

Jim Brown

Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track, Softball

Class of 1952

There were many great athletes at Nyack High School in the late 1940s and early 1950s, but Jim "Nose" Brown stood out as one of the best. Despite suffering a knee injury that limited his senior basketball campaign and prevented him from playing baseball as a senior, Brown still accomplished quite a lot as an athlete. Jim was All-County in football, basketball, and baseball, and he also ran well in track. He often made crucial plays to lead his teams to victory and he won multiple championships in basketball. Outside of his NHS career, Brown was also a phenomenal softball player for several decades.

Jim Brown only had one season as the feature back for the Nyack football team, but he certainly made the most of it. As a senior, Brown finished 4th in the county in scoring and was named 2nd Team All-County. Jim was a jack-of-all-trades for the team. He was their main rusher, he played defense, returned kicks, punted, and even threw passes occasionally. Brown led the offense alongside quarterback Jim Ridlon (NHS AHOF 2015). Jim Brown made several huge plays throughout the season, including a huge interception to set up a go-ahead touchdown in a win over Closter and a 42 yard TD pass in a win over Pearl River. When Ridlon went out with an injury against Haverstraw, Brown ran most of the offense the rest of the game, finishing with 3 TDs in a 2 point loss on the road. Jim Brown's most successful sport at NHS was basketball. After sitting on the bench most of his sophomore season, Brown remarkably started in the section title game and delivered with 15 points to help Nyack beat Suffern to win the section championship. As a junior, Jim was a captain and he led Nyack to a PSAL co-championship. He was 3rd in the county in scoring and was 1st Team All-County. Brown had 22 points in a comeback win in the section semifinals against Liberty before Nyack fell to Ellenville in the section finals. Jim helped rebuild a Nyack basketball program that hadn't won a title in years.

Brown also excelled in baseball at NHS. As a junior, Jim had a .405 batting average and was named All-County. He played shortstop and often hit cleanup, following Jim Ridlon in the batting order. Before playing for the baseball team, Brown ran on the track team in the spring as a freshman and sophomore, helping Nyack have one of the best teams in the county.

Jim Brown also had a stellar softball career. Brown started playing when he was 15 and continued long after he was done playing sports for NHS. Jim won five consecutive major tournament titles with the team Apollo XII, and in 1965 he hit a home run that was one of the longest ever hit at Suffern Athletic Field. That same year, he went to NJ to play professional softball, and competed all over the country. Brown was voted the best hitter at the Haverstraw Tournament in 1974, 22 years after he left high school. His last season of softball was 1978,

when Apollo XII won the last Rockland County tournament.

Jim Brown's athletic achievements at Nyack High School and beyond have long been recognized. Brown was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame's 5th ever class in 1978. Jim's leadership and clutch performances set him apart as one of the finest athletes Nyack has ever had.