

*Posthumous Honoree
Timothy Paul Currie*



While the late **TIM CURRIE** may have been best known for running his family's successful tire business in town, and later for forming his popular Motown Band that attracted a huge local following, there was something else the Norwalk native was passionate about: **Sports**.

Indeed, Timothy Paul Currie was quite the avid sportsman growing up in Norwalk and later as an adult playing and excelling for several teams in local softball and touch football rec leagues.

That athletic journey began at a young age as a left-handed pitcher in the early 1960s when he played in the Cranbury League for Lane Motors and took the mound at the old Roosevelt School. As he got older, he continued to move up the youth baseball ladder.

"He was a sidearm pitcher and very tough to hit," recalled 2013 Old Timers honoree Mike Angione, who

pitched professionally in the minor leagues and played with Tim in the Cranbury League. "Tim was what we called a sidearm sling-dinger, someone who could throw hard and would strike you out."

All roads led to Central Catholic High School where Tim pitched for the Cavaliers before arm problems curtailed his scholastic career. He also shined on the football field while at CCHS.

"This was back when Central Catholic football was in its heyday," pointed out Tim Eagen, a 2017 honoree who played football at Central with Currie. "He was a big part of that history. Tim played both defensive end and tight end. He was a good football player.

"I remember he was a very good athlete," Eagen, one of the Cavaliers' senior captains, added. "But what I remember most is he was always a tough kid. He never let any kind of injury get him down. He was just a good player and a great guy. The type of person you wanted to be around.

"If you were a friend of his, he was a friend for life."

Eagen and Currie would reunite as teammates some years later on DRJ Builders, a perennial powerhouse in the Norwalk Recreation Adult Touch Football League in the 1980s and '90s. Eagen played quarterback and Currie was one of his favorite targets.

"He was a rusher off the end and always managed to get open downfield," Eagen said.

Currie also eventually transitioned from baseball to slow pitch softball and played for multiple teams, including Lawrence's Tigers, another local power. He eventually started his own team as a player, coach, and sponsor for Currie's Tires, which won the Norwalk Recreation Wednesday Night League championships in 1981. That same season Currie's Tires won the Men's Division A-1 Wilton Softball Tournament, while in 1982 they captured the Arthur Bennett Memorial Tournament. Tim closed out his softball career as a member of the Norwalk Aces.

With a desire to coach his sons, Tim eventually circled back to baseball with the Connecticut Wolfpack AAU program. The team won a state tournament and qualified for the National AAU

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Championships in South Carolina. He also coached Pop Warner Football in Fairfield and freshmen football at Fairfield Prep.

Aside from his involvement in sports, Tim Currie has long been a fixture in the community as the third-generation owner of Currie's Tires, a Norwalk landmark since 1929. Tim began working at the West Avenue establishment as a teenager, first for his grandfather Duke, then his father Len, before taking over the day-to-day operation. His two sons, Adam and Tim Jr., represent the fourth generation of the Currie Family to run the business, now in its 96th year.

In 2013 Tim added another chapter to his life when he started the Motown Review Band, which later became 'Tim Currie's Motown Band.' Many shows, free to the public, took

place in the parking lot of his tire business and would draw overflowing crowds. Many of his shows raised money for several charities, including St. Jude's Children's Hospital and Toys for Tots.

Tim, on drums, and his popular band performed at Calf Pasture Beach, the Oyster Festival, the Mayor's Ball, and the Norwalk Green. It was on the Green on Aug. 24, 2019, at a show organized by Norwalk's First Taxing District, when he suddenly collapsed on stage and passed away at the age of 66.

Five years later, however, his accomplishments in local sports annals are remembered as the *Norwalk Old Timers* honor Tim Currie posthumously. ■