

William "Bill" Walczak

Class of 1973 - Football & Baseball



Few athletes in Stoneham High School combined the multi-sport excellence at such a high level as Bill Walczak.

The 1973 SHS graduate was a standout on both the football and baseball field, experiencing championships on the gridiron and the diamond, an accomplishment few Stoneham High athletes can claim. Walczak cracked Coach Don McGillicuddy's strong baseball line-up as a sophomore, becoming the starting first baseman. The next year he moved over to shortstop where he batted a sizzling .360 for the league champion Spartans, which earned him a Middlesex League All-Star berth as a utility infielder.

In his senior season, the Spartans repeated as Middlesex League Champions with Walczak earning first-string honors on the league All-Star team. In a tournament game against Lynn English, Walczak nearly hit for the cycle with a triple, double and a single.

In football, Walczak starred as a fullback and linebacker for the team that shared the 1972 Middlesex League Co-Championship with a 7-2 record, scoring touchdowns against Lexington and Woburn. Despite missing two games with a bruised sternum, not so coincidentally the two games the Spartans lost, Walczak was named as a utility linebacker to the Middlesex League All-Star team.

After graduating from Stoneham High, Walczak attended Rollins College where he was a four-year starter at third base for the Tars. During Walczak's tenure at Rollins, the team went to the NCAA tournament three out of the four years and Walczak was once named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team.

During his summers, Walczak worked as a playground instructor at Robin Hood School and also played baseball in the Inter-City League. In his last at bat for the Wakefield Merchants, Walczak hit a walk-off home run to give veteran coach Les DeMarco his first championship. He now works for the Kroger Company in Cincinnati, America's largest supermarket chain, and lives in Kentucky with his wife of fifteen years, Maureen.