

Michael Wrinn



Back in his playing days at Norwalk High School, **Michael Wrinn** was an athlete for all seasons. As a matter of fact, he was a captain for all seasons.

The 1976 NHS graduate was a rare three-sport athlete for the Bears. In the fall, Wrinn played football for head coach Sam Testa and was a two-year starting tackle on both the offensive and defensive lines. He played a key role in Norwalk's 3-2 upset win over city rival and Western Division champion Brien McMahon his senior year. The Bears also nearly upset eventual FCIAC and state champion Staples that season before losing a heartbreaker. Wrinn capped off his scholastic career by being named All-FCIAC and Honorable Mention All-State.

Come winter, Wrinn went from the gridiron to the ice and played three years on the NHS hockey team. He had the distinction of playing in the final season of longtime coach Tom Scarso's tenure and for Terry Driscoll in the first season of his lengthy and successful coaching career. A

solid defenseman, Wrinn helped the Bears go to back-to-back state tournaments and as a senior received All-FCIAC Honorable Mention.

Norwalk High had no freshmen class at that time, but as a sophomore Wrinn was on the ground floor when the school started a club lacrosse program under coach Randy McCue. Wrinn was a junior when the Bears made their varsity debut in the spring of 1975, and as a senior was named captain of his third sport.

Wrinn's introduction to sports, however, began long before he arrived at NHS. He played Pop Warner Football on the field at the former Norwalk High School, which is now City Hall and from where Wrinn lived across the street when growing up. He also played CYO basketball for St. Thomas and recreational hockey at the Crystal Rink in a youth training program run by his grandfather Gene Seymour.

Although Wrinn never got to attend the high school across the street from his home, the Bears did practice and play their home football games there, at what is now Malmquist Field. For the past 21 years, Wrinn has had a good view of his old field when he arrives and leaves City Hall, where he's been the assistant director for Planning and Zoning since 1985.

Wrinn has worked for the city 35 years in all. After graduating from UConn in 1980, he started a year later in the Department of Works before moving onto the Engineering Division and then to Planning and Zoning.

The father of two has also been actively involved with local sports on the youth level as a coach in the Norwalk Junior Soccer Association, the Cranbury Baseball League, and the basketball program at All Saints Catholic School.

He's also been a very active volunteer with several local organizations, including the United Way, the Norwalk YMCA, All Saints Catholic School, St. Mary's Church, and the Catholic Club of Norwalk, where he served as past president.

Three of Wrinn's former high school coaches — Sam Testa, Tom Scarso, and Randy McCue — are all past Norwalk Old Timers honorees. Tonight, their former player will join them.