

Historical Series Spotlight:  
**Frank Vaccarelli**, 1975 Honoree  
Nov. 17th, 1936 - June 19th, 2007



Frank Vaccarelli was a man for all seasons; Football, Basketball, and Baseball. He enjoyed a high degree of success in each, as a player, and later as a coach, where he labored long and hard to pass his attributes on to others.

Frank's career began modestly in Waterbury's North End. He played whatever and whenever he could on the neighborhood sandlots before hooking up with the St. Lucy's CYO Basketball team. He played there a few seasons and participated in the first Lou Gehrig Boys' Baseball World Series, before entering the Marine Corps. Football became Frank's first love in the Corps and he earned a spot with the rugged Quantico Marine Eleven, which locked horns with some of the leading college football teams in the country during that time.

After his service discharge, Frank returned to the Brass City and was recruited by John Lattanzio, then Waterbury Sportsmen's Club President, to play for the Waterbury Bombers Softball team and National Guard Basketball team. Frank became a standout for both teams, serving as a top flight catcher and a rugged forward respectively for nearly ten years. He later joined the Terryville Oasis in basketball's semi-professional ranks

and took a turn with the Waterbury Mustangs, a professional football team.

Still starring on the Softball scene at the time, Frank turned to coaching with the advent of the Waterbury Midget Football League and enjoyed a great deal of success as the head coach of the North End Rams. The challenge of the Waterbury Bantam program beckoned and Frank answered the call, assuming the head coaching job with the Savelle Warriors. He finished second in the Connecticut Bantam Football League during his first two seasons before striking the jackpot in his third season as he guided the Warriors to the No. 1 ranking in the country. That 1974 team compiled a 12-0 record under Vaccarelli's tutelage, including a victory over the Fort Bragg, NC Cardinals in the championship game.

Frank Vaccarelli passed away on June 19, 2007 at the age of 70, after a courageous battle with cancer. He was the husband of Susan (Pelletier) Vaccarelli. Frank was born in Waterbury on November 17, 1936, son of Theresa (Faraci) Vaccarelli of Naugatuck and the late James Vaccarelli. He worked as a commercial painter at Commercial Painting Inc. for 30 years. He was a member of the Painter Local 481 Union.

Vaccarelli's remarkable coaching career included the North End Rams and Seville Warriors (midget football), Seville Mustangs (Bantam Football League), and Mattatuck Community College (football-three years). He served as Wolcott High School's assistant football coach for 13 years, its freshman basketball coach for two years, junior varsity basketball for two years, and varsity basketball for one year. He also served as Connecticut Mustangs-AAU baseball coach for one year, and for Wolcott BAW various baseball travel teams.

Frank was honored by the Waterbury Sportsman's Club as an honoree in 1975, and was one of three distinguished men to be remembered with our Program Book Dedication in 2008. He was chosen as Connecticut Pop Warner Coach of the Year in 1980, and received the Sports Achievement Award in 1995 by the Olympian Club. He was one of the founders of the Waterbury Sportsman's Club.