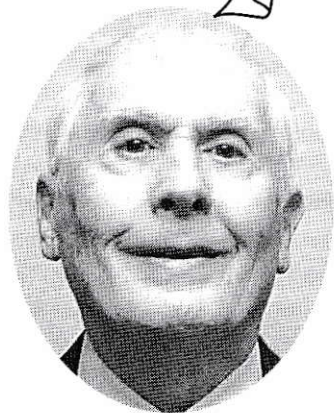


Vin DePanfilis



For nearly four decades, the name Vin DePanfilis stood for Cranbury Baseball in Norwalk.

For 27 of those years, DePanfilis was president of the Cranbury Community Athletic Association, the organization all of the Cranbury Leagues came under. In fact, it was under DePanfilis' watch as president that Cranbury Baseball expanded to include a league for seven and eight year-olds, and later a league for players ages five and six.

DePanfilis insisted these be "fun leagues" where all players play full games, no standings are kept, and that they provide education in baseball and sportsmanship.

His contribution to Cranbury Baseball, however, wasn't limited to just the younger divisions. It was also during DePanfilis' tenure as president that he pushed through a rule in the older, more formal leagues for 9-12 year-olds that stated every player on every team play 50 percent of every game for at least three consecutive innings with a consecutive batting order.

It was DePanfilis' objective as president that everyone played, and he calls making that possible in the Cranbury Leagues his greatest feat in sports.

His work in the CCAA included much more, however. In addition to being president, DePanfilis served as a coach and manager for six years, held the position of league commissioner, league player agent, chief umpire and raffle chairman, and he was even a team sponsor.

Born in Norwalk, DePanfilis grew up in South Norwalk and attended Ben Franklin Junior High School and Norwalk High School. After his graduation from NHS in 1946, he served in the U.S. Army in Japan from 1946-48, and upon returning home attended New York University.

DePanfilis would go on to become very active in the local community. Besides the Cranbury Community Athletic Association, DePanfilis is a past president of the Norwalk Lions Club, founder and past president of the Norwalk Taxpayers League, and past president of the Cranbury Chapel Association.

He is also a former member of the Republican Town Committee, a member of the City of Norwalk Charter Revision Commission in 1973 and later chairman of the Charter Revision Committee in 1982, and a member of the Oak Hills Commission from 1981-85.

And in 1975, DePanfilis received the Norwalk Republican Party's nomination for mayor.

When he wasn't involved with Cranbury Baseball or civic activities, DePanfilis was busy as the owner of DePanfilis Insurance in Norwalk for 40 years. Prior to that, he worked in New York City for 10 years as a manager with New York Life.

Now retired, the 76-year-old DePanfilis and his wife, the former Marlene Bracke, reside in Norwalk and have two children and five grandchildren.