

## John Sumner

1964 - Hockey



John Sumner was at the forefront of the resurgence of Stoneham High hockey in the 60's. As a member of the varsity as a sophomore, Sumner became an immediate impact player establishing himself as the team's overall scoring leader. In the 1962-63 season John keyed some impressive SHS comeback victories and for his efforts was named to the league all-star team. The 1963-64 Stoneham High hockey team with a 9-4-3 regular season record elevated the Spartans to the post season for the first time since 1956. A large measure of the team's success was a direct result of Sumner.

It was a rarity to find John Sumner off the ice at any time. After completing his shift at forward, Sumner would drop back and play defense instead of heading to the bench. The Spartans entered the State Tournament cautiously after finishing fourth in the Middlesex League. In the opening round Stoneham surprised Hingham, the undefeated champions of the South Shore League, in a 3-2 overtime thriller. Sumner factored in on all three SHS markers, scoring two goals and an assist including the overtime game winner. In the next round Stoneham faced Bay State League champion Norwood. A 4-3 decision found Stoneham headed to round three. Against Newton in the third round, Stoneham overcame a three goal lead with a dramatic come from behind 4-3 win. John played virtually the entire game contributing a goal and two assists. "After winning three big games we had become a more confident team," Sumner recalled. "I don't think at the beginning of the tournament we had any idea how good we were." Through three games John was the tournament's scoring leader and most talked about player. The semifinal match with Marblehead saw a 2-1 Spartan lead in the third period erased as Marblehead ended the Spartans season 3-2. Sumner and his teammates ended the season 12-5-3.

John had the unique personal distinction of being named a first team all-tournament selection on defense and a Middlesex League all-star at forward. Finishing the year with 17 goals/14 assists/31 points, Sumner was named All-Scholastic defenseman by The Globe, Herald Traveler, and Record American – a time when only six players in the state were bestowed that honor. Still a devoted fan of the game, John resides in Reading with his wife Patty. They have three children and eight grandchildren. John is the co-owner of Opto-line International in Wilmington, MA.

