



# April 24, 1994

## Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



### Sam A. Palamara Class of 1946

Sam A. Palamara, community leader as an athlete, coach and administrator, has distinguished himself in the field of recreation.

Upon his graduation from Roosevelt High School in 1946, Sam played professional minor league baseball for the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago White Sox and the Brooklyn Dodgers. This center fielder regularly hit over .300 in pro ball, and twice, was selected to play in his league's All-Star game.

In the 1950's, sandlot baseball took on new meaning in Wyandotte. Sam coached t-ball at Pulaski Park and high school baseball at St. Patrick's where his team won the Catholic League Championship in 1959. Wyandotte also burst into the limelight in adult baseball, where Sam served as a player-manager on some terrific Class "A" teams that won three state championships and was national runner-up in 1957.

In 1965, Sam began a 25-year career as an administrator in the Wyandotte Recreation Department, 17 of which he served as Superintendent of Recreation. During the span, youth programs were expanded, the state's premier municipal ice arena was built, and handicapped programs, as well as senior citizen programs, were established to a point that distinguished Wyandotte as a model recreation department. The Wilson Middle School Recreation Facility, as well as the development and improvement of several city parks, are just a few of the many projects he initiated.

Sam continues to serve his community as an elected member of the Wyandotte City Council, and as an active member of many service clubs and charitable organizations. For his countless contributions, Sam has been recognized with the Jaycees "Distinguished Service Award", the Wyandotte Inter-Service Club Council "Citizen of the Year Award", the Kiwanis Club's "President Award", the induction into the Catholic League Officials Hall of Fame, and with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association's highest honor, the "Fellowship Award". In 1993, he received the RHS Alumni Football Club's "Henderson Award" for a lifetime of service to youth.

Sam Palamara has dedicated his life to the City of Wyandotte, and throughout his long career as coach and as Superintendent of Recreation, has demonstrated his deep and genuine love for this city and its residents of all ages.