

## James (Jimmy) Giblin (b. Dec. 4, 1876)

Jimmy Giblin is Stamford's Old Man of Baseball. As told by another baseball Old Timer Harry Cartwright (b. Apr. 29, 1873) from c.1888-1896 "baseball in Stamford was practically dead. The few town enthusiasts met on Saturday nights in front of the Stamford House on Main St. where the topic of sports conversation dwelled on the passing in the middle eighties of the old Yale & Towne ball team of state-wide fame which numbered W. Swarbach, P. Larking and S. Nichols among its star players. There were no athletic clubs to speak of but the YMCA with a middle class membership and the working boys on the other side of the tracks just kept shy of it." The Giblin family moved to Dublin and later moved to the Hoytville part of town after the railroad dismantled a wide cluster of Dublin to elevate its tracks and expand the freight yards. Giblin organized the original Hoytville baseball team in the early 1890s. During this time the games were played at Lynch's pasture field in the South End. By 1895 the field was enclosed. It lay where the general offices of Yale and Towne were later built. Giblin's first Hoytville included Mike Moylan at catcher, Jimmy Giblin at pitcher, T Matthews 1b, William Giblin 2b, F. Gibson 3b, Harry O. Cartwright ss, W. Toms lf, B. McDonald cf, T. Leonard rf and Ted Junger as substitute pitcher. In these early days the catcher caught without any mask or protection and fielder often lacked gloves. Giblin's Hoytville took on all comers and revived baseball in Stamford with a string of victories against other

neighborhood-based teams including the Watersides, Algiers, Kerrytowns, Blackroads, Dublins, Westcotts, Sylvans and Pelicans. Teams sprung up as soon as players could be organized into them. After its first year of unprecedented success the Hoytviles took their act on the road playing teams from Port Chester, Glenville, Rose Hill, Norwalk and New Canaan amongst others. Shortly thereafter the Hoytville Athletic Club was organized with Jimmy Giblin at its core. One of the highlights of the career of the Hoytviles was a matchup against the original Cuban Giants at Woodside Park. The Hoytviles also took on a number of other semi-pro teams. Jimmy Giblin left the Hoytviles briefly in the early 1900s to play for Bridgeport in the Eastern League. Upon his return the Hoytviles reorganized with Giblin at the helm as the All-Stamfords c. 1910/11. Giblin gradually left active play to become an umpire and served in this capacity for many years in a number of leagues before retiring. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> sportsman honored by the Stamford Old Timers in 1944.

## William (Billy) E. Giblin (b. Dec. 5 1876)

William moved with his family including brother James from Providence, RI to Stamford in 1879. He attended Henry St. Grammar School. In 1895 Billy joined brother Jimmy on the first roster of the Hoytville team. Along with his brother the roster included Mike Moylan, Harry Cartwright, Bucky Thomas, Ted Junger, Matt O'Brien and Tom Leonard. The Hoytvilles played against some of the top teams in New York, Long Island and Connecticut. Locally, games were played versus the Watersides, Algiers, Kerrytown, Blackroad, Dublin and the Westcotts. In 1901, the Hoytvilles were Stamford's entry into the Southern CT League with Meriden, New Haven, Waterbury, Bridgeport, and Derby with Billy at centerfield. A 1901/2 CT General Statute was shortly thereafter passed forbidding the playing of baseball on Sundays where admission was charged. This did not dampen the baseball spirit in Stamford and in 1902 under Joe Reagan and Alec Monroe Stamford's big team (the Hoytvilles) played on an enclosed field on Keeler's Hill in Greenwich (opposite the former Conde Nast location) against such teams as the Cuban Giants, Brooklyn's Royal Giants and other major league and major league all-star teams. The team played at Keeler's Hill for three years often employing ringers from other Connecticut towns and New York teams. When Keeler's Hill Park closed Billy turned his eye toward managing. His most notable post-player position was as manager of the Yale & Towne baseball teams of 1919 and 1920 that included Max Mernstein, Joe Liptak, Maury Johnson, Nippy Williams and Johnny Beckvermitt.

