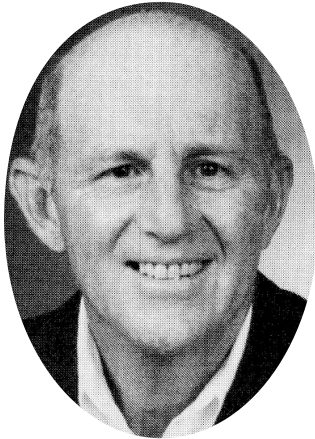


Jim Romanello



Jim Romanello was a baseball stalwart for 10 years during the early '50s and '60s in the Danbury, Norwalk, and Stamford areas, playing with several Norwalk teams. A hard hitting first baseman, he was named Most Valuable Player in the Stamford Twilight League in 1962 when the Hilltop A.C. of Norwalk won the Mayor's Trophy after contending for the title the year before. His coach was Romas Bossone.

Romanello played baseball for Norwalk High School from 1953 through 1955. In '54 and '55 he also played first base for the Norwalk American Legion. In 1956 he won the Joseph Buschbaum Memorial Trophy as the best athlete in Norwalk High, this as a result of his baseball prowess as well as basketball and soccer.

A three letterman, Romanello played three years of soccer under Coach Tom Scarso and three years of basketball under Coach Bill Murphy, a team which won the Conference championship in 1956. He was a busy athlete during that three-year period. Besides high school baseball, basketball, and soccer, and American Legion baseball, he played with the Blue Ribbons in the Danbury Twilight League, and the Hat Corporation in the Norwalk Senior Recreation League. Later he played with the Laurels.

He came into his own with the Hilltoppers, however, where he was affiliated with Romas Bossone as his coach. They won three consecutive Norwalk Senior Recreation League titles, in 1960 through 1962, as well as the Stamford title in 1962. He won the batting title in the Norwalk league in 1962 with a .407 average.

Romanello coached Bidly basketball in Norwalk in 1959-'60, and coached Little League and Babe Ruth League teams in Bethel. He spent a couple of years as an umpire and basketball official, and during the 1958-'59 season, played forward for the University of Bridgeport basketball team.

Finally, at the age of 40, in the late '70s, while a resident of Bethel, he played two final years of baseball in tshe Housatonic League.

Romanello is active as a letter carrier with the Norwalk Post Office, a position he has held for 33 years. He is married to the former Joan Hornyak and the couple has three children.