

John Lawrence

1955 - Football, Basketball, Baseball



Character, leadership, and athleticism are the words that describe the accomplishments of John Lawrence.

As a sophomore starter in the backfield, John had an immediate impact on the SHS football team. The following year John expanded his role on the gridiron and took over as the starting left halfback on offense. A bona fide “triple threat” in the Spartans offensive attack, “Johnny” tallied 6 touchdowns. A deceptive runner, the Lawrence repertoire also included the option pass – a skill effective in keeping opposing defenses off-balance. John also tripled as the team’s punter and was also the key man in other specialty situations as Stoneham’s leading kickoff and punt returner. An anchor of the defensive unit once again, John exhibited sure tackling technique and led the team in interceptions. In winter John made a seamless transition to the hardwood.

As a starting guard for the Stoneham basketball squad, Lawrence quickly established himself as an offensive standout effortlessly combining a variety of shots. His season high 27 point performance versus Wakefield was capped by a pair of free throws with 27 seconds left securing a dramatic Spartan victory over the Warriors. John’s 205 points (15 points per game) placed him sixth in the Middlesex League. His all-around hoop efforts for the season were deemed worthy of league all-star selection.

Lawrence completed his three letter junior year in the spring as the starting catcher on the SHS baseball team. As a senior captain, John made another position change on the gridiron, shifting over to become the starting quarterback. He continued to exhibit his versatility as the Spartans offensive triple threat, “go to” performer. In an amazing display of dominance, John was responsible for virtually all the SHS scoring via either run or pass for the entire 1954 campaign. An ankle injury in the Reading game on Thanksgiving clearly spelled the Spartans demise. The painful injury carried over to the basketball season keeping John on the sideline for the early non-league portion of the schedule. The resilient captain returned to his guard post and finished 11th in the league scoring race with 173 points (12 points per game). John closed out his Spartan athletic career behind the plate for the 1955 SHS baseball squad.

For the second straight year, he caught every inning of every

contest. An outstanding defensive catcher with a reputation as a cerebral receiver, John handled a formidable pitching staff with great success. A final record of 9-5 placed SHS second, narrowly missing a Middlesex League title. John now resides in Medford with his wife Jewel.