## George Giblin (b. Apr. 1 1884)

George, the youngest of the Giblin boys, was born in Stamford off Division St. He attended Henry St. School and graduated from St. John's Parochial School. George was too young to play on the Hoytville's of 1895-1900 but watched games avidly. His first playing opportunity came with the Glenbrook A.C. team in 1900 and shortly thereafter with the Rippowams. The Glenbrook teams of 1900-10 were all made up of kids under 21. In 1901 the team won 19 of 20 games played. They were based at the old gravel pit on Courtland Ave. Teammates included Giblin, Tom Reilly, Eddie O'Connell, Tom Bottomley, Jack Hogan, George Moore, Henry Austin, Joe Connolly, Henry Lee and Terry Connors. In 1902, he was signed to play outfield on the big Stamford Team at Keeler's Hill. In succeeding years he played with a New Haven club (1903) and from 1904-6 with the Greenwich Volunteers before returning to play outfield for a Stamford team in 1907 and 1908. The Stamford club practiced on West End field and was managed by Jim Balmer and former Hoytville Bucky Thomes. George played with George Smith, Jack Hogan, Harry Mertz and others. With the closing of West End field George played with the Stamford Club at Halloween Park, a team that through many games enjoyed a rivalry with the Stamford A.C. His teammates included Max Mernstein, Cooper Callery, Fred McGourty, Dutch Clark, Jack Hogan, George Smith with Bucky Thomes as manager. His final playing days saw him serve two seasons (1918-1919) with Yale & Towne at Woodside Park. The Y & T

team of 1918 was the City Champ. The 1919 roster included Beckvermitt, Williams, Steve Blazey, Livolsi, Sam Wolfson and M. Johnson. Even after his retirement from playing George continued to don his baseball togs as manager of the St. Mary's baseball club on Shippan Avenue.

## Stephen J. Blazey (b. Feb. 1 1894)

Blazey was born in the Waterside section of Stamford and graduated from the Cove Grammar School in 1908. He played baseball initially for the East Side AC for the 1914 and 1915 seasons playing against the likes of the Hoytville, Cove A.C., the Watersides and Kerrytown. In 1916, he caught for the Noroton AC of Darien. Following WWI Blazey caught for the Yale and Towne Locksmiths and in 1921 this team defeated Springdale A.C for the City Championship. Yale & Towne closed its 1922 season on October 2 by defeating Sound Beach 7-2 to post an overall record of 16 wins and 8 losses for the Locksmiths. Teammates included Felix Livolsi, Nippy Williams, Greaney, Ed Hunt, Sam Wolfson, Collom and George Giblin. Opponents included American Chain, St. Mary's, Sound Beach, the Zapons, Bridgeport K of C, the Emeralds and others. Blazey continued at catcher for Yale & Town in 1923 under Bill Truax before beginning his coaching career in 1924 with the Belltown baseball team.

## Alexander J. Koproski Sr. (b. Oct. 25, 1904)

Koproski was born on Ann St. on the West Side but a year later moved to the South End. He attended Henry St. School and the Holy Name of Jesus Parochial School. He rose to fame in the local baseball world initially as organizer and shortstop for the Harbor Giants in 1919. This team was the successor to the Hoytville. The dedication of the team to play was shown on July 4, 1922 when the team walked to Noroton to play St. John's at 11 AM winning 5-3 and then returned on the railroad tracks to Sound Beach to play a second game at 3PM winning again 2-1 with Al hitting two home runs. In 1924, the Harbor Giants were renamed the Red Sox and entered the City League against rival teams including American Storage Battery, Cove A.C., St. John's and Aberdeen A.C. Teammates included Billy and Benny Duda, Jim Koproski, Moe Wilkes, Bing Miller, Al Tomczyk, and Barney Slesh amongst others. The team lost in the playoffs to Cove A.C. In 1925 Al, along with 15 others of Polish descent, founded and organized the Holy Name Athletic Club. The first Holy Name baseball team played that year with games at Woodside and Halloween Parks. Al played shortstop or first base through 1931 against local and traveling teams. On Sundays, they played New York teams from Brewster, Ossining, Scarsdale, Westchester County and upstate. In 1932, Al played and managed the Holy Name Club in the Bi-State League with McKesson-Robbins, Danbury, Brewster, Mt. Kisco and Lake Mahopac. In 1933, Holy Name finished second to McKesson Robbins for the title. With Al as manager the Holy Names entered the Twilight League in 1934.

