

Angelo Bruno



During a baseball career that spanned four decades, first as a player and then a coach, **Angelo Bruno** has enjoyed nothing but success at every level.

Even going back to his days in the Cranbury National League, Bruno was 10 years old when he homered in the all-star game. Success continued to follow him as he moved up the ranks and as a 15 year-old in the Junior Babe Ruth League, Bruno won the batting title with a .512 average.

Then in Senior Babe Ruth, he hit one of the longest home runs at the field behind City Hall, landing in a driveway across the street.

In high school, Bruno was a two-year starting shortstop at Central Catholic, hitting over .300 in 1978 and '79 and earning All-City honors both years.

But it was after high school when Angelo Bruno really blossomed as a ballplayer. As a freshman third baseman at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport, he batted .348 and was named All-New England and All-District.

The following year he hit .355 and was 10-for-13 in the District tournament with two home runs and two doubles as he led Housatonic to the 1981 Junior College World Series. He continued his hot hitting, batting .375 as HCC finished ninth in the country. Bruno set career school records in hits, doubles, home runs, runs scored, and total bases.

He continued his career at nearby Sacred Heart University where he batted .344 as a junior and .427 his senior year with 56 hits, including 11 doubles, three triples, and three HRs. Bruno also set an SHU record by hitting safely in 19 straight games.

He was named first-team All-New England, All-District, and became only the second player in program history to be named All-America. His .390 career average was fourth all-time at Sacred Heart.

Bruno also played summers in the Stamford Twilight League and Bridgeport Senior City League. In the summer of '83 he hit .550 in the Bridgeport league, while in the Stamford loop he hit a towering home run at Cubeta Stadium that landed beyond Wright Tech in left-center.

The regional scouting director from the Baltimore Orioles was in the crowd and the O's organization signed Bruno to a professional contract. He made his pro debut in the New York Penn League and hit .313 with two HRs in 50 at-bats. He played parts of three seasons with the O's organization.

After a few years away from the game, he joined the Norwalk Pirates of the Connecticut Senior (over-30) League and batted .488 with nine homers, nine doubles, and five triples in 78 at-bats. In his final baseball game as a player, Bruno had two doubles and a pair of long home runs at historic Doubleday Field in Cooperstown.

But Bruno's baseball days were far from over. He soon turned to coaching and in 1993 Bruno was named the new head coach at Greenwich High School, where his father Joe 'Slugger' Bruno once played.

Bruno's '96 team went 20-0 in the regular season but was upset in the FCIAC semifinals. A year later, though, he led the Cardinals to a second straight West Division crown and the 1997 FCIAC championship.

In 2001 he took over as head baseball coach at Norwalk High where he guided the Bears to four division titles and FCIAC championships in 2002 and 2007, making him the first coach to win league titles at two different schools. Bruno was also head coach of the Norwalk American Legion team from 1992-94, leading Post 12 to its first state-tournament berth in nine years in '92.

Bruno's high school coaching record was 275-138, with 154 wins at NHS and 121 at Greenwich. Counting his 82-27 mark during three summers with Legion, Bruno's overall coaching record was 357-165, a .684 winning percentage.