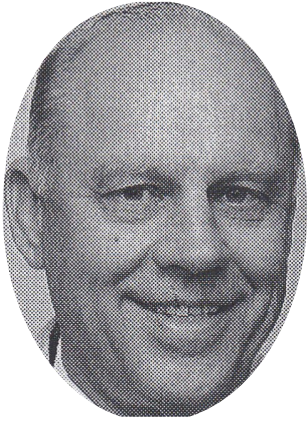


Dewey Raymond



Dewey Raymond played and excelled in no less than five different sports during the 1940s. Growing up in uptown Norwalk, he was a member of the basketball, baseball, and soccer teams at Center Junior High School from 1940–'42 for coach Merrit Lewis.

While attending Norwalk High School, Raymond also played basketball for coach Harry O'Brien and the Blue Jays in the City League in 1942. He turned to fast pitch softball as a member of Norwalk Tire in the 1943 City League and the *Norwalk Hour* in the A League in 1944.

He would later leave his biggest mark in city annals in the sport of football. Raymond was captain and an all-star guard and linebacker for the Pastime Club in 1946, and then captained the Spring Hill Tigers from 1947–'49, earning all-league honors all three years and helping them win championships his last two seasons. In fact, Raymond, a standout defensive player, was the leading tackler on his team in all four of those seasons he played.

He continued his baseball career as a center fielder for the Seroice team in 1947 and for Spring Hill in 1948 and '49. Meanwhile, he played softball during the 1950s as a center fielder for Brenien's Restaurant and the Blue Moon Restaurant.

Of all the sports he played, however, Raymond says football was without a doubt his favorite.

"I'd play it right now if I still could," he said with a laugh. "I just thought I could play it better than all the other sports I did."

With that in mind, it's not surprising Raymond would say his most memorable experiences in athletics occurred on the gridiron. He calls blocking a punt in an all-star game one of the individual highlights of his career, while winning the 1949 championship with the Spring Hill Tigers was his most cherished team memory.

"That was our second championship in a row, which made it special," Raymond, whose teammates back then included former Norwalk Mayor Tom O'Connor, said, "What also made it special was I played at my full potential that year too."

Raymond, a shipping supervisor at Burndy Corporation in Norwalk, and his wife, the former Nancy Bellantoni, have four children: Dewey Jr., a former all-state linebacker at Brien McMahon High School; Toni Ann, Donna, and Nancy, as well as eight grandchildren.