

## John P. Pannucci – Class of 1953



John was outstanding in three major sports (football, basketball, and baseball) during his high school career. As an indication of his leadership skills, John captained each one of these teams.

In football, John, as a quarterback, was a major factor in beginning the incredible winning streak of 8 straight League Championships. Under the coaching of George Davis, Mynderse dominated the League from 1951-1958. John, while not one to dwell on individual records, established a passing record that stands to this day, tossing 16 touchdown passes in his senior year. As well as captaining the team, John was selected as first team All-Finger Lakes Quarterback and All-State Quarterback, while earning 4 varsity letters. As a result of these accomplishments, John was offered, and accepted, a Division 1 Football Scholarship to Syracuse University

In baseball, perhaps John's best sport, he lettered for four years and led the team to two Class A Sectional titles (1952-1953). The 1952 championship was the first in Mynderse history. John both pitched and played the infield, batting over .500 and racked up a 22-0 pitching record as a junior and senior. These records attracted much college interest and Colgate offered him a baseball scholarship.

John also excelled in basketball, leading the team in scoring his senior year as captain and was selected 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Finger Lakes.

After high school, John matriculated at Syracuse University where he played both football and baseball. John was a teammate and classmate of the great Jim Brown and in his senior year Syracuse played in the Cotton Bowl. John captained the Syracuse baseball team, playing both third base and centerfield. Summers during college, John played baseball in Nova Scotia, a popular summer pastime for college athletes.

Upon graduation, he signed a professional contract with the Milwaukee (now Atlanta) Braves organization. John played minor league baseball with the Milwaukee farm team in Midland Texas. Even after professional baseball, John continued playing both baseball and softball in upstate New York. He is a member of the Auburn Softball Hall of Fame and continues to play winters in Florida.

John spent his business career in the Insurance profession, working 45 years with John Hancock and Royce and Rosenkrans. As a dedicated athlete and respected role model, John was involved for years coaching Little League, Babe Ruth, and American Legion baseball.

Finally, John contributed many years as a Seneca Falls School Board member, giving back to the school that gave him his start.

John and his wife Diane reside in Seneca Falls during the summer months and spend winters in Florida. They have two children, John Jr. and Sheila and five grandchildren. John Jr. and family live in Seneca Falls and Sheila and family call Auburn home.