Teammates included Pantas, Czarnecki, Bujalos, Reynolds, Baron, Miller, Sebastian and Wilkes. The Namers were in a three-way tie for first. Ultimately they defeated American Battery and clinched the title by defeating Gas & Electric. Al continued to manage the team until 1941.



## William H. Truax (b. June 17, 1885)

Truax was born in Syracuse, NY and arrived in Stamford in 1916. His importance to Stamford baseball was as a founder and organizer of the Yale and Towne baseball teams of the late teens and early 1920s. He was responsible for setting up the first baseball field in Woodside Park the diamond of which was laid out by Jimmy Giblin on land leased from Theodore Ferris. Under Truax's management the 1918 and 1919 Yale and Towne baseball teams captured City Championships. They also played against the Cuban Giants and Brooklyn Royal Giants amongst others. Truax's roster included Nippy Williams, Beckvermitt, Joe Liptak, George Giblin, Steve Blazey, Max Mernstein, Harry Mertz, Maury Johnson, Woodward, Otto Albinus and others.

## Ralph V. (Nippy) Williams (b. Dec. 12, 1898)

Nippy Williams was born on Laddin Rock Farm in Stamford. He first played in baseball in 1913 as a pitcher for the Aberdeen A.C. By the following year he was on Jimmy Giblin's Boys Club team that won all 16 of its games for the Fairfield County Championship. His teammates included Ken Lawson, Leo Engle, Tony Marrucco, Tommy Hogan and Dave McGourty. He then joined the Spelke team as shortstop. The following two seasons (1916, 1917) saw him at shortstop for the Stamford Rolling Mills team in the Industrial League. The Mills defeated teams from Waterbury, New Haven and Bridgeport. Its roster included Harry Mertz (p), Matty Douglas c, Red Haggerty, Sam Wolfson, Tony Marrucco, Ed Hunt and Ed Greaney amongst others. From 1917-1919 Williams played short for the All Stamfords. With the disbanding of the Rolling Mills team in 1919 Williams joined the Zapons that year. He then played on the Sound Beach team in 1920 and 1921 with Tommy Alfano, Red Haggerty, Harry Mertz and others. In the middle of the 1921 season he joined Bill Truax's Yale & Towne team at short for three seasons. 1924 saw him with the Springwood AC of Norwalk and the following year he captained the club. In 1926 he played on Felix Livolsi's short-lived NYCO team. Williams spent a year of (1927) coaching American League baseball before donning his uniform again, this time as pitcher for two seasons (1928, 1929) for Petro in the Industrial League vs. Conde Nast, Electric

Specialty and Gas & Electric. The 1928 team made the finals only to lose to the Gas House gang. Williams retired from active play shortly thereafter.

## Thomas Alfano (b. Feb 5, 1896)

Alfano was born in New York City and arrived in Stamford in 1920. He quickly found a place for his baseball talents with the Sound Beach All Star Nine at third base. From 1920-1925 Sound Beach was one of the best semi-pro teams in Connecticut. They were the undefeated 1923 champions of the Westchester County League and rated #1 in Fairfield County. Alfano played with Harry Mertz, Ray Joyce, Jack Hogan, Frank Crummit, Tony Moruke, Dave McGourty, Peter Hammernick, Charles Haggerty and Joe Sanger among others. Alfano later played with the Stamford All Stars in the NYCO league coached by Felix LiVolsi (c. 1926). In 1931 he did a stint with the Holy Name AC team. Following his retirement from play Alfano umpired both Senior League and semi-pro baseball games.

## William Haggerty (b. Nov. 17, 1895)

Haggerty was born in Bridgeport but moved in 1896 to the Algiers (West Side) section of Stamford. He attended West Stamford School then St. John's Parochial School, graduating from Stamford High in 1909. He played left field on the St. John Altar Boy baseball team in 1911 and 1912. The 1911 team was undefeated and won the Westchester County and New England Altar Boys League Championship. He later played for the Emeralds baseball team (1915-17) and also played football for the St. John's Holy Name team amongst others.

## Dr. A. Frederick McGourty

McGourty's baseball career covered both scholastic participation and club teams. He attended Stamford High from 1909-1913. He received the 1912 Dr. Francis Rogers Prize for outstanding excellence in sports at SHS. In his senior year he captained the baseball team. He also played left end for the football squad for three years. Outside of school it was baseball that occupied his talents. He was a member of Jimmy Giblin's Hoytville team and later played baseball with the Stamford club managed by Bucky Thomes and played alongside Jimmy Giblin. McGourty's baseball career ended with his entry into medical school.

