

## *Mer Tarlov*



During his athletic career at Norwalk High School, **Mer Tarlov** was a man for all seasons. And perhaps no one knew this better than legendary coach Ike Kern.

Tarlov played three different sports at NHS in the early '40s, all under the watchful eye of Kern, who coached football, basketball, and baseball at the time.

A 1944 graduate, Tarlov was a quarterback for Kern and the Green and White football team in 1941 and '42. Among his teammates were Don Gaynor, Dennis Callahan, George, Lawrence, and Al Palumbo.

Then during the winter of 1942 and '43, Tarlov played guard on the NHS basketball team where his teammates included Earl O'Brien, Ted Tedesco, Tiff Gaynor, and Felix Christiano.

Finally, in the spring of 1943, Tarlov traded his sneakers for spikes as an outfielder on Kern's Norwalk High baseball team along with teammates John D'Amato, Rit O'Grady, Jay Callahan, and Larry Anastasia.

But Tarlov's involvement in local sports extended beyond the playing fields of Norwalk High School. Born in 1925 and raised in South Norwalk, Tarlov played guard on the 1940-'41 Benjamin Franklin Junior High School basketball team, where, along with Ernie Imri, Bill Santo, Wilbur Gall, and Romas Bossone they captured the 1941 city championship.

Following his Norwalk High days and a stint in the Armed Forces from 1944-'46, Tarlov played football for the 1947-'48 Spring Hill Tigers and coach Ralph Venezia. Tarlov was an end on a team that included stalwarts such as Dewey Raymond, Tom O'Connor, Moose Miller, George Weed, and Jim Ellis.

Also in 1947-'48, Tarlov was a guard on the YMCA basketball team that won the 1947 city championship under coach Aurelis Ghiotto. Joe Lametta, Bill O'Malley, and Harry O'Brien were some of the other standouts on that title team.

That was also the first of two city championships Tarlov would win in 1947. The other came that summer where he helped the Connecticut Potato Chips baseball team win the city crown. Tarlov played for coaches Lou Bottone and Mickey Connolly and with players Arnie Evans, Bob Callahan, Ed McSally, and Bill Ireland.

Even after his own athletic days were behind him, Tarlov helped make sure others after him would get plenty of opportunities to play sports locally. Along with Ed McSally and Don Gaynor, Tarlov was one of the founders of the Norwalk Athletic Association, which brought Pop Warner Football to the city.

Tarlov was a salesman with the John Hancock Life Insurance Company from 1954 to '64. In 1964 he was promoted to district sales manager and moved from Norwalk to Huntington, Long Island, where he still resides. Tarlov, who will turn 76 two days before Christmas, retired in 1997 after 43 years with John Hancock.

Married 47 years to the former Joan Ann Rempsen, who passed away in 1999, Tarlov has five children — Robert, Laurie, Gary, Donald, and Nancy — and three grandchildren.