

Lou Mola



Whether it was on the diamond or on the gridiron, **Lou Mola** was a very big part of the local sports scene during the 1950s. Four decades later, he still is, only now he's leaving his mark on the golf course.

A lifetime Norwalk resident, Mola grew up in the Cranbury section of town and attended St. Mary's School and Norwalk High School. But it wasn't until after graduation that he really got involved in organized sports.

From 1948-'50, Mola enjoyed a brief but successful boxing career as both an amateur and professional. The lightweight from Norwalk fought out of the world famous Stillman's Gym in New York, and once trained with world featherweight champ Willie Pep of Hartford, who was getting ready for a big fight. On another occasion, Mola also trained with Pep's longtime rival, Sandy Saddler, in nearby Bridgeport.

Following two years in the service, Mola returned home, where his local athletic career really took off. He was a halfback on the Pastime Athletic Club football team in 1952 and '53, and with the Norwalk Tigers in 1954. Some of his teammates back then were Mimi Lawrence, Larry Anastasia, John D'Amato, and Joe Kondub.

Mola was also a solid second baseman for several local fastpitch softball teams. In 1955, he was a key player for the City Trust team, which captured the city championship. He also played for Castro Convertible in 1957, and the following season was a utility fielder for the city and state champion Pote Builders team. A key pinch hitter on the club, Mola batted .375 for the local powerhouse.

Then in 1959, Mola played second base for the Laurels. He also played for the Blue Moon as well as the fire department softball teams. Mola's teammates over the years in softball included Yit Fusco, Rocky Marucci, John Buschbaum, Phil Matregano, Larry Anastasia, and fellow Old Timers honoree Junior Bieling.

Not long after his softball days were over, Mola picked up golf, a sport he has continued playing for the past 25 years. In fact, in 1995 he won the Oak Hills Golf Association Senior championship, while in '96 he captured the senior division title in the annual Mayor's Trophy citywide tournament.

In addition, from 1972-'90, Mola served as co-chairman of the annual Norwalk Firefighters Golf Tournament.

The 66-year-old Mola was a member of the Norwalk Fire Department for 38 years before retiring with the title of deputy chief. He and his wife, the former Katherine Tedesco, have three children and five grandchildren.