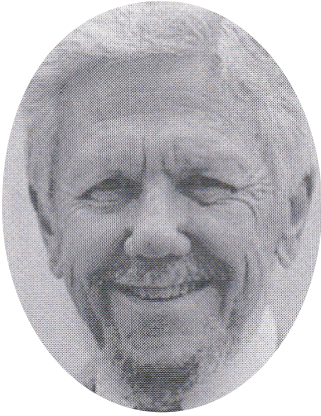


## *Arnie Evans*



Whoever said successful baseball teams should be strong “up the middle” must have had a player like **Arnie Evans** in mind when they said it. In an era of outstanding second basemen, Evans took his rightful place among the best during the 1940s. He played second for Norwalk High School from 1942-’44, hitting over .300 as a senior in the ’44 season.

Following his graduation, he was the second sacker for the perennial power Connecticut Potato Chips in 1947 and ’48, helping the local team win the City Recreation League championship during his initial season.

Not only was Evans near flawless in the field, he excelled at the plate as well. With the Potato Chips in 1947, he once went five-for-five, laying down five straight bunt singles in a game against Seymour. But Evans could also hit for power as he demonstrated the following season when he belted a

home run in the ninth inning to tie Katona, NY, a game the Chips eventually won in the tenth inning.

The 71-year-old Evans was born and raised in the East Norwalk section of town and attended Marvin School, Roger Ludlow Jr. High, and Norwalk High before going to the University of Connecticut, ’52.

But Evans’s athletic talents weren’t restricted to just the baseball diamond. He also played soccer and basketball during his three years at NHS. He was a standout right wing in soccer, teaming up with players such as Mike Eletto, Lou Genuario, and Don Smith to lead the Green & White to an honorary New England championship his junior year.

In fact, during that memorable season Evans had the distinction of scoring more points than the entire NHS football team.

The versatile Evans was also a guard on the Norwalk High basketball team, which in 1944 upset powerful Bassick, 38-24, after losing to the Bridgeport school by a whopping 44 points earlier in the season. After graduation, Evans played basketball locally for Hat Corporation of America in 1944 and ’45 and from 1948-’50.

During his athletic career, Evans also showed his talents with the glove in softball as an infielder with the Norwalk Eagles AC team from 1942-’52.

The list of former coaches and teammates Evans played for and with during his career reads like a “Who’s Who” in Norwalk sports annals. His coaches included Joe Andrews, Ike Kern, Mike Wilson, Mickey Connolly, and Antoine Zakhar, while among his teammates were Mickey Russell, Tiff Gaynor, Bill O’Malley, Ted Tedesco, Lew Bottone, Dennis, Bob, and Jay Callahan, Fred Belinsky, Larry Anastasia, Ferd Gottscham, Norm Scully, and Sam Valoff.

Evans and his wife of 47 years, the former Jeanne Ryan, have four children and eight grandchildren, and now reside in Chester, VA. Evans worked 38 years in agricultural product sales for Allied Signal, retiring in 1990 as national sales manager. But never one to stay idle, Evans still remains active by playing golf and swimming.