

Frank Lippolis



Frank Lippolis was only five feet five inches tall and 140 pounds, soaking wet, and for six years before and after World War II he was one of the best defensive guards in the Norwalk area.

Playing with the Spring Hill Tigers, Frank made more ankle tackles than anyone in uniform at the time, or probably since. A devoted football player who more than made up for his lack of physical stature with intensity and drive, Frank was named All-Rotary League guard in 1941 and 1942.

One of the most interesting matchups during the period of 1938 through 1942 and in 1946 and 1947, when Frank played with the Tigers, was Lippolis against Tiny Pastore, of the Laurels. Weighing in at about 300 pounds, Tiny probably had more trouble with Frank Lippolis than with any other guard in uniform.

John Buschbaum, an Old Timers recipient several years ago and a star running back for the Pastimes during the same era, lauds Lippolis as the "only guy I couldn't get away from."

Frank was such a devoted football player that he once opted for football over his job when his boss, Frank Gerochino, former owner of Sterling Furniture, gave him a choice. He fully expected Frank to quit football. Instead, Frank picked up his tools and headed for the door. But Mr. Gerochino was quick to relent when he realized the intensity of his young employee. This year, Frank will complete 50 years with Sterling.

Frank has been active since his retirement from football with golf, skiing, swimming, and bowling. He did some umpiring in the Little League in the 1950s.

Currently, Frank is treasurer of the Columbus Scholarship Award Committee, with which he has served 23 years, as well as chairman of the Anthony "Tony" Reda Memorial Athletic Award, sponsored by the Spring Hill Tigers.

He is married to the former Vera Jermouk. They have one daughter, Sharon Sullivan, and two grandchildren.