

Steve Guback



Throughout his illustrious career as an award-winning sports writer, Steve Guback has covered a number of major sporting events in all different parts of the country. In fact, later as director of information for the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, he visited all 50 states.

But more than 60 years ago, it all began right here in Norwalk for Guback. A catcher on the Norwalk High School baseball team in the early 1940s, he wrote about sports for the school newspaper, the *Hi-Times*. He was also the sports editor for the NHS yearbook. In addition, he covered high school sports for *The Norwalk Hour* and worked for the newspaper in the summers, earning a nickel for every inch of copy he wrote.

No wonder the nickname "Scoop" appeared next to Guback's smiling picture in the 1944 yearbook. It should have tipped everyone off right then what direction his career was headed.

After earning his degree from Indiana University, where he was voted the Outstanding Journalism Graduate in 1950, Guback wrote sports for the *Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal* from 1951-54, before moving to the *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch* from 1954-61.

He would spend the next 20 years with the *Washington Evening Star* where he was voted Sportswriter of the Year in the capital district three times. During his time in the nation's capital, Guback covered a variety of sports, including NCAA basketball championships, 12 consecutive Super Bowls, heavy-weight championship fights, collegiate football bowl games, tennis, baseball and track.

Guback served as president of both the Southern Conference Sportswriters Association and Atlantic Coast Sportswriters Association, which eventually brought him the presidency of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association in 1976-77. Also in 1977, he received the Converse "Chuck" Taylor Award for outstanding service to basketball, and he still serves on the Board of Selectors for the John Wooden Trophy, given annually to the nation's top collegiate basketball player.

His biggest honor, however, came in 1989 when he was inducted into the Basketball Writers Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., during the NCAA Final Four in Seattle.

Guback also covered the *Washington Redskins* on a daily basis for more than a dozen years, and he was so highly regarded that when the *Evening Star* ceased publication in 1981, the *Redskins* hired him to work on special projects.

Two years later, Guback became director of information for the Presidents Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and during his nine years he served under and met regularly with Presidents Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Bill Clinton. He also became a good friend of Arnold Schwarzenegger, the council chairman, and accompanied him on a 50-state tour promoting the need for improved youth fitness. Guback also served as Acting Executive Director of the council for a five-month period in 1989.

Guback was born in Wallington, N.J., but he was raised in Norwalk from the age of five on Center Street off Main Street. It was there he developed his early interest in sports, and in addition to playing baseball at Norwalk High, Guback was manager of both the NHS football and basketball teams, as well as chairman of the Football Rally Committee.

At Indiana, he was one of the first recipients of the Ernie Pyle Scholarship, awarded to outstanding journalism majors in honor of the World War II correspondent. Today, an annual scholarship is awarded in Guback's name at the IU Journalism School. He is also named on an annual scholarship that goes to the son or daughter of a member of the U.S. Basketball Writers Association to the college of their choice.

In addition to his work in newspapers, Guback has been a contributor to numerous national publications, including *Newsweek*, *The Sporting News*, and *TV Guide*.

The former Norwalker has also served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the U.S. Olympic Committee, and was a member of the Professional Football Hall of Fame Committee. He retired in 1993, but he still writes freelance articles for numerous publications, including the *Redskins Game Day Program*. He also appears frequently on Washington-area television and speaks about sports to various groups.

And like tonight, Guback returned to Norwalk in 2001 for another special occasion as he was inducted to the Norwalk High School Wall of Honor.

Guback married the former Irene Laphish of Statesville, N.C., in 1964, and they have made their home in the Waynewood section of Alexandria, Va., ever since.