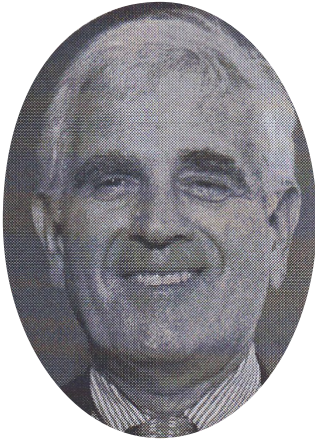


Harvey Melzer



Harvey Melzer is the latest member of the 1961 Norwalk High School County Conference championship baseball team to be honored by the Norwalk Old Timers.

Tonight the former pitcher/outfielder joins Lee Johnson (2001), Bob Schaefer (2003), Jerry Fishman (2004), Dennis Christopher (2006) and fellow 2007 honoree Steve Gulyas from that NHS championship team.

Melzer began his baseball career a few years earlier, in 1952, in the newly formed American Little League, where he played until 1955 for JWV and Lou D'Orso, who he calls "the greatest coach" he ever played for. Melzer then played Babe Ruth baseball from 1956-58 for Home Oil until he joined the Norwalk High baseball program the following spring.

While at Norwalk, Melzer also played football, starting at both center and defensive end, and then going on to play end at Southern Connecticut State College.

But Melzer would leave his mark in baseball at the New Haven school, where he was a first-team All-New England College Division pitcher and a senior co-captain in 1966 when he helped lead Southern to the NCAA Eastern Region championship.

In fact, it was Melzer's clutch hit in the bottom of the ninth inning at Yankee Stadium that drove in the winning run and gave Southern Connecticut the regional title.

Melzer still calls that one of his two greatest feats in sports. The other was the time he pitched 15 innings of shutout ball against Rider College in a 1966 game Southern eventually lost 1-0 in 17 innings. Melzer graduated as the New England Division II-III record holder for the fewest walks allowed in one season.

During his long standout career, Melzer also played baseball with the Norwalk American Legion Post 12, the Laurel AC in the Norwalk Twilight League, the Cognetta Yankees in the Stamford Twilight League (earning MVP honors), the Lennox AC in the Bridgeport City League, and the Gleem Painters in the Waterbury Twilight League.

He also played softball with Singewald Buick, a Norwalk powerhouse in the 1960s and '70, as well as in the Norwalk Inter-City Touch Football League, where he was named Rookie of the Year in 1965.

When his playing days were over, Melzer, who resides in Stamford, turned to coaching in the Springdale Little League, Stamford Babe Ruth, Turn-of-River Middle School, the JCC Basketball League and in Stamford youth basketball leagues.

Another sports thrill Melzer experienced was watching his son, Danny, pitch Stamford High School to the 2000 state championship.

Following his graduation from Southern Connecticut, Melzer taught Physical Education in Stamford for two years before becoming an attorney, and he continues to practice law in New Canaan. He is a past president of the New Canaan Bar Association, and has also served on the Board of Directors at the Stamford Jewish Community Center. In addition to coaching youth sports, Melzer has volunteered his time at the homeless shelter.

The 64-year-old Melzer is married to the former Arline Schulman and they have two sons, Michael and Danny.

This is also the second time in the past three years Melzer has been honored by an Old Timers organization, having been recognized by the Stamford Old Timers in 2005.