

When all was said and done, they accomplished something no other hockey team in the school's history had ever done. The 1969–1970 Stoneham High School Boys Ice Hockey Team took the Middlesex League title. With a record of 14-3-1 on the season, they were the best in the league, which at the time was one of the top hockey leagues in the state.



Captained by rugged defenseman Mike O'Toole, the team may not have scored a lot of goals, but they won a lot of close games. The games that they had to win, they usually did. Coached by Dick Burns and assisted by Dick Burnham and Bill Seabury, the team scored 57 goals in 18 games, and played in 12 one-goal games, winning eight of them.

John Jamieson, Loren Hunter, Dan Symes, Eddie Dolan, Tom Anderson, Gene Kee, Joey Vaughan, Neil DeTeso, Bob Dillon, Mike Geragosian, Jim Dolan, John Meisner, George Hoffman, Steve Vatcher, Mike Murgia, Steve Nims, Glenn Hunter and Jack Cullen were all contributing members to the team's success.

Backboned by a solid goalie in Charlie Sheridan, the team was always in good hands defensively. They were given additional support by team managers Al Sloss and Bob Bondi. Nicknamed the "cardiac kids," the Spartans drew huge crowds to the Lynn Arena, then the site of Stoneham's home games. In a tight race with Melrose all season long, Stoneham had the opportunity to share the league title or take it outright in their final game of the season. A tie would have shared the title, a loss would have given it to the Red Raiders, and a win would clinch it in solo fashion.

Five points behind the league leaders after the first of the year, the team went on a seven-game unbeaten streak to get back in the race. In the final game the Spartans fell behind 5-1 after two periods, but came roaring back to score five goals in the final period to win, 6-5. In the post season, the team won their first-round game against Dedham before falling to a strong Beverly team, 3-2.

"They were a great bunch of kids, but we had no superstars," said Burns, the longtime SHS hockey coach. "I coached for 14 years, and that was the best record that we ever had. It was just a well-balanced team."

Team members now reside both locally and as far away as San Diego, California