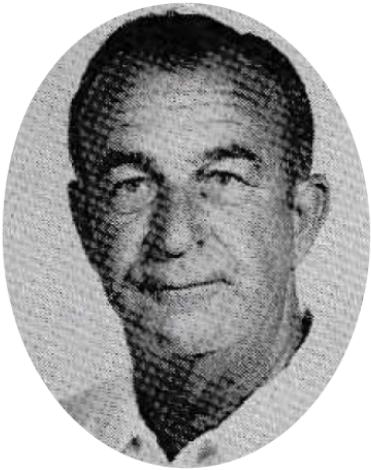


## *Jack Cronin*



**J**ack Cronin, rated by many as one of Norwalk's greatest athletes and an outstanding high school coach, starred and coached in virtually all major sports in his illustrious career.

He numbers among his greatest thrills the success of some of the boys he coached rather than his own athletic exploits.

Cronin's most renowned protege, of course, would be Calvin Murphy, who went from Norwalk High School to Niagara University to a brilliant career with the Houston Rockets in the NBA. Murphy credits Cronin with the basic coaching that launched him on his career.

Earlier, at New Bedford High, he coached Bob Watkins, who would become an All-American at Ohio State.

In 1971, when *The Hour* named the outstanding athletes of Norwalk High over the last century, Cronin was the only athlete named to two sports — baseball and basketball. Later, he was to coach Murphy, a fellow cager on the all-time basketball team, as well as four of the baseball players picked for the best ever team, including Bill Granata, Lee Johnson, Dennis Christopher, and Ralph DiMeglio.

After graduating from Norwalk High in 1936, Cronin spent one year at Peddie Prep, and had the distinction of having attended Fordham, Niagara University, Miami of Florida, and Arnold, where he received his BS degree.

In between, he spent four years in the Navy during World War II, where he had the pleasure of batting against Bob Feller, and then added his Masters at Bridgewater State Teachers and his Sixth Year at Fairfield University.

Cronin's brief professional stint was in the Northern Baseball League, as well as the Connecticut State Basketball League. Locally, he played with the KCs, Pastimes, Laurels, White Eagles, Spring Hill Tigers, and C.E. Hooper.

He began his coaching career at New Bedford High School, where he spent four years teaching and coaching all sports. He was physical education director and coach at Benjamin Franklin Junior High in Norwalk for a year and then spent 22 years in physical education and coaching of baseball and basketball at Norwalk High.

Now retired in Dunedin, FL, with his wife Ruth, Jack is active in golf, swimming, bridge, and 'the races.'