## Dr. Sam Wolfson

Like McGourty, Wolfson participated in sports both in school and out. He graduated from Stamford High and his senior year (1917) he played fullback on the football team and 1<sup>st</sup> base on the baseball nine. He led Stamford High in hitting and fielding during his career . He received the Dr. Francis Rogers Prize for excellence in athletics. Outside of school Wolfson was in demand on the baseball diamond and played club and semi-pro ball. He was a member at one time or other of the Carter A.C. squad, the Aberdeens, the Spelke's, the All Stamfords and the Norwalk Nationals. Medical school marked an end of his playing days.

## John F. Connolly (b. March 22, 1900)

Connolly was born on St. John's Place before moving to the Cove in 1902. He attended Cove School, graduated from Stamford High and later from Villanova. While at SHS he played both football and baseball. He served as halfback on the football squad from 1916-1918. He played outfield for the baseball team and captained the 1919 squad. Following his graduation from SHS he continued to participate in semi pro baseball. He was a member of the Stamford team in the NYCO league and played on a number of other semipro teams. In 1930, he was a member of Paul Kuczo's Stamford All-Stars that went on to defeat the Old Stamford West Sides at Cumming Park for the City title. Connolly later coached the Tasti-Mallow baseball team and the Belltown Football team of the old Community League of the 1930s. He was associated with the Stamford Pioneers of the Colonial League of the 1940s. Connolly helped organize this Class B league and team that played its games at Mitchell Field in Shippan. The Pioneers defeated the St. Louis Cardinals in an exhibition game in 1941.



## John (Yosh) J. Byczajka (b. Feb. 22, 1908)

Byczajka was born in the Waterside section of Stamford and attended Waterside and Rice Schools. While at Stamford High he played baseball and basketball. In 1925, he played on the Conde Nast baseball in basketball teams in the Industrial League. Between 1920 and 1930 there was “hardly a baseball team that did not enlist Yosh’s services at one time or other”. He was often found in the outfield playing club ball, Sunday ball and later in the Twilight League. He was a core member of the Holy Name A.C. squads. While very involved in baseball, Byczajka also participated on football elevens. He was a member of the 1927 Waterside Jacks who defeated the West Side AC for the City title. In 1928 he became a member of Bill Brennan’s All Stamfords pro football squad. He later played football for the Cove A.C., Bruce Caldwell’s All Stars, the original Golden Bears and the Pasttimes of Norwalk. During the baseball season he played with American Storage Battery, Tasti-Mallows, Stamford All Stars, Holy Name A.C., and Stamford Gas & Electric. He also did a stint with St. John’s of Noroton in 1937 and the Lakewood A.C. in the Ad-Rec Twilight League in Stamford. In 1942, he was managing the Holy Name AC baseball team when they defeated the Sacred Hearts for the Twilight League flag after the Hearts had reigned for several years in a row. His team included Lefty Pezzullo and Coke Koproski hurling, along with Rossi Rossomondo, Jackie Tyler, Frank Scheich, Joe Yaeger, Scotty Koproski, Flea Kulowicz and Charlie Burr. In 1946, Byczajka was a player for the Paragon AC pitching and playing outfield

and the team won the Twilight League that year. His baseball career lasted 25 years and he posted a high batting average of .556 while with the Stamford Gas & Electric team that was never equaled. He played on eight Stamford Twi-League All Star teams before hanging up his cleats.

Frank (Coke) S. Koproski (b. Feb. 19, 1910)

Coke Koproski attended Rice, Holy Name and Stamford High School. It was in baseball that he made his mark. He pitched in the Industrial League for Petro and the Gas & Electric teams of 1930-1946. One day he pitched two 4-1 victories that gave the Gashouse squad the championship. He also pitched for the Stamford Pros, the All Star teams of Bruce Caldwell and Ken Strong and for Sound Beach. His three victories at the end of the 1942 season enabled the Holy Name team to come from behind to beat the Sacred Hearts for the Twilight League championship. He won the 3<sup>rd</sup> game of the Twilight playoff of 1942 10-1, then won the 4<sup>th</sup> game 11-6 and the final game 14-1.

