

Dale Lydecker

Football, Baseball

Class of 1970

Dale Lydecker had a truly remarkable athletic career. After playing a few years of soccer at NHS, Lydecker joined the football team and led them to a county title his senior year. Dale was also one of the top baseball talents in the area. He garnered attention from MLB scouts and was even drafted by the Chicago White Sox. Lydecker chose to go to college before going pro, and at the University of North Carolina he remarkably excelled for both the baseball and football teams. Dale then impressively managed to play both professional baseball and football, suiting up for a New York Mets' minor league team and the New Orleans Saints.

Lydecker was not a typical high school football star. Dale played soccer at Nyack for a couple of years before joining the football team his junior year in 1968. As a punter and kicker, he helped Nyack win a PSAL title with Greg D'Auria (NHSAHOF 2017), Robert Corvino (NHSAHOF 2015), and Coach Paul Lankau (NHSAHOF 2016). It was in his senior year, however, that Lydecker became a star. After starting the season as a backup quarterback, Dale took over as starting QB in the second game and led NHS to another county title. He had several heroic moments along the way, including a bootleg touchdown run with 16 seconds left to beat previously undefeated Clarkstown. Late in the season, Lydecker had a game-winning TD run to defeat North Rockland.

Dale also played four years of Varsity Baseball at Nyack. During his junior year, he played a major role in a 15-14 comeback win over Spring Valley. Lydecker bowled over the catcher to score the winning run in a game where NHS had trailed 10-0. In his senior year, Dale emerged as one of the best players in the area. He hit .354 and was chosen All County, All-Metro and All-State. In one notable performance, Lydecker had two home runs, five RBIs, four hits and two steals in a victory over Nanuet. He also hit back-to-back home runs with Greg D'Auria in a loss to Suffern. Dale's homer traveled 340 feet and landed in Haven Court! Many MLB scouts came to see him play.

Lydecker was drafted as the number 104 overall pick in the 1970 MLB draft, by the Chicago White Sox. However, he decided to go to college instead. Dale starred for the UNC Baseball team, earning All-ACC honors twice. He also led the ACC with a .361 batting average, in 1975. Dale interrupted his college career with a year playing for the Batavia Trojans, a Mets single a minor league team. In 1974, he hit .298, leading the team.

In 1975, Lydecker went back to UNC, to punt for the Football team. Over the course of his college career, he played in three Bowl games, and was 6th in the nation in punting average. Dale even signed with the New Orleans Saints in 1975, and was cut on the final day.

Lydecker continued to excel in athletics, and branched out into Tennis. He was ranked in Rockland County Men's Singles and was a County Doubles Finalist. In Platform Tennis, Dale was ranked Top Ten in the country and was a national tournament Semi-Finalist. In recognition of his incredible athletic career, Lydecker was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. His achievements will live on as part of the proud Nyack tradition.