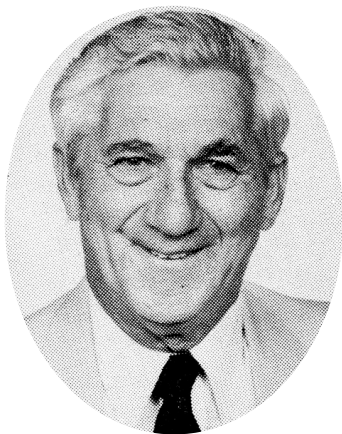


Joe Bellantoni



Joseph A. Bellantoni was a stalwart on the Spring Hill Tigers football team before and after World War II. During his career, spanning seven years from the time he started in junior high school, Bellantoni played soccer, baseball, softball, basketball, and football.

Perry Bean taught him the rudiments of basketball at Ben Franklin Jr. High, where he also played soccer. He played baseball with Clinton Avenue Roemans, under Walt Hall, and, during the period from 1937 through 1941, he played softball with the KG Bon Roofers with Earl Bloom as his coach. Ralph Reda, who coached the Blue Ribbons, induced him to turn to football in 1937, and Bellantoni played three years as a halfback with the Blue Ribbons in junior football.

He moved to the Pastimes in 1940, and then began his stint as an end on Ralph Venezia's Spring Hill Tigers in 1941.

After four years in the military service, he returned to the Tigers in 1946, where he finished his grid career.

For several years after World War II, he also played softball with the Hat Corporation, where he served under his brother, Jim Bellantoni, an earlier recipient of the Old Timers award.

In 1949, Bellantoni spent a year as manager of the Colonial AC baseball team, one of the top teams of the city at the time.

Bellantoni was married to the late Lillian Eletto. They had five children and five grandchildren. He served as Grand Knight of the South Norwalk Council 1253 of the Knights of Columbus.

He is semi-retired after serving 20 years as a self-employed plastering contractor and 20 years with E. L. Wagner Pool Co. He lives at 14 Beverly Place, Norwalk.