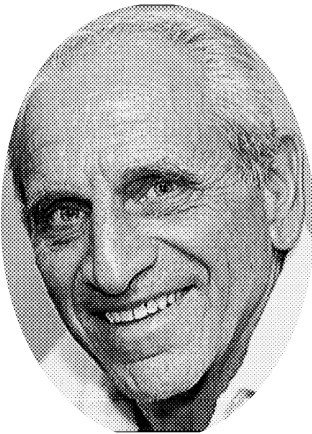


Fred Definis



Fred Definis was a football and baseball star at Norwalk High School before World War II and came back from 13 months as a prisoner of war to resume his career as an outstanding football player with some of the area's better teams.

Definis played baseball and football for Eugene "Ike" Kern at Norwalk High in the early 1940s. He was a speedster on the basepath who could hit the long ball as well as for average. In football, he played with Bob Rooney, Joe Lawrence, Don Gaynor, Ben Kirtland, and others as a halfback.

Fred joined the Air Force in 1942, trained in Gulfport, MS as a boxer, and won the welterweight title against U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine fighters. With the 8th Army Air Force he was shot down on his sixth mission over Germany and spent 13 months as a prisoner of war before his discharge.

Returning to the local scene after the war he played baseball for the Highlanders under Coach Joe Kulscar, and Strawberry Hill with Coach Joe Santo. In 1945 he had a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball organization, where he sustained a back injury that plagued him for the rest of his career.

As a football player, he played with the Norwalk Tigers, along with Vic D'Amato, Paul Autore, and others, as well as the Stamford Golden Bears and the Laurels. With the Laurels he played against Andy Robustelli of the Bears, who was later to become a New York Giants standout in the NFL.

Fred tapered off his career with fast pitch softball with the Blue Moon and Chatham Oaks teams. He also played with the Rowayton Bears in the Inter-City Touch Football League later in his career. In 1951-'52, he coached Monker Grotto of the American Little League to a championship, and also coached the American Little League All Stars to an area championship.

Definis is married to the former Ann Pernicaro and the couple has two children, Ann Marie and Fred Definis, Jr., an athlete in his own right. He is employed as an auto technician with Griffin Ford in New Canaan and the couple resides at 209 West Rocks Road.