## John P. Kotos Jr. (b. Apr. 7, 1909)

Kotos was born in the Cove section of Stamford and attended Cove School. It was at Cove that Kotos had his first baseball experience playing outfield and pitching on the team under Mrs. Minny Hanrahan, his teacher and coach. Jimmy Giblin served as umpire and games were played at Halloween Park. He played club baseball in 1927 with Uncle Sams' All Stars winning 27 straight games with Lou Montagnino as player-manager. When Kotos went to work for Stamford Gas and Electric he was put in the outfield when their team was organized in 1929. The following season Gas Co. won the first title of the State Industrial League Championship, defeating Corbin Lock of New Britain 1-0. His teammates included Spec Spiers, Coke Koproski, Lou Montagnino, Harry Weaver, Jim Koproski, Chick Martin, Joe Yeager Milt Pearson, Jack O'Neill, and Johnny Murphey and Ted Bottomly as managers. Gas & Electric won local Industrial League Titles in 1931, 32, 34, 35 and three CT State titles during the 1930-35 seasons. Their entry into the Stamford Twilight League also won titles. Kotos also played "Sunday ball" with the Stamford West Sider who won the City Championship in 1929 defeating the Holy Name AC and the Stamford All Stars. The West Siders were a traveling team. Kotos also played on Eddie Bella's All Star traveling team in 1927. From 1928-1930 he played for the Coves at center field under manager Martin Donohue. The Coves defeated the All Stamfords for three years that post game seasons were played. Members of this traveling team included Misurielli Danko, Cantillo, Coppola, Yeager,

Bujalos, Hunt, Walsh, Fortunato, Joe Connolly, Gladstone, Conners, Jim Romanos, Wujick, Chick Martin, Brick Dora, Duffy and Maroney as coach. Sam later coached basketball and in 1946 scouted for the Phillies baseball team. From 1956-8 he scouted for the Cincinnati Reds.

## Lou Montagnino (b. March 6, 1910)

Montagnino was born on Ludlow St. in the South End and attended St. John's Parochial School then Stamford High where he played basketball and baseball. He began his baseball career in primary school as an infielder and continued in this capacity at SHS. He won the annual baseball award and the batting crown with a .483 average. While at SHS he also played with Uncle Sam's All Stars, the YMCA, the Ramblers and the Lone Stars. He was a member of the Gas and Electric nine and managed the G & E baseball team from 1933-35. He started playing fast pitch baseball with St. Benedict's in 1927, the Cove AC in 1928 and Ken Strong's All Stars in 1929. He played for many clubs, until retiring in 1947, including the Stamford All Stars (1930), the Holy Name AC (1930-38), The Don Boscos (1931-2); the Sacred Hearts (1937-42, 46) and the Paragon AC (1947). Although he was offered a baseball contract from the NY Yankees in 1930 and was approached by other clubs, he did not opt for a professional baseball career.

## Edward Hunt (b. April 7, 1901)

Hunt attended Cove School and graduated from Stamford High School and later Georgetown. Hunt was an outstanding athlete at all sports. He played halfback three years at SHS posting 248 career points. He served as the captain of the 1919 and 1921 teams and was selected an All State halfback in 1919, 1920 and 1921. He also served as an infielder on the baseball nine for three years and won the S each year. He subsequently played football with the All Stamfords, the Norwalk Pros and other semi-pro teams. He was a leading scorer. He also played semi-pro baseball with the St. Marys, the All Stamfords, Yale & Towne, the Rolling Mills as an infielder. He later coached the Nutmeg Softball team winning nine New England Championship. During his long career as Director of the Board of Recreation he oversaw the recreational sports leagues and later he served as the Commissioner of the Stamford Little League and of the Connecticut and New England Babe Ruth League (1955).

## E. Gaynor Brennan (b. July 12, 1902)

Brennan was born in Stamford and attended St. John's Parochial School and graduated from Stamford High in 1921 before going to university at Rutgers. While at SHS he played on the football squad from 1917-1920 an era when SHS lost no games to opponents. Brennan did not miss a single field goal opportunity in his junior and senior years. He captained the 1920 team that went 11-0 and amassed 316 points as well as taking the Connecticut title. In the post season SHS beat Elgin, IL in Stamford 7-0 for the 'mythical' Championship of the United States. He also served as an infielder for the SHS baseball squad for four years. He later played varsity football at Rutgers (1921-4) and after graduation he played pro football with the All Stamfords coached by his brother Bill Brennan. On alternate Sundays this team would play in Norwalk as the Norwalk All Stars. His teammates included Ed Hunt, Felix LiVolsi, Ed Charleson, Fred Lione, Brick Dora, Tom Moriarty. They played against teams from Hartford, New Britain, Bridgeport and New York City. In 1926, he served as coach of the All Stamfords.



