

Tom Scarso



When it came to athletics at Norwalk High School, **Tom Scarso** did it all, first as an athlete and then as a coach. And between the two, he left his mark on five different sports.

Known as 'Iron Horse' during his playing days, Scarso was a standout football and baseball player for NHS in the mid-1930s. The power-hitting catcher hit some towering shots that people who saw him play still talk about.

Like the one he belted over the fence at what is now Malmquist Field behind City Hall that landed on a bank by the houses across the street. Meanwhile, on the gridiron, he was a rock whose toughness belied his soft-spoken demeanor off the field.

Scarso would return to his alma mater in the '40s as a Phys Ed teacher to coach three other sports: soccer, hockey, and track and field. It was on the soccer field where he enjoyed his most success, guiding Norwalk to the 1954 County Conference championship and to the state finals in '56.

His proudest moment, however, came 10 years later when Scarso coached Norwalk to the 1966 Class L state championship (at the time the largest division) with a 1-0 win over Wethersfield.

Four years later, he led the Bears to the 1970 Eastern Division title and a berth in their first-ever FCIAC final. But on the Fourth of July 1974, Tom Scarso passed away suddenly. He was only 55 years old.

The legacy he left behind, however, was not forgotten. Scarso was inducted posthumously into the *Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame* in 1992, his plaque and picture proudly displayed at UConn's Rentschler Field.

Another plaque bearing his name hangs right outside the Thomas B. Scarso Gymnasium at Norwalk High School, which honors his memory.

And in 2012, the FCIAC inducted one of the league's original coaches into its Hall of Fame posthumously.