

Horace Tyrus
Baseball and Football
Class of 1933

Standing just 5 foot-6 and weighing 154 pounds, Horace Tyrus was affectionately nicknamed “Little Tyrus,” but his talent was anything but small. As a dual-sport athlete for Nyack in the early 1930s, Horace’s athletic prowess is one of legends like David and Goliath.

As a baseball pitcher, Tyrus was a force to be reckoned with. Off the mound, he compiled an impressive 19-2 record during his three varsity seasons. He recorded a career earned run average of 1.69 while striking out 232 batters across 170 innings, and led Nyack to three-straight Rockland PSAL championships: 1931, 1932 and 1933. The right-hander featured a deep arsenal of pitches, including a fastball, curveball, and screwball. As a three-time All-County pitcher, Tyrus threw eight shutouts in his career, including a nine-inning perfect game against Congers in 1932.

Offensively, Tyrus was just as fearsome, posting a career batting average of .415. One of his most memorable moments came in 1932 when he smashed a grand slam in a 26-0 victory over Haverstraw, the local rival of the time.

Additionally, Tyrus was a standout on the football field. He played both quarterback and halfback. In 1931, he earned All-Rockland honors as a halfback, and in 1932 and 1933, he was named an All-County quarterback. His leadership and talent helped guide Nyack to two Rockland PSAL football championships in 1931 and 1933. Another prime example of where being a two-sport athlete translates into big wins! After high school, Tyrus continued to excel in baseball as a pitcher for the Rockland County All-Stars. His 12-strikeout performance against the Haverstraw Maple Leafs was chronicled in a 1934 Journal News article: “Tyrus had his curves breaking all over the plate and the Leafs were breaking their backs trying to reach what he sent.”

Beyond athletics, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and went on to have a long career with the oil supplier Buckeye Pipeline and financial services firm Lazard Frères. Tyrus was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame in 1980. He passed away in 2013 at the age of 101, leaving behind a lasting legacy both on and off the field.