

Ted Fecenko



Ted Fecenko has played eight different sports in his life, but there's no question this multi-talented all-around athlete made his mark in baseball.

Growing up on Cedar Crest Place behind the ol' drive-in theater, Fecenko started playing organized ball in the early 1950s with the Blue Ribbons, who were later sponsored by the Norwalk-based Hat Corporation of America. The power-hitting Fecenko played outfield and later third base as he helped the team to several winning seasons in both the Norwalk and Danbury leagues before breaking up after the 1960 season.

Fecenko went on to play the outfield at Norwalk High School where he batted clean-up every game for the 1956 County Conference champions who compiled a glossy 17-3-2 record, including a perfect 12-0 record in the conference and at one point won 14 straight games. In fact, one of his great sports memories was driving in the winning run against Greenwich with a hit over the left fielder's head.

Fecenko finished third on the team with a .319 batting average, and was selected as the recipient of the 1956 NHS Fathers Club Medal Award for baseball.

That summer, Fecenko played third base for the American Legion Post 12 baseball team, and then went to the University of Connecticut where he returned to the outfield and batted .450 for the undefeated freshmen team. He later played shortstop and third for the Laurel Athletic Club in 1962 and '63, and two more seasons for the Conetta Yankees in the Stamford Twilight League during the summers of 1964 and '65.

With his baseball days behind him, Fecenko switched to softball in 1966 and never lost his stroke. Demonstrating the same kind of power he displayed in baseball, Fecenko would hit 12 to 15 home runs a year in his prime.

That included several years with Bermuda's, the first softball team he played for. Then while working at Warnaco in Bridgeport, he organized a company team and was a player/coach for four seasons from 1967-70. A year later, he joined Lone Star Industries in Greenwich and organized a new softball team which won the city championship three straight years and went to the state tournament all three seasons.

In 1974, Fecenko became the new shortstop for the Majon's Restaurant team in Norwalk and he played several years with them, even after they became The Brass Rail in the 1980s. The team eventually joined the Sunday Morning Old Timers League, and Fecenko moved from short to second base while he spent the last five years of his softball career pitching and "absolutely loved it," he says.

While in his forties, softball became Fecenko's passion, and in addition to playing for the Brass Rail in the '80s, he was also a player/coach with a couple of other teams and averaged between 50 to 60 games a year. After a quarter of a century, Fecenko finally stopped playing softball in 1991 at the age of 53.

But while Fecenko was at his best with a bat and glove, he participated in several other sports. He played soccer and basketball at Ben Franklin Jr. High, as well as recreation basketball in several Norwalk leagues. In 1956 he organized a team from his church that played at the YMCA and Fecenko coached, played and averaged 30 points a game.

Also in 1956, as a senior at NHS, Fecenko was manager of the basketball team that went 17-3 and won the County Conference championship, a few months before Fecenko's baseball team did the same. He also played intramural basketball at Norwalk High and with the YMCA Bee Bops in city recreation leagues. He also played intramural basketball at UConn and was one of the managers of the varsity basketball team, while after college he played recreational basketball in Norwalk for several years.

Now 68, Fecenko has always remained active in sports. He began playing golf in 1975 and has played ever since, once shooting an 80 at Oak Hills. He also began playing paddle tennis in the mid-1970s and still plays recreationally twice a week all winter. In the 1980s, he won six straight individual club championships at Lyon's Farm in Greenwich. And in 2000, Fecenko took up the sport of tennis and plays that recreationally twice a week in the summer.

From 1962 to 1996, he also bowled for various company teams where he worked as well as for teams at Rip Van Winkle Lanes, once rolling a 264.

Now retired after a career in the computer business, Fecenko and his wife, the former Marilyn Horvath (NHS Class of '57), still reside in Norwalk and have three daughters and six grandchildren.