

John "Steamboat" Lawrence Knight

1943 - Football, Hockey & Baseball



John "Steamboat" Lawrence Knight spent his years at Stoneham High School on the gridiron, the ice, and the ball field. Making his debut as a sophomore on the SHS varsity football team, he played a total of three minutes at tackle, broke his wrist, and was out for the remainder of the season. As a junior, he was a starting left tackle. Headlined as one of the most brilliant victories of SHS football, the final game Thanksgiving Day of the 1941 season against Reading proved to be a sweet one. Although the overwhelming odds were predicted to be 33-0 Reading, underdog Stoneham defeated Reading 6-0. Knight's blocking proved to be the season's best. As co-captain his senior year, Knight, although hurt, continued to improve his aggressive football skills to lead Stoneham to a winning record. Again, playing against Reading at the Thanksgiving Day game, Knight displayed his finesse, tenacity, and competitiveness. According to the Independent, "John Knight, right tackle, played a sensational defensive game as Reading runners gained no ground through him. He also did a great job of kicking, running, and passing."

The 1942-43 hockey season was very successful for Stoneham. By mid-season, Stoneham was tied for first place in the GBI League with Knight scoring three goals in the first four games. Knight was one of two Stoneham players selected as All-Stars. The All-Star team played Catholic High School of Montreal at the Boston Arena winning 6-3. The Stoneham Independent reports, "Knight's brilliant defensive plays saved the team several times from being scored upon and his checking discouraged many opponents."

Upon completion of the hockey season, John Knight enlisted in the Army on March 4, 1943. After completing his tour of duty, Knight enrolled in South East Louisiana State University but later transferred to Boston University where he played football with Harry Agganis during what was considered one of BU's strongest football eras.

Knight was recruited by the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions but decided to teach and coach, first in Franklin, NH, then Lexington and Burlington. In 1969 Knight was hired as Physical Education and Athletic Director at Marblehead High School.

Knight passed away in 1979 after a courageous battle with cancer. He left a wife Barbara (who passed away in 2004) and a son Ron who followed in his footsteps by coaching basketball for a time in Marblehead. In 1980, Marblehead named a new Physical Education Center at Marblehead High School, currently Marblehead Veterans Middle School, after John Lawrence Knight.