

## *Mike Errico Award*

Norwalk Cal Ripken 11-year-old All Stars



The Norwalk Old Timers Athletic Association is pleased to present this year's **Mike Errico Award** to the Norwalk Cal Ripken 11 year-old all-stars, who swept the 2017 district, state, and New England championships this summer.

It marked the third straight year this group of players has won all three titles. After the Norwalkers defeated Danbury 8-1 in the state finals, they beat Franklin, Mass. 9-4 and Hudson, Mass. 12-2 in the first two rounds of the New England tourney in Dover, N.H.

Norwalk then lost 1-0 to Nashua, N.H., in the winners' bracket final, the first loss in tournament play — district, state, or regional — by this talented group. But the setback only made them more determined as they bounced back to beat host Dover, N.H., 5-2 in the losers' bracket final. Then, needing to defeat unbeaten Nashua twice the next day for the New England title, Norwalk won convincingly, 13-2 and 12-2, to cap off another championship run.

It was the latest chapter in a remarkable story by Norwalk's 'Boys of Summer.' Counting non-tournament games they played to prepare, the Ripken 11s were 25-2, running their record to 75-7 the last three years. As nine-year-olds they went 25-1 and last year finished 25-4, losing 4-3 to Glen Allen, Va. on a controversial last play in the championship game of the Cal Ripken 10-year-old World Series in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

There is no World Series for the 11-year-old age group, but by winning this year's New England title, Norwalk automatically qualifies for next year's 12-year-old World Series in Missouri.

Members of this year's team were: Will Stalzer, Henry Feinstein, Sean Lengyel, Charlie Lafrienero, Taso Panagiotidis, Jack Roberts, Kyle Close, Victoria Ward, Keegan Cullen, Devin Bowen, Andrew McNamara, Saavas Kodonas, and Brien Weiss. The head coach was Bill Lengyel and his assistant coaches were Scott Feinstein and Randy Weiss. The league president is Ken Roberts.

The **Mike Errico Award** honors the memory of the late former local sportsman who was an original executive board member when the Norwalk Old Timers began in 1963. He was the organization's first vice president and served as president in 1986 and '87.

