

Historical Series Spotlight:
Richard "Dick" Ierardi,
1976 Honoree & 2014 HOF Inductee
March 9th, 1935 - March 18th, 2013



Dick Ierardi liked being Number 1. It was something he always strived for and often achieved. From his days as a standout athlete at Wilby High School to his roles as Athletic Director and Basketball coach at Kaynor Tech High School, Dick, more often than not, had been known as the best at what he did. Ierardi wasn't a Waterbury native, being born in Southington, but his family moved to Waterbury in 1942 and the Brass City was the main beneficiary of his talents both on and off the athletic field and court.

Dick began his brilliant sports career at Walsh School in the city's North End, before moving onto Wilby High School where he polished his prowess. He was the starting guard on the 1953 Wilby basketball team which captured the CIAC Class A Basketball Championship. The following year as a senior, he made Wildcat history by captaining the Football, Basketball, and Baseball teams.

Quinnipiac College beckoned upon graduation from Wilby High, and Ierardi answered the call. He starred in Basketball and Baseball for the Braves, before moving onto to Southern Connecticut State College where he

participated and excelled in those sports, plus gymnastics, prior to his graduation in 1961.

A brilliant softball career as a first basemen and, often times, cleanup hitter for the Waterbury Bombers, followed and continued until the demise of fast pitch softball in the mid-1960s. The death of fast pitch wasn't the end of lerardi's career, however, as he worked hard to become the area's top major modified softball hurler, a perch he maintained for many years through the 60s and 70s. He played for more than 30 years and tossed two no-hitters, and lerardi was ultimately inducted into the Connecticut Fast Pitch Softball Hall of Fame in 1992.

Coaching occupied much of lerardi's time when he wasn't on the Major Modified Softball scene, especially during the winter months. He was the ultra-successful head man of the Kaynor Tech High School Boys Basketball team for many years, sending 16 of his 17 teams to the CIAC State Tournament. In 1975-76, lerardi led the Kaynor to 17-0 regular season record and the top seed in the CIAC Class L Tournament. He had completely turned the basketball program around at Kaynor during his tenure, but this was nothing new as he did the same at Oliver-Wolcott Tech High School in Torrington before settling down at Kaynor Tech in 1965. lerardi was also a longtime member of the Lakewood Social Club where he served as President for many years. He was also a 2014 Inductee into the Greater Waterbury Sportsmen's Club Hall of Fame.

Richard J. "Dick" lerardi was 78 when he passed away on Monday, March 18, 2013. He was the son of the late Frank lerardi and Rose (Bianco) lerardi Masotta. He survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, David and Sheila lerardi and Richard M. and Sheri lerardi all of Southington, a sister Joann Mills of Plainville, five grandchildren, Alison, Christian, Katelyn, Justin and Jared, he also left a special friend Michelina Brady and former wife Donna lerardi as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by four brothers, Jim, Earl, Mickey and Joe.