

Anso Belardinelli



Anso Belardinelli was one of Norwalk's outstanding athletes during the 1930s and 1940s, starring in all three major sports. He excelled, however, on the pitcher's mound.

After pitching for the Norwalk American Legion and other teams, the tall Norwalker captained the Dean Academy baseball team in 1934 and 1935 before moving to Syracuse, where he pitched freshman sports.

Transferring to the University of Vermont, he starred in all three sports, captained the basketball team, and spent his summers starring in the Northern League, an organization of outstanding college baseball players. Some of his teammates in the Northern League became major league stars, including George 'Snuffy' Sterweiss, Al Campanis, 'Hank' Borowy, Len Merullo, Walt Franconi, Ray Fisher, and Jim Honochick, later a major league umpire.

He joined the Navy after graduation, and continued his athletic activity at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, where he pitched for Philadelphia Athletics' great George Earnshaw, and then at Memphis Naval Station, where he pitched under Hal Schumacher of the Giants.

His teammates in the service included more major leaguers of the period, including Chief Bender, Elmer Valo, Joe Coleman, Hank Majeski, Eric McNair, and Don White.

Belardinelli retired as a Lieutenant senior grade after five years in the Navy, having seen action throughout the Pacific. He was awarded 12 battle stars and two Bronze stars.

Now residing in Port Charlotte, FL, he retired from Travelers Express, a division of Greyhound, in 1980, from which he earned numerous special awards for sales.