

## **James (Jim) Kane**

### **Community Service, 1945 Graduate**

Jim Kane began officiating in 1943, when he was still a student at Nyack High School. He worked as a referee at the YMCA and at Nyack College, for soccer, basketball and baseball. Ten years later, he started officiating in the Rockland County PSAL, adding football, volleyball, and girls' soccer and basketball. Kane was also a tennis official for many years.

The lifetime Nyack resident served as a referee and umpire for 70 consecutive years. Jim and his wife Eleanor helped assign Rockland officials for countless games in numerous sports since the early 1950s. Kane started off the job as a volunteer, making calls late into the night to manage dozens of official assignments and rescheduling issues.

In 1969, Jim officially took on the role of “Assigner of Officials” for Rockland athletic contests. He was charged with assigning officials for games, scrimmages, and tournaments for 20 boys and girls sports. These assignments included contests at the junior high, freshman, junior varsity, varsity, and college levels. During his two-decade tenure, Kane coordinated about 10,000 assignments a year, and astonishingly never had a game cancelled due to a lack of officials.

During his time as a student at Nyack, Jim played varsity baseball and basketball. He later played basketball and softball at the semi-pro level in Rockland. As a guard, in basketball, and a pitcher, in softball, he played on teams such as the Letchworth Big Five and the Nyack American Legion. Kane and his son also captured several Rockland County father-son tennis championships.

Kane served in the Navy for three years, and then worked as a banker for 44 years. He officiated and coordinated hundreds of thousands of athletic contests during that time, helping to organize games for countless athletes, coaches, and fans to participate in and enjoy. Kane retired in 2013 after 70 years of working as an official and coordinator. Jim was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 in recognition of his decades of dedicated service to Rockland sports.