

## Ellis "Sonny" Lane

### Class of 1961 - Football, Basketball & Baseball



Ellis "Sonny" Lane may be remembered most by what he did off the field of play, but during his time inside the lines, was one of the finest athletes in Stoneham history. A graduate of the class of 1961, Lane was a star football, basketball and baseball player, batting over .400 his junior and senior seasons.

He was Middlesex League All Star in his junior and senior years in both basketball and baseball, and was first team All Scholastic in baseball as a junior, second team as a senior, getting beat out by Tony Conigliaro. He was also the starting quarterback for the football team his senior season. After high school, Lane went on to play semi-professional baseball with the Hosmer Chiefs for five years, as well as in the prestigious Cape Cod League, but found his true calling as a coach and administrator.

In 1970, he took over the Wakefield High basketball program and coached there for 17 years. His teams won five Middlesex League titles, one Eastern Massachusetts title and three state sectional titles in his time.

He also compiled an impressive 276-111 win/loss record. He took over as the Melrose Athletic Director in 1987, holding the position until 2000. He has received countless awards for outstanding achievement as both a coach and administrator, with his teams always being known for good sportsmanship and fair play. "He was always very committed, and he had a value system that he just never wavered from," said former Melrose hockey coach and committee member Steve Rolli. "His credibility as a coach and an administrator is second to none." He coaches the Lynnfield golf team, and works as an area umpire for baseball games. He currently resides in Reading with wife, Paula, and enjoys spending time with his three children and seven grandchildren.