

Bill Dudas



Bill Dudas, one of the best shortstops ever to don a baseball glove in Norwalk, is among those to be honored this year by the Norwalk Old Timers.

Dudas was Norwalk's original "Wizard of Oz" in the field, and an outstanding hitter. As a teenager he played with the top local teams against all of the better teams of the day, including the House of David, Black Yankees, Brooklyn Royal Giants, and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Norwalk fans of the day can still see the youngster playing with local stars, years his superior, making outstanding plays around shortstop and second base and driving in runs with line drives. Some of his teammates included Johnny Ingram, Joe Andrews, Joe Rabbitt, Tommy Price, and Joe Beres, among others.

He grew up in the Amusement Park area of South Norwalk and played with St. Joseph's, Benjamin Franklin Junior High, and Norwalk High School. He was a star on the American Legion team under Buck Day, and later played with the Old Wells, C & K, the Wilton Farmers, Night Riders, and Holy Names of Stamford. His teams played in both the Norwalk Twilight League and the Stamford Twilight League. Bill had tryouts with Bristol in the Appalachian League and Milford in the Eastern Shore League.

It was while he was playing with the Stamford All-Star team that he played against the St. Louis Cardinals in an exhibition game. In high school he led the team in hitting with an average of .509. Following his playing years, Bill became active in the Bidly Basketball League and Pop Warner Football League.

He was co-founder and partner of A & D Vending Service of Stamford and Norwalk, and now is associated with S & S Co. He lives at 61 Murray Street in Norwalk with his wife, Lucille.