

Mike DiDio



Mike DiDio was the consummate “all around athlete,” playing as many as six different sports.

A native of New York City, the 68-year-old DiDio attended local schools at Jefferson, Center Junior High, and Norwalk High, Class of '47.

As a teenager, DiDio played tennis for Reynolds Movers in 1942 and '43, qualifying for the state tournament. Then from 1943-'52, he played guard in the YMCA Industrial Basketball League where he helped lead teams such as Yankee Metal, Lessing Rudner Footwear, Supreme Slipper Co., Laurel AC, and Colonial AC, all to championships.

While at Norwalk High, DiDio was a sophomore guard on the varsity football team, but was injured after only three games. But that didn't prevent him from playing baseball and softball, excelling at third base from 1945-'54 for such local teams as Strawberry Hill AC, the Hungarian Reformed Church AC, Merritt Manufacturing, and the Norwalk Tigers Traveling All Stars softball team. In fact, DiDio lists hitting home runs off local nationally recognized softball pitchers Jim Marucci and “Cannonball” Baker as his greatest personal feat in sports.

And even when his days on the diamond, gridiron, and hardcourt were over, DiDio turned his athletic attention to bowling throughout the 1960s.

But DiDio remained active in sports in other capacities as well. He was a coach in the local YMCA Biddy Basketball League from 1954-'58, and also coached baseball at various levels from 1966-'76. He began in the Cranbury Baseball League and later coached in the 13-14 year old Pioneer League. Then in the '70s, he was one of the organizers and original coaches in the Senior Babe Ruth League for 16-18 year olds. Showing his versatility, DiDio also coached the Burndy women's softball team during the '80s.

A father of five with 14 grandchildren, DiDio retired from the U.S. Postal Service in Norwalk.