

Jack French

Class of 1963 - Cross Country, Football, Basketball & Baseball



It all started with a little boy throwing rocks, a simple solitary action that helped Stoneham High Class of 1963 graduate Jackie French develop into one of the best baseball and basketball players ever produced by the school.

In basketball, the affable French was a sharp-shooting guard that Co-Captained the team his senior year and averaged 16 points a game to lead both the Spartans and the Middlesex League. But baseball and, more specifically, hurling the round, seamed the sphere is where French succeeded most.

The left-handed flame-thrower dominated during his junior and senior season on the mound. In a start against Concord his junior year, French took a no-hitter in to the sixth inning and ended up tossing a complete, four-hit, 17 strikeout gem. He followed that up with starts of 10 strikeouts, 18 strikeouts, 13 strikeouts, 12 strikeouts and then struck out 20 batters in an American Legion game against Natick later that summer.

During French's final season, the senior compiled a 0.68 ERA with 130 strikeouts in 73 innings pitched - including a 23 strikeout, 2 hit masterpiece against Wakefield that will most likely never be matched in SHS hardball history.

French was also the recipient of the SHS Blanket Award, bestowed on the senior with the highest level of athletic achievement while at Stoneham High. That summer the southpaw also took part in the prestigious United States Hearst All Star Team, an honor that allowed him to pitch at both Fenway Park and Yankee Stadium.

French signed a contract with the Minnesota Twins, played minor league baseball with future Hall of Famer Rod Carew and earned an invite to Major League spring training. Knee surgery and subsequent arm problems derailed French's baseball career before he made it to the Majors. French moved back to Stoneham, took over his father's printing business, and still proudly lives on Franklin Street where he and his wife Linda raised three children - John, Melanie and Dawn.