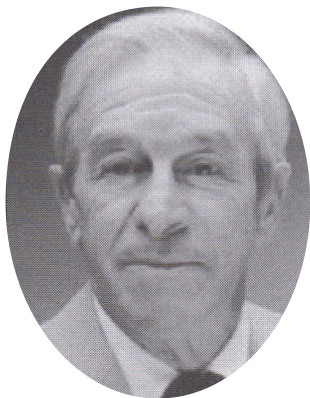


Ralph Tavella



Whether the sport was baseball, softball, or basketball, **Ralph Tavella** excelled in it over the course of four decades.

Tavella, who just turned 70 last month, was born in Norwalk and grew up in the Colonial Lot neighborhood where he attended Jefferson School, Center Jr. High, and Norwalk High School.

He played basketball and baseball for the Colonial Athletic Club in 1944 and '45, and soccer for Norwalk High and St. Ann's in 1945. Then as a senior in 1946, Tavella was manager of the NHS baseball team.

It was also in 1946 that Tavella enlisted into the U.S. Army, although he remained active in athletics. Following basic training, he was sent to Kobe, Japan for 15 months, during which time he was assigned to Special Services and was put in charge of all sports in his camp. In addition, he played baseball, basketball, and softball for his company team.

Upon returning home in March of 1948, Tavella resumed his local baseball career as an outfielder for South Norwalk Trust, Laurel AC, and Shoreline Restaurant from 1948-'54.

The versatile Tavella also played fast pitch softball from 1949-'54 with William Gordon Jewelers, as well as with Castro Convertible during the 1955 and '56 seasons, and with Pote Builders from 1957-'60.

At the turn of the decade, Tavella made the switch to slowpitch softball, playing with the popular Blue Moon Restaurant team in the City League from 1961-'64. He then spent the next 13 seasons playing with Chatham Oaks in both the City League and the Stamford Softball League before retiring in 1976. In addition to his talents on the ballfield and hardwood, Tavella was a pretty good duckpin bowler in the late 1940s and early '50s.

Still an active member of the Laurel Athletic Club, Tavella and his wife, the former Lorraine Soucy, have two sons and two grandchildren.



*Youth is a gift of nature,
but age is a work of art.*

—Judy Barry