## Felix Livolsi (b. Nov. 6, 1897)

Livolsi was born in Cerami, Sicily and arrived in Stamford in 1901. He attended the Sisters' School on Hawthorne and State Streets and later Elm and Center Schools. In 1910, he played football with the Shamrocks coached by Max Mernstein. He also played second base and outfield with the Yale & Towne team, the Zapons, Rolling Mills and the All Stamfords. Felix was signed by Gaynor and Bill Brennan in 1915 to play halfback for the All Stamfords. He remained with the club through 1922 and, with Ed Duffy of Stamford, was picked by the Connecticut sports writers for the All State Semi-Pro team. In 1926, he organized and placed a team in the New York-Connecticut (NYCO) semi-pro baseball league which included Brewster, Danbury, Wilton, Norwalk and Poughkeepsie. His players included Richardson, Connelly, P Morkue, Al Ungemack, Pete Hammernick, and Nippy Williams. Stamford finished third. He later coached Belltown football team to the championship of the Community League in 1930 vs. Tony Good's Glenbrook team. In 1935, he organized the first night football game in Stamford at Belltown Field when the Belltown Bulldogs played the Ridgefield All Stars coached by 'Nervy' Gillespie. In 1938, the St. Louis Cardinals played a team of Stamford players under the lights. In 1939, LiVolsi organized the Golden Bears. For three years the Bears team was managed by LiVolsi and coached by Mickey Lione and Steve Dzamba. They played at Boyle Stadium and in 1940 won the State League Championship. They also won the state pro-football league championship. In 1941, the St. Louis Cardinals returned to Stamford to

play vs. the Pioneer semi-pro club at Mitchell Field, the  
Pioneers winning 6-5.

## Joseph G. Leonard (b. Feb. 20, 1894)

Leonard was born in the Dublin section of Stamford, attended Williams St. School and graduated from Stamford High. In 1910, he organized the original St. Mary's Athletic Club Baseball Team. From 1911-1915 he was on the SHS football team. During this time the team lost only one game and that to Everett High of Boston, MA. Leonard played fullback on these teams. At this point it was difficult for the Stamford High team to book opponents because of their strength. Oddly enough this is despite the fact that the teams coming to play against the Orange and Black (SHS) were generally completely equipped while few of the locals had headguards and shoulder pads were often sewn to the outside of their jerseys. Some wore nose guards and the eligible pass receivers had wide bands around their heads for ear protection. Leonard's teammates included Mike Cantillo, Tom Cook, Sanford Palo, Sky McKenzie, Big Bill Brennan, Abe Vaachs, Bobby Gillespie, Johnny Duke Collom, Al Geary, Earl 'Nervy' Gillespie, Frank Kelly, Riley Hogan, Bill Lanyon, Art and Clarence Palmer and Charles Leonard. From 1916-1936 Leonard played semi-pro football every year except 1918 when he was in France with the AEF in WWI. He played for the All Stamfords as fullback and the team gained statewide recognition for its prowess. They played at Betts Field and later at Halloween Park against teams from New Haven, Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stratford, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, as well as Stamford teams including the Coves and the Kerrytowns. Bill Brennan played for and later coached this team. The All Stamford roster included Joe and Jim Mulreed, Duke

Collom, Felix Livolsi, Eddie Charleson, Gaynor Brennan,  
Ed Hunt, Joe Mahan, Ed Broderick, Fred Lione, Eddie  
Duffy, and Happy Mazza.

