

## Robert "Butch" Knight

### Class of 1953 - Football & Hockey



The accomplished Spartan athletic career of Robert L. "Butch" Knight almost didn't happen. Born to a family of 13 children, there wasn't enough money to get Butch involved in the expensive game of hockey, but legendary hockey coach Howard "Doc" Gordon purchased a pair of skates for the young Stonehamite. The rest, as they say, is history as Knight played the rugged contact sports of football and hockey at Stoneham High and fulfilled the often thankless roles of lineman and defenseman for the Spartans – spots where he nonetheless showed off his skill and athleticism.

Knight was a two-time GBI All-Star in hockey from his blue-line position where he tallied a goal and six assists his junior year, and led the league in defensemen scoring his senior season with 4 goals and 6 assists. The 6-foot-3, 225-pounder was an integral part of two GBI Titles for Stoneham during his high school days, using his heavy slap shot and impressive two-way skills to be named the Most Valuable Player in the Metro postseason hockey tourney his junior year.

"He makes all the right moves at the right times," said fellow Hall of Fame inductee Coach Doc Gordon. "He certainly is a wonderful player. He feeds up perfectly and he has a shot like a horse....just like Cliff Thompson."

Knight was also an offensive and defensive lineman for the Spartans and earned three letters during his gridiron days at SHS from 1950-1953. Knight went on to play both hockey and football for Boston University before playing a season of professional football for the Boston Patriots. Butch is semi-retired living in Wilmington with his wife Bobbie. He is the proud father of daughters Amy and Kristin and their three grandchildren. He spends his free time golfing.