

Paul Norden

Class of 1950 - Hockey & Baseball



The names of some athletes grow to be legendary in most towns, and that certainly is the case for Hall of Fame inductee Paul Norden.

Those who saw him play still talk about his feats on the baseball field and on the ice. Perhaps there are few who had as close a view of Norden in action as longtime Stoneham resident Tony DeTeso. Norden's senior year was DeTeso's first as the baseball coach at Stoneham High.

"In my ten years at Stoneham High, Paul was the best athlete in school; no if's, and's or but's about it", recalls DeTeso. Norden was dominant on both the ice and the diamond.

Starting as a sophomore on the ice for the Spartans, Norden was named a Greater Boston Interscholastic Hockey League All Scholastic all three of his varsity seasons. Norden possessed both skill and toughness on the ice. In an age when professional hockey was the exclusive domain of the Canadians, Norden was able to distinguish himself in the annual All-Star Game against Montreal Catholic High, whose coach, Brother Paul MacDonald, called Norden the "greatest worker on ice I've ever seen in this series."

He continued to shine his senior year. Once again, he would dominate in the All-Star game against Montreal when he was picked as "Outstanding Player." Opponents respected him as well, with Melrose naming him to their "All Opponent Team."

He led the baseball team as both a pitcher and hitter, sporting a 6-1 record on the mound, leading the team to its first Middlesex League title since 1933. His impressive work, giving up just three hits in a 1-0 loss to Somerville in the State Tournament, was enough to get him a tryout with the Boston Red Sox, but Norden opted to attend Boston University instead.

He resides in Stoneham with his wife, Helen, and family and works at the Senior Center.