

Charles Gardner

1968 Football, Basketball & Baseball



Charlie Gardner was a three-sport standout athlete at Stoneham High School from 1965 to 1968. A “natural athlete” who “could play either way,” as told by Frank “Tiger” Burns, Charlie played quarterback and defensive back and was known as “the best passer in the league.” During his junior year, Charlie led the Spartans and was promoted to starting quarterback before the seventh game of the year in which he engineered a 26-26 tie against previously undefeated Wakefield. In a 50-24 win over Melrose during his senior year, he scored three touchdowns and threw a 55 yard touchdown pass on the first play of the game, along with three passing two point conversions. He was named to the Middlesex League All-star team as a defensive back during his final season. In basketball, Charlie played some critical minutes as the sixth man on the 1967-1968 Middlesex League championship team, helping Stoneham to win its first title since 1930.

Of the three sports Charlie excelled at, baseball is where he most distinguished himself. He played on the varsity team for three successful years, leading the Spartans with a career 17-win, 3-loss record. He started and relieved throughout his junior and senior years, entering games as a reliever at key times. He pitched 12 of the 15 innings in a game against Concord his senior year and pitched a complete game tournament-qualifying win against Wakefield, yielding one run on six hits, no walks, and 14 strikeouts.

Charlie’s baseball career was highlighted by some tremendous pitching in the 1967 and 1968 state tournaments. In 1967, Charlie threw eight innings of a 15 inning game against Weymouth, and the following year he beat Weymouth in a repeat tournament battle. He received the Stoneham High School best pitcher award in 1967 and 1968 and was named Middlesex League All-Star and Stoneham High School MVP in 1968. Charlie excelled academically as well and was the recipient of the Jaycee Scholar Athlete Achievement Award in 1968.

He continued his career in baseball at Lafayette College and graduated with a career record of 6 wins and 3 losses. Charlie and his wife Juliette reside in Eastham where he coaches little league.