

## **Alvin E. Simonds Jr.**

### **Football, Basketball, and Baseball**

#### **1953-1956**

Al "Snookie" Simonds was a 3-year star in basketball and baseball, and a 2-year starter as quarterback in football. He was a First-Team All-County selection in all three sports.

In football, he teamed in the backfield with future NFL all-star Roger Brown to win the Rockland County co-championship in 1954, the first football title in several years for Nyack.

In basketball, the 5'9" Simonds averaged 21.3 points per game in 1955-56 and was a unanimous choice for first team all-county. In December of that season, Al scored 42 points against Tappan Zee, one-point shy of the Nyack scoring record at the time. In a game against Suffern, he scored 31 points (including 13 free throws). Against Spring Valley, Al's free throw with 44 seconds to go gave Nyack a 62-61 victory. Despite facing constant double-teaming (box-and-one defense) his senior year, he was the second highest scorer in the PSAL.

Simonds was co-captain of the basketball team his senior year, and was, as Art Hopper described him in the March 15, 1956 edition of the Orangetown Telegram, "fast, good at driving, a team man, and his specialty is a one-handed jump shot."

In baseball, Al played shortstop and made the 1956 All-PSAL squad with a batting average of .396. He also pitched when needed and tossed a one-hitter against Tappan Zee. He was awarded the prestigious James Grasso trophy as the 1955-56 "best all-around athlete in Rockland County."

In college, Al was a 3-year starter and captain of the basketball team at Bowdoin in his senior year. He helped lead his team to upsets over Rutgers and Delaware and scored 28 points in a game against Northeastern. After college he went on to become a journalist. In 1996, Al was inducted into the Rock land County Sports Hall of Fame.

Although he was not the biggest athlete in Nyack's history, he was certainly one of the most formidable in his day. As Ed Lynch of the Journal News put it when describing Simonds, "good things come in small packets."