

## *Harry "Mickey" Connolly*



They may know him around the country as a leading football coach and athletic director, but Norwalkers best remember **Harry "Mickey" Connolly** for his role as the spark plug of the 1938 Norwalk High football team that beat Jacksonville in Florida on New Year's Day, 1939.

A prolific athlete at Norwalk High, Connolly starred in basketball, baseball, hockey, and track as well as football. He was an All-State selection in both baseball and football and high school All-American in football in 1938.

At Boston College, "Mickey" played for Frank Leahy in 1941, scoring Boston College's first touchdown against Tennessee in the Sugar Bowl. In 1942, he helped BC to go into the Orange Bowl.

A powerful runner, an accurate passer, and a long punter, Connolly's triple-threat play earned him a spot with the Brooklyn Dodgers of the old All-American Football Conference after three years in the Navy, but a knee injury ended his playing days.

His coaching career started with Notre Dame High School in West Haven, and he quickly moved into college coaching. He coached at Aquinas Institute in Rochester for three years, was assistant coach at the Big Ten's Indiana University for three years, head coach at Xavier University in Cincinnati for three years, and then assistant coach at Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA. In 1966, Connolly was named athletic director of Southeastern Massachusetts University in North Dartmouth, MA, a post he continues to hold.

The Norwalk athlete has won numerous awards during his long career. In 1968 he was picked as the outstanding athlete to have played at Norwalk High, up to that time. He was named National Catholic College Football Coach of the Year in 1955, was inducted into the Fairfield County Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, and is a member of the Boston College Athletic Hall of Fame.

Married to the former Mary Boyce of Watertown, MA, for 39 years before her death three years ago, he has four children and seven grandchildren.