

## Gary Proodian

1976 - Football, Hockey, Baseball



Gary Proodian starred in football, hockey and baseball at Stoneham High, but it was on the baseball diamond that the 6' 3" Proodian made his mark.

The 1976 SHS graduate was no slouch on the gridiron, scoring all of Stoneham's 24 points in a 24-19 win over Wilmington with three touchdowns and kicking the P.A.T. Come winter, Proodian moved to the ice where he played for fellow Hall of Fame-inductee Dick Burns. In the springtime, the lanky right-hander plied his talents on the mound and at the plate. In his junior season, Proodian batted .344 and led the team with 13 RBI's. On the hill, he went 9-1 with 47 strikeouts and an E.R.A. of 0.54 while throwing a one-hitter after 6.2 innings of hitless ball against Watertown. That came after throwing no-hit ball for six innings against Woburn before settling for a three-hitter. His efforts garnered him a Middlesex League All-Star berth as well as a team M.V.P. honor for the League Champion Spartans.

Proodian continued to shine in his senior season, throwing consecutive two-hitters against Woburn and Belmont. He drove in the only run in a 1-0 game against Woburn while notching the victory on the mound. His pitching line of 56.2 innings, 42 hits, 19 earned runs and 2.25 E.R.A resulted in Proodian being selected again to the Middlesex League All-Star team. On the strength of Proodian's arm and bat, the Spartans went deep into the State Tournament before being knocked off by Framingham North.

After graduating from Stoneham High, Proodian went to the University of South Florida where he made the starting line-up as a freshman outfielder. He moved to third base as a junior and then focused solely on pitching his senior year. After leaving Florida, Proodian signed with the Detroit Tigers and then after being released by the Tigers, Proodian hooked on with his hometown team, the Boston Red Sox.

Sadly, Gary Proodian passed away in 1998, leaving two children.