

Milt Peckham



No matter what the season – fall, winter, spring or even summer – Milt Peckham was always excelling at a sport ... and in some cases still is.

In the fall it was football as a two-year, two-way varsity starter at Norwalk High School. A standout center and linebacker, Peckham was captain during his senior season in the fall of 1962.

Even after his high school playing days, football was still a big part of Peckham's falls as a blocking back and linebacker for the Aces and then the Darien Sportsmen in the Inter-City Touch Football League for nearly two decades. Twice he received the Outstanding Blocker Award and in 1982 was one of the first recipients of the ICTF "All-Timers" Award.

In the winter, hockey was the sport of choice for Peckham, who played three years at NHS and was the starting goalie as a junior and also as a senior co-captain. More than 30 years later, he ended up behind the bench as an assistant coach with the Brien McMahon High School hockey team from 1994-

2000.

Then in 2001, he became an assistant coach with the Ludlowe-Warde co-op girls hockey team in Fairfield, a position he continues to hold.

And when springtime rolled around, Peckham could usually be found on a baseball or softball diamond. He played baseball in the Norwalk Babe Ruth League from 1958-60, leading the league in hitting his final season. He also played at Nathan Hale Junior High from '58-60, and then played at Norwalk High where he started at first base as a junior and as a senior co-captain, leading the Green and White in batting both years.

That final season capped off an outstanding scholastic athletic career by Peckham, a three-sport captain, who received the Best Athlete Award in the Norwalk High Class of 1963.

A fixture at first base, Peckham also started for the American Legion team during the summers of 1962 and '63 seasons, and then played for the Laurel AC from 1963-66 in the Rec League.

It was also during the summer months that another one of Peckham's passions took place. Just about the time his baseball career was coming to a close, he helped organize the Norwalk Aces softball team in 1965. The team went on to become a softball institution in Norwalk with Peckham serving as coach for over 30 years and he still occasionally plays first base, just completing his 42nd season.

In 1982, Peckham was voted the best softball first baseman in Norwalk in a poll conducted by The Hour Newspaper.

Besides the Aces, Peckham also coached in the Cranbury Baseball League from 1984-87.

And in almost any season of the year, Peckham could be found on the golf course, where he's between an 8-to-12 handicap in a sport he's played for 40 years. He's even run four annual golf outings with friends over the last quarter of a century.

Always looking for new challenges, Peckham picked up karate in his later years, practicing Tang-So-Do from ages 48 to 52 and earning a 3rd Degree Red Belt – one level below an apprentice Black Belt.

Peckham and his wife, the former Sharon Rogers, reside in Norwalk and have two grandchildren. Their son, Gray Peckham, is a former Brien McMahon athlete, while their daughter in-law, Stephanie Peckham, is the former head girls field hockey coach at McMahon.