

Gerald D'Auria
Basketball, Baseball
Class of 1939

Every great dynasty has a beginning, and for the D'Auria sports dynasty it started with three brothers in the 1930s. Following in the footsteps of older brothers Pete and Pat, both members of the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame, Jerry D'Auria starred for years in Nyack uniforms. Jerry's exploits in basketball and baseball helped establish the family name that came to dominate Rockland sports for generations, producing fellow Nyack Hall of Famers like his son Greg D'Auria (NHSAHOF '17) and his great nephew Patrick T. D'Auria (NHSAHOF '22). With his work after NHS, Jerry's legacy would go on to span far past his athletic prowess.

Despite his lack of size, Jerry excelled in basketball. D'Auria started for 4 years, earned a role as team captain, and was a two-time All-County selection. After heartbreaking close calls the previous two seasons, Jerry and his teammates delivered a county championship for Nyack in 1938.

It was on the baseball diamond, however, that Jerry really made a name for himself. He spent five years on varsity, dazzling at shortstop and in the batter's box. Jerry served as a team captain and remarkably earned All-County shortstop honors four years in a row. Weighing only 120 pounds, Jerry proved his smaller stature didn't define his will or strength by leading the PSAL in home runs twice. In 1936, D'Auria delivered clutch hits and his usual superb defending to lift Nyack to the county title after tough breaks the previous two seasons. Long after his Nyack career, Jerry D'Auria remained in conversations about the finest shortstops ever to play in Rockland County.

D'Auria spent one year at Southwestern University, playing point guard in basketball and hitting .421 in baseball. Then in 1940, Jerry was drafted by the Lafayette White Sox, a Class D farm team in the Chicago White Sox organization. After three weeks he was drafted again, this time by the U.S. Army. Jerry served in

the Army for 34 months during World War II. He played on the All-Service baseball team, competing in war zones across Europe and entertaining other troops. Most impressively, Jerry earned five Battle Stars while serving his country.

After an honorable discharge, D'Auria returned to Nyack and starred for the Nyack Rockies pro baseball team. Jerry remained a staple in the Nyack community, coaching CYO basketball at St. Ann's for 20 years as well as serving as a Nyack village trustee for two terms. He also ran the beloved Jerry's, a candy and soda shop on Main Street that was a favorite hangout for Nyackers. While many a great sports debate raged on at Jerry's about Nyack greats, the quieter Jerry didn't like to brag about his achievements. He let others tell the tales of his many great deeds, and the respect he garnered earned him induction into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.