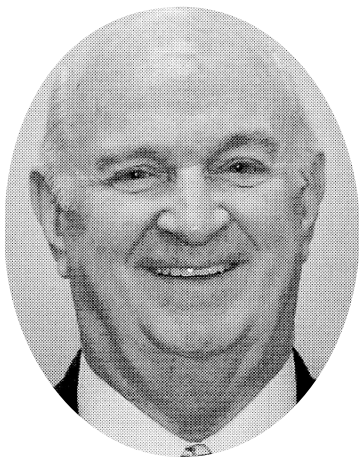


## Jack Ryan



Winning teams just had a way of following **Jack Ryan** around when he was playing sports.

The Norwalk native had the distinction of playing for five different championship teams growing up in East Norwalk. He attended Fitch Elementary School, Roger Ludlowe Jr. High, and Norwalk High School, graduating in 1949.

It was while at Ludlowe, however, that Ryan got his first taste of a title. Actually, two of them.

Ryan was a forward on the 1946 Ludlowe basketball team, and that spring pitched and played outfield for the baseball team. Both teams won championships within months of one another, and Ryan was a big part of the dual celebration.

He spent the next three years at Norwalk High, where he added football to his athletic resume and became a three-sport athlete. And as a senior in the fall of 1948, Ryan was a halfback on the state championship football team, which went 7-0-1 and still owns the school's only state title in football.

Ryan also played basketball and baseball for NHS, then continued his gridiron career at the University of Connecticut, where he played right halfback on the Huskies' 1950 freshmen football team. In fact, one of his teammates that season was Joe Bettancourt, who would go on to lead the nation in scoring in his senior year.

When his football days were over, Ryan stayed active in sports by playing basketball, where his string of good luck continued. The crafty guard won back-to-back championships in the Norwalk 'Y' Industrial League with two different teams, capturing the 1952 crown with Supreme Slipper and then helping Yankee Metal win the '53 title, his fifth championship.

The 69-year-old father of two and grandfather of three enjoys retirement now with his wife Livia after 22 years as an insurance salesman with MetLife, and nearly 16 years at *The Hour Newspaper*, including 11 as a district circulation manager. He still volunteers once a month at the St. Jerome soup kitchen.