

Joe Minnich



Joe Minnich was a versatile athlete who split his activities between Wilton and Norwalk. The 1986 Wilton honoree is a long time Wilton resident, but he has strong ties to Norwalk sports.

He started his career as a center on the famed 1938 Norwalk High School football team that beat the Jacksonville All Stars in Florida on New Year's Day, 1939. One of his fondest memories is being coached by the legendary Notre Dame great, Frank Leahy, who was then helping with the Norwalk High team.

Minnich played tackle for the Spring Hill Tigers for two years before World War II and then embarked upon his Wilton career.

He played outfield for the Wilton Reserves and Wilton AC during the mid 1940s, where he hit for average at the Orem ball park. He also played forward on the Wilton

AC team for two years.

An avid golfer, he won the Frost Bite tournament at Silvermine, as well as individual and team flights.

A well founded athlete, the Wilton honoree won bowling championships, won the Dave Rogers Award for catching the largest small mouth bass twice and, in 1983, won the Trophy Fish Certificate Award of the State of Connecticut.

He won the horseshoe pitching championship at Nash Engineering two years running and also is a member of the National Rifle Association.

As a nonparticipant, Minnich coached Wilton basketball, including Our Lady of Fatima's CYO club, and umpired Little League and Babe Ruth League baseball for nearly 10 years, both in Wilton and Norwalk.

Minnich is a machinist inspector at Nash Engineering and lives with his wife, the former Nancy Kuehnel, at 4 Kensett Avenue, Wilton. They have three children and seven grandchildren.