

Lynn Luczkowski



In a city that has produced its share of outstanding high school girls softball pitchers, **Lynn Luczkowski** may have set the bar. The flame-throwing left-hander was an integral part of Norwalk High School's celebrated success in girls softball. In fact, Luczkowski hurled the Lady Bears to the first three of their record 11 FCIAC championships, and in her final scholastic game in 1980 she pitched a five-hit shutout in the Class LL final as NHS blanked Andrew Warde 3-0 to win the program's first state title.

Luczkowski, who burst on the softball scene as a freshman in the spring of 1977, was a four-year starter, a three-time All-FCIAC selection, and a two-time All-State pick. She was also named MVP of *The Hour's* first two All-City girls softball teams in 1979 and '80.

As a sophomore she not only helped lead Norwalk to its first FCIAC crown but the Bears also reached their first state championship game, where it lost a 4-3 heartbreaker to Southington. Luczkowski's junior year saw NHS win its first 20 games, including another FCIAC title, before getting upset in the

LL state quarterfinals.

But the Bears came back with a vengeance the following year, no one more so than their senior captain. Luczkowski pitched all but one inning that season as she led Norwalk to a perfect 22-0 season, capped off by a third straight FCIAC championship and that state-title victory against Warde. Besides her 22 straight wins, Luczkowski recorded 186 strikeouts while allowing only five walks.

She finished her career with a sparkling 57-5 record, making her the first pitcher in city history to post 50 wins.

Luczkowski, who wore No. 8, also had the distinction of being the first female athlete in school history to have her number retired, joining Calvin Murphy as the only NHS athletes at the time.

But Norwalk High wasn't Luczkowski's only softball team. She also played six summers of Women's Class A fast-pitch softball with the Wilton Hawks and then the newly formed Norwalk Mariners, helping both teams go to national tournaments.

Heavily recruited, Luczkowski chose Rutgers University, where, as a freshman, she went 8-0 and helped lead the Scarlet Knights to a berth in the NCAA Division I College World Series. During her collegiate career she pitched two no-hitters, including the first perfect game in Rutgers history as a senior.

During that 1984 season Luczkowski was team captain, team MVP, and an All-Atlantic 10 Conference selection as the Knights returned to the World Series. Luczkowski finished her career with a 0.88 career ERA, which is still the third lowest in school history.

That wasn't her only college softball experience. After her Rutgers days, Luczkowski became the head coach at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N. Y.

In 1990, Luczkowski was inducted into the Connecticut Scholastic Softball Hall of Fame, and in 1998 she was enshrined in the Connecticut ASA Hall of Fame. Tonight she will become the second member of her family to be honored by the Norwalk Old Timers, joining her father, Ed Luczkowski, a former lefty softball pitcher himself, who was honored in 1995.

While softball was her calling card, Luczkowski also played field hockey and basketball at Norwalk High. She was a tenacious defensive-minded halfback in field hockey, while in basketball she was a senior captain and All-City pick who averaged 11.6 points and helped the Bears complete a second consecutive undefeated regular season.

That all-around talent in three sports helped her earn the Norwalk Fire Fighters Association prestigious 'Outstanding High School Athlete of the City' award in 1980.

Luczkowski has managed to stay close to sports through her profession. She was sports information director at both Manhattanville College and Dartmouth College, and also worked at a sports marketing firm in Norwalk where she dealt closely with several professional athletes. She later became director of public relations with Spalding Sports Worldwide in Massachusetts.

Currently residing in Vermont, Luczkowski has operated her own PR firm, L2 Communications, since 2005.