

Dick Yerg

Football, Baseball, Swimming, Sportswriter

Class of 1957

The name Dick Yerg is deeply interwoven with Nyack sports. As a student athlete at NHS, Dick played football and baseball and was on the swim team. He went on to play soccer and baseball at Bates College, and also played recreational softball in Rockland County for many years. Yerg made his biggest mark as a local sports writer and editor, notching 32 years with the Journal News. He was one of the founding members of the New York State Sports writers Association.

Dick was part of multiple championship teams during his time at NHS. He was a catcher on the PSAL winning baseball team of 1957. Yerg was on some of the great Nyack football teams of the 1950's, playing with Roger Brown (NHS AHOF 2017) as a Junior and then winning a League championship as a Senior in 1956. After high school, Dick played baseball at Bates College, and captained the soccer team. Yerg was also on several Rockland recreational softball teams from 1959-1975. He helped found the league that played at the legendary Deer Head Inn. Dick was well known for getting on base with his drag bunt.

Dick Yerg is most renowned for his contributions to sportswriting. He started out writing for the Rockland edition of the Bergen Record. After four years, he began his long and storied career with the Journal News. Dick spent 32 years with the paper and its parent company. Yerg was the sports editor for the Journal News from 1967-1975. He was then sports editor of Westchester Rockland Newspapers for nine years, and went back to full-time sports writing in 1984.

Dick was best known for covering Nyack and Rockland sports. He helped promote girls sports in the area, and strongly supported the Little League Tournament of Champions. Yerg wrote about approximately 200 Journal News Scholar-Athletes of the week. Dick is also remembered for his 19 years writing about the New York Rangers. He was even an officer and President of the Professional Hockey Writers Association, New York chapter. After retiring from journalism, Yerg became Media Director for the Florida Open Wheelchair Tennis Tournament. For 14 years, Yerg interviewed the athletes and showcased their inspiring stories.

Service to his community and country was also very important to Dick Yerg. He spent several years in the Marines after college. As a member of the Monday Morning Quarterbacks, Dick arranged a fundraiser for the Nyack hockey team in 1980. It was called "A Night With the Rangers, and featured appearances from several members of that team. Yerg was a great professional, developing strong relationships with local coaches and earning the respect of his peers. He stayed in touch with Nyack sports, even when he wasn't officially

covering games. Dick could often be seen on the sidelines or in the gym at the old Nyack High School. Countless Nyack kids grew up reading Dick Yerg's sports articles and many NHS athletes and alumni got to connect with Nyack athletics through his writing.