

Tim Eagen



For nearly four decades, the name **Tim Eagen** has been synonymous with baseball in the town of Wilton. It's also been synonymous with success.

The Norwalk native has been the head baseball coach at Wilton High School the past 38 years and the 2017 season may very well have been his most memorable. Eagen joined a very select group of coaches by recording his 400th career victory and exactly two weeks later he won his third FCIAC championship and second in three years.

But long before he arrived on Route 7, Tim Eagen began his sports journey in Norwalk where he played baseball in the Cranbury and Babe Ruth leagues, basketball in the Norwalk YMCA Bidy League, and football with the Norwalk Ramblers Pop Warner team.

That path continued to Central Catholic High School where the 1972 graduate was an outstanding two-sport athlete, earning All-Western Connecticut Conference and All-City honors in football and baseball.

He was a senior captain and starting quarterback on the Cavaliers' 8-1-1 football team in the fall of '71. Their only loss was a 28-26 setback to Bethel, ironically a school he would coach football at some 40 years later.

Eagen finished third in the city and ninth in the WCC in scoring with 39 points, registering six touchdowns and 19 successful PATs. He capped his career by being selected to play in the Nutmeg Bowl, Connecticut's premier all-star game back then.

In baseball, Eagen was an outfielder and right-handed pitcher, who threw a no-hitter against Masuk as a senior. He led the team with four wins, 40 strikeouts in 41-2/3 innings, and a 2.38 ERA. He also finished second on the club in batting with a .298 average.

Shortly after graduating from Springfield College, Eagen was back on the high school sports scene, this time as a coach. He served as an assistant football coach at New Canaan one season and another season at Andrew Warde before joining Tom Fujitani's staff at Wilton in 1977.

That would be the start of the 34-year association with the Warriors' football program, the first 24 as an assistant before replacing the legendary Fujitani as head coach in 2001 and spending 10 seasons at the helm. He and Fujitani would then reunite as assistant coaches at Bethel High for a handful more seasons.

Eagen took over as Wilton's head baseball coach in 1980 and led the Warriors to the FCIAC finals in 1994 as a wild card. A year later they won the Eastern Division title and the 1995 FCIAC crown before advancing to the Class M state semifinals. Wilton finished 23-3, setting a program record for most wins in a season.

The Warriors would win four straight division titles from 1999-2002 and add another in 2010. They qualified for the playoffs as a wild card in 2015 and reeled off three straight wins to capture another FCIAC championship. They finished 19-6 and Eagen was named FCIAC *Coach of the Year*, one of four coach-of-the-year awards he received that season.

Then this past season, after a slow start, the Warriors won nine of their last 10 regular-season games to win the Eastern Division — Eagen's seventh overall. Included in that late-season run was a 7-1 victory over Brien McMahon on May 12 for Eagen's milestone 400th victory.

Wilton would post three more wins in the FCIAC playoffs, including a 2-1 victory over rival Ridgefield on May 26 at Harbor Yard to give Eagen his third league championship. The Warriors won nine straight games and 13 out of 14 before falling to eventual state champion Staples in the Class LL tourney. They finished 19-5, giving Eagen 407 wins and counting.

When he wasn't coaching, Eagen played slow-pitch softball with Sonny's of Westport as well as the Laurels, J&M Roofing, and DeVito Brothers in Norwalk, winning several league and city championships. He also won multiple titles in the Norwalk Recreation Touch Football League with TZ Roofing.