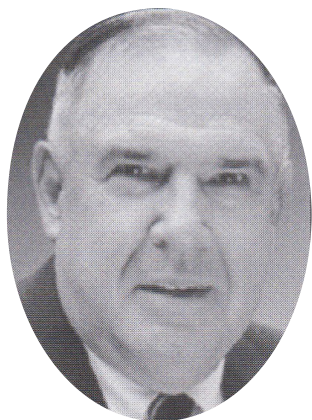


## *Al Canevari*



A three-sport standout at Norwalk High School and later a fixture in local softball and basketball leagues as well as a youth league coach, Al Canevari has been involved in athletics in one form or another for parts of six decades.

Born in Norwalk in 1933, Canevari grew up in Broad River and began his athletic career in the mid-1940s playing baseball with Cobble Hill, which he helped lead to the Intermediate League championship.

After attending Broad River School and Center Jr. High, he embarked on a successful scholastic career at Norwalk High from 1948-'50. He was a two-year tackle on the NHS football team, including the 1948 state champions. In addition, he was a three-year forward on the basketball team, and played three years at first base on the baseball team.

From there, Canevari went to the University of Connecticut on a football scholarship and was a member of the Huskies' freshman team in 1950. Then while in the U.S. Army, he played softball at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, helping his team win the Fort championship in '55.

He graduated from UConn in 1956 with a degree in Business Administration and returned to Norwalk to begin a 40-year career in sales with the Edwards Company. He also resumed his local sports career, playing in the YMCA Industrial Basketball League with Edwards from 1956-'65 and leading them to several league titles.

Also during that time, Canevari played in the Norwalk City Basketball League with the Yankee Clippers and Rowayton AC. Then during the summers, from 1956-'72, he played in the Recreation League with Seaview Restaurant and Fairfield County Savings Bank.

When his playing days were over, Canevari stayed involved in sports through coaching. He was a coach and member of the board of directors in the Cranbury Baseball League for 20 years, a coach in the Norwalk Jewish Center Biddy Basketball League and Babe Ruth baseball for six years each, and with the St. Jerome's youth basketball team for two years.

In fact, for all his accomplishments as an athlete, Canevari says it was working with the youth of Norwalk that gave him the most satisfaction.

"My greatest feat in sports was coaching young boys and girls in baseball and basketball and enjoying their successes, collectively and individually, on and off the fields of play."

Canevari has also been involved in a number of local civic organizations, such as the Norwalk-Wilton American Red Cross board of directors for six years, Calf Pasture Volunteer Life Guards for 20 years, Norwalk Planning and Zoning Commission for 10 years, the Oak Hills Park Commission, and as Roosevelt School PTA president.

Even now in retirement, the 64-year-old Canevari manages to stay close to local sports as a part-time starter at the Oak Hills Golf Course, a sport he's played recreationally since 1954.

Canevari and his wife, the former Nilda Cufone, have three sons — Thad, Theron, and Tysen — all former high school athletes themselves, as well as one grandchild.