

Terese Kwiatkowski

Class of 1979 - Field Hockey, Basketball & Softball



In many ways, Stoneham High School graduate Terese Kwiatkowski was a pioneer female athlete who paved the way for generations of girls armed with softballs, field hockey sticks and basketballs to follow.

Kwiatkowski made perhaps her biggest splash as a Lady Spartan in the game of basketball, where she was a three-year starter. She averaged an impressive 15.7 points per game – good enough for second in the Middlesex League in scoring, and a spot on the All-League squad her senior year. She regularly led her team in the point's column, but was also a quick-handed defender and an accomplished passer...sometimes almost too much so.

"I'd be trying to get her to shoot and take the shots that she had, but she would always give the ball up to the person with the open look," said former Stoneham High basketball coach Mike Kennedy, who knew Kwiatkowski could have nabbed the scoring title with a more self-minded approach. "I used to say to myself that I wish she'd shoot more. She always had team concepts in mind, though, and that's the kind of quality person she is."

"If you look at the development of female athletics, particularly basketball, she was right at the very beginning of that change to just plain old basketball for female athletes." added Kennedy of Kwiatkowski's role in the evolution of girls' basketball at SHS. Kwiatkowski is believed to be the first female three-sport star at Stoneham High, as she was a captain in the field hockey and basketball, an All-Star performer in softball, and the winner of the coveted SHS blanket her senior year. She tallied 16 goals and 6 assists during a senior campaign in field hockey that include a pair of hat tricks against Watertown and Melrose – and a team award as the best offensive player following the season.

After being persuaded by the Stoneham High softball coaches to take up a spring sport during her junior season, Kwiatkowski also excelled on the diamond. The slick-fielding, strong-armed third basemen hit .371 as a junior and smacked .341 during an All-Star senior season for the Lady Spartans.

Kwiatkowski attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute after graduation from Stoneham High School, and was inducted into the WPI Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989. Terese is now a civil engineer working for GZA Associates and makes her home in Norwood.