## John Scalzi

Scalzi started playing baseball on the Pacific St. team. He then played baseball at Rice School and served as team captain. He entered SHS at age 14 in 1922 and played on the Stamford High baseball nine for five years. The only rule at that point was that players had to be under 21 years of age to play. His teammates included Bill Hagan, Ed Hunt, Johnny Mahon, Bill Murphy, Hugo Giovannuccia, Jack Birmingham, Whitey Czescik, Allen Ungemack, Paul Kuczo, Morris Raven and Jack Hogan. Scalzi later played baseball at Georgetown. He was signed to the Boston Braves out of college but in 1933 stopped playing due to arm trouble. He had also been playing football with the Brooklyn Dodgers in the National Football League in 1931 and 32. Scalzi later promoted semi-pro football at Mitchell Field and also served as President of the baseball Colonial League from 1947-50. He also served as president of Stamford's Twilight League.

## John Franchina

Franchina was born in Stamford's South End March 1, 1904. Prior to graduating from Stamford High in 1923, he attended St. John's Parochial School, the Henry Street School and Center Street Grammar School. He played elementary school baseball and basketball in the 1918 and 1919 seasons. The latter year also saw him playing sandlot baseball for the Springdale AC pitching and at first base. During 1920, he played football and baseball with the Stamford High teams. After a strong athletic career at SHS, Franchina played on the semi-pro Stamford team in the NYCO league in 1926. He later umpired in 1927. That same year he joined Bill Brennan's All Stamford Football squad playing guard. The team played teams from all over Connecticut until 1930. In 1931, was run by Felix Livolsi and the following year by Paul Kuczo. Franchina also played on Paddy Moruke's traveling football and baseball teams in 1937. A memorable event was the May 31, 1932 meeting of a Stamford baseball squad led by Paul Kuczo against a Georgetown baseball team in honor of John Scalzi Day. Franchina played on the squad that lost to Georgetown.

## William H. Brennan

Brennan was born in Stamford June 9, 1898 into an athletic family. Prior to SHS he attended Center and Elm Street Schools. At Stamford High he played football and baseball. He captained the football squads of 1913, 1914 and 1915. In the latter year he was named the outstanding boy football player in New England. SHS football suffered only a single defeat during Brennan's tenure and that against Everett High of Boston in 1914. Following his scholastic career Brennan continued to play football. He also coached the semi pro All Stamfords and All Norwalks in the 1920s.

Donna Lopiano

-played in 26 Natl championships, played basketball, volleyball, field hockey, softball  
-Softball hall of fame

Jackie Robinson 1919-1972

-1947 put on roster of Brooklyn Dodgers by Branch Rickey (GM)

Andy Robustelli 1925-2011

1951 defensive end w/Los Angeles Rams, 1955 Traded to NY Giants stayed with Giants 9 years. Football Hall of Famer

Bobby Valentine 1950-

Baseball w/Rippowam Warriors RHS

Babe Ruth League

Age 18- picked by Los Angeles Dodgers;

1985 Texas Ranger GM; 1996 Mets GM now Red Sox GM



## Michael (Mickey) F. Lione

Lione was born in Stamford June 24, 1908. Although on the Stamford Police force from 1939 until his death in 1953, it was as an athlete and coach that Lione is remembered. At Stamford High Mickey was chosen for All State honors three times. He captained the 1929 Stamford High Football State Championship winning team. In post-season play he threw three touchdown passes for the Stamford High team leading them to victory over Washington (DC) Technical School. He received the Matthew Kenealy athletic prize upon his graduation for Stamford High. He also captained the SHS baseball team of 1928 and 1930. His position was shortstop and he batted over .400 in his three seasons 1928-30. At Georgetown University, he continued to shine athletically captaining both the football and baseball freshman teams. After returning to Stamford he played on the championship teams of the Stamford Gas & Electric Company. From the time of the formation of the Twilight League in 1937 Mickey was manager or co-manager of the Sacred Hearts that became Gervasio's Plumbers in 1951. With the introduction of Little League Baseball in 1950, Lione became coach of the Stamford Police sponsored team, a position he held until his death. In 1951 Lione was co-coach with Paul Klinkowski of the Stamford All-Stars of the Little League who won the World's Little League Championship at Williamsport, PA. For the following two seasons Lione coached the same boys to the championship of the 13-14 yr old division title in the Board of Recreation League. In 1952 and 1953 he helped coach the Little

Bigger League teams that each brought world championships to Stamford.

