

Martin J. "Marty" McHale

1906 - Baseball



Marty McHale was the first Stoneham native to play Major League baseball. Eighty years passed until a second Spartan Hall of Famer Joe Vitiello, '88 reached the big leagues.

A talented all-around athlete, freshman McHale made the varsity as a position player. The following spring, his conversion to pitcher as a sophomore was complete. As a result of the team's defensive deficiencies, McHale often had to work a little harder to achieve success. In a game versus Andover, Marty fanned 12 hitters to overcome an eye popping 11 errors for a grinding 15-11 victory. In a much cleaner overall effort, was a big 3-1 victory over Melrose. The Stoneham Independent described his performance as, "McHale pitched the game of his life...he had fine control, good speed, and a deceptive drop. Overall McHale had the visiting batsmen at his mercy."

As a junior, the Stoneham team started slowly. Marty's pitching repertoire continued to impose its will on the Spartan opponents. Indicative of the Spartans' struggles was an agonizing 3-2 loss to Reading despite Marty's 14 strikeouts. The Independent labeled him a "one man team." Marty sparked the team's second half dramatic reversal of fortune that propelled them all the way to a league championship game versus Woburn.

In McHale's senior year, during a game with Saugus, he tossed 16 innings and fanned 21 batters only to lose 8-5. A pair of losses to Wakefield added to the woes of Captain McHale. A nine strikeout/two walk/four hit line resulted in a 4-3 loss. A subsequent meeting also ended in defeat (2-1) despite Marty's punching out 16 Wakefield hitters.

In the fall of 1907, McHale arrived at the University of Maine and excelled at track and football in addition to baseball. During the 1910 season, McHale spun eight shutouts, three of them no hitters sparking interest from the professional ranks. Marty made his big league debut with the Boston Red Sox on September 28, 1910, in a game against Cleveland striking out ten including "Shoeless" Joe Jackson. His professional career spanned six seasons and included time with the Red Sox and Yankees before finishing with the Cleveland Indians in 1916. After serving his country in World War I, McHale became a sportswriter before founding his own investment company. He passed away in 1979 at the age of 90.