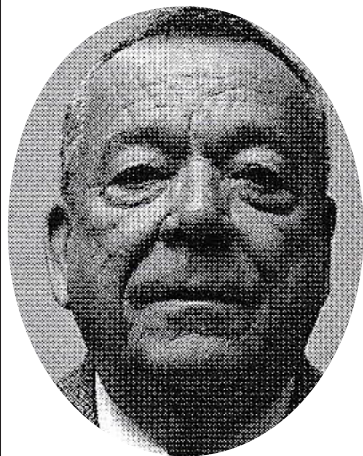


Jack Devine



If you happen to have played basketball in Norwalk anywhere from the mid 1940s to the late 1950s, then chances are you played against **Jack Devine**.

Or maybe you were one of the lucky ones to play on the same team as he did.

Devine certainly played for a number of local basketball teams during that era — a total of 10 teams to be exact, including four at one time — and some of whom he helped lead to league championships.

A native of Norwalk and lifelong resident, Devine grew up in South Norwalk and attended Columbus Elementary School, Benjamin Franklin Junior High, and Norwalk High School.

He began his successful basketball career in 1945 as a forward on both the Ben Franklin team and the Canaries of the B League, each winning championships that year. He moved on to Norwalk High School after that, playing junior varsity basketball in 1946 under coach Joe Andrews, and then moving up to the varsity squad during the 1947 and '48 seasons as a forward for coach Walter Dudding.

It was after his graduation from NHS in 1948, however, when Devine really started to make his mark on local hardwoods. He was a guard for the YMCA basketball team for three seasons from 1948-'50, and also played center for Norwalk Lock in the Industrial League in 1949 and '50.

In fact, during the 1950 season, Devine played center for Norwalk Lock, guard for the YMCA and O'Brien's Emeralds, and forward for the Knights of Columbus. He continued to play for O'Brien's and the Knights in 1951 before serving in the Korean War from February 1951 to February 1953, where he held the position of sergeant.

When Devine returned to Norwalk, he was right back on the basketball court, playing for the Laurels in 1953, and for the Connecticut Light & Power Company for five seasons from 1953-'57, helping the team win three straight championships.

Then in 1958, the same year he joined the Southern New England Telephone company, he began a 15-year run as a guard on the SNET basketball team, ending his playing days on the court in 1972 at the age of 42.

That wouldn't be the end of his athletic days, however. Devine also played 34 seasons for the SNET softball team as a pitcher and helped them go 19-1 and win back to back championships in 1966 and '67. He finally hung up his spikes for good in 1992, the same year he retired from SNET, where he was plant supervisor from 1971-'92.

Devine also helped the SNET bowling team win consecutive championships in 1974 and '75. In addition, during his younger days, he played soccer at Norwalk High in 1947 for Hall of Fame coach Tom Scarso, and baseball for the Cabellaros of the Senior League in 1949.

He also played for the 28th Infantry Division Special Troops football team, which went 8-0 in 1952 and went to the championship finals in Augsburg, Germany.

Years later, Devine also found time to coach the Sutton Brothers team in the old Cousy Basketball League, as well as the VFW Pee Wee baseball team.

Now 72, Devine is a life member of the American Legion Post 12, an Honorary Life Member of the Knights of Columbus, and a past recipient of the SNET NOVA Outstanding Achievement Award. He and his wife, the former Mary Ryan, have two children and four grandsons.