

## Pat Viglio



Throughout his childhood, teen years and early adulthood, local baseball diamonds were like a home away from home for Pat Viglio.

At every level, from Little League and Babe Ruth, to high school and American Legion, to the Twilight and City Recreation leagues, the national pastime was a way of life for Viglio.

Even after his playing days were behind him, he stayed close to the sport he loved the most as an umpire and youth league coach.

The Norwalk native was eight years-old and a student at Fitch Elementary School when he first began playing baseball in 1949, and played centerfield and infield for Kiwanis when Norwalk's first Little League made its debut in 1951. The following year, he was selected as an alternate on the Norwalk all-star team that won the 1952 Little League World Series in Williamsport.

In 1954 Viglio moved up to the Brien McMahon Babe Ruth League where he played shortstop for Home Oil and his manager was Pete Correnty, one of his fellow Norwalk Old Timers honorees tonight. Viglio made the all-star team three straight years while helping Home Oil win the 1955 championship and go back to the title game in '56.

He would enter Norwalk High School in the fall of 1957 and was the starting shortstop and leadoff hitter for the 1958 County Conference champions that compiled a sparkling 16-2 record. Viglio also played shortstop for the Norwalk American Legion team in the summer of 1957 and '58.

Two years later Viglio was named a senior captain of the 1960 NHS team and received the Fathers Club Award in baseball. Following his graduation that year, Viglio continued to play ball in both the Stamford and Norwalk Twilight leagues for the Hilltop Athletic Club, and in 1962 the slick-fielding shortstop helped the Hilltoppers win the Norwalk City Recreation League championship.

Then in 1964 he joined the Laurel AC in the City League and on Sept. 6 played what he calls his "best and most memorable game" by hitting for the cycle in a Stamford Twilight League game at Belltown Field on the same day as his son, Patrick Viglio Jr., was born.

While at Norwalk High, Viglio also lettered in varsity basketball, and later officiated recreation, CYO and church league games.

But baseball was always his first love and in 1961, a year after graduating and while still playing in the summer, Viglio became an umpire in the newly formed FCIAC. He umpired high school, college and American Legion games, and later became the umpire in chief for the Norwalk Recreation City League.

And although he no longer umpires, the 69-year-old Viglio is still a member of the Fairfield County Board of Approved Umpires.

He also remained close to baseball as an assistant coach for four years each in the Norwalk International Little League and Junior Babe Ruth League while his son played, in addition to serving four years as an assistant in the Norwalk Pop Warner Football program.

Viglio took up bowling in 1965 and was a member of the County Barbers of Westport team. He bowled in a number of leagues throughout the state as well as in the Madison Square Garden Pro-Am Tournament. He rolled a career-high 298 game on Nov. 8, 1971 at the Westport Bowling Lanes.

When Viglio stopped bowling, he took up golf and in 1996 he won the Mayor's Golf Tournament at Oak Hills. His most memorable day on a golf course, however, came on Sept. 30, 2009 when he scored his first hole in one at the Grassy Hills Country Club in Orange.

While still playing baseball, Viglio began a successful career as a barber and hair stylist in 1963 and opened his own shop in Norwalk in 1980. Since 1999, he's owned and operated Riverside Barber Shop in Westport.

In 2001, Viglio began volunteering his services the first Monday of every month at Catherine Keefe Queen of the Clergy in Stamford, cutting the hair of retired Monsignors and priests who reside there. He began this practice when one of his regular customers, a Monsignor, could no longer drive to his establishment due to eye trouble and Viglio went to the retirement home to cut his hair. The Monsignor passed away in 2002, but Viglio continues to donate his time and in June 2001 he was named "Citizen of the Week" by The Hour Newspaper.

Viglio is a lifetime member of the St. Ann's Club as well as a member of both the Ischoda Yacht Club and South Norwalk Boat Club.

A lifelong Norwalk resident, Viglio and his wife of 47 years, the former Angela Scarpone, have one son, Pat Jr., who like his father played baseball at Norwalk High School and later coached on the collegiate level.