## John A. (Sharkey) Laurenno

Laurenno was born April 23, 1912 in Stamford and attended Stevens and Rice Schools before graduating from Stamford High in 1932. His baseball career began in 1923 with the West Side Red Devils. During his years at SHS 1929-32 he played baseball, basketball and football. He began working as an umpire for the Board of Recreation League in 1936. He also umpired in the Colonial Class B League. He also officiated football and basketball games. It was his work in the Stamford Little Leagues, however, that is most noteworthy. "Sharkey" coached the Ramblers Independent Babe Ruth League baseball team for 8 years winning 3 league championships in 1952, 57 and 58. In 1952 coaching with his cousin Mickey Lione, Sharkey and his team won the State and New England Championships, then traveled to Trenton, N.J. to win the 1<sup>st</sup> World Championship for the new Babe Ruth League. In 1953, coaching with Paul Rosum and Mickey Lione, Sharkey and his team repeated the prior year's record winning State, New England and World Championships. In 1954, despite the loss of coach Mickey Lione, Sharkey's team repeated its record for a third time. In 1955, coaching with Rosum and Hack Wolfson, Sharkey and his team again won the New England Championship for the 4<sup>th</sup> time but the team lost the World Series suffering their first defeat in 29 All Star games. In 1958, Sharkey and co-coach Sta Barosky led their team to a 5<sup>th</sup> State and New England championship and ended up 7<sup>th</sup> place in the World Series. 1959 brought Laurenno's 6<sup>th</sup> State and New England Championship team. This team ended up in third place at the World Series.

Sharkey took the 1960 squad to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the World Series and again reached the World Series in 1964. He continued to serve as an officer in the Lione Little League as well as an umpire and coach for many years and is credited by many of his former players as being a crucial influence in their development.

## David McKeithan Sr.

Born in Stamford at 12 Court St. on October 7, 1919 McKeithan attended Hart and Franklin Schools, Burdick Jr. H.S. and Stamford High, graduating in 1936. He pitched for the SHS team while at Stamford High. He went on to play semi-pro baseball with the Stamford Royal Giants and the Portchester Bombers. He also played on the Stamford Golden Bears. He was one of the founding members of the Stamford Babe Ruth American League coaching the P.A.L. team with Mickey Lione Sr. and Hack Wolfson. He was also associated with the Stamford Pop Warner football league from its beginning for a 20+ year period. He served as a coach and also served a term as league president.

# Robert Attanasio

Born in Stamford July 21, 1932, Attanasio attended Rogers School and graduated from Stamford High in 1950. While at SHS he played varsity baseball for coach Paul Kuczo 1948-50. The 1949 team won the State Championship. Attanasio captained the 1950 squad. Following high school he played 2d base in the Stamford Twilight League for the Sacred Hearts who later became the Gervasio Plumbers and Scalzi Paint from 1950-1962. He also served as coach and manger of the Gervasio and Scalzi teams. In 1954, he was chosen MVP of the Twilight League and in 1955 received the Sportsmanship Trophy. His batting average in 1959 was .508. He played second also in the New England Newspaper League sponsored by the Boston Braves in 1951 and 1952. He played for the Stamford Advocate team that won the New England Championship both years. In 1957, he began coaching baseball for the American Legion. He coached for the Legion for four years. He later coached in the Twilight League for five years and spent 25 years as assistant baseball coach for Stamford High School. He was actively involved with the Babe Ruth League and served as the New England Commissioner of Babe Ruth (16-18) from 1970-75. His activity with Babe Ruth continued for decades afterward. He helped initiate girls softball and managed the World Champion CT Falcons women's professional softball team of 1978.

## Charles Pike

Pike was born in October of 1936 and moved to Stamford shortly thereafter. He attended Franklin and Stark School, Dolan Jr. HS and Stamford High graduating in 1954. He played for the American Legion baseball team in 1950. In 1952 he was a member of the first Babe Ruth World Championship team. He was co-captain of the club with Chuck Symeon. He later played half-back on the SHS football squad for three years. He also played baseball setting a record by committing no errors during his senior year of play. He also captained the team that year. After a number of years in professional ball clubs he returned to Stamford High as a member of the faculty. He also played semi-pro football with the Golden Bears as a defensive back and punter/punt returner. From 1959-1991 he served as SHS assistant football coach under John Hagan and in 1992 became head coach. He became the JV baseball coach at SHS in 1962 under Carmine Tosches. He served as head coach from 1967-89 winning FCIAC titles.