



Michael Elia
Class of 1979

Though small in stature at 5'6" and 145 lbs, Michael Elia has to go down as one of the most skilled and productive athletes to ever grace the Milford High School athletic fields. He was also one of the very few athletes to go on to play two major sports at the college level.

A three-year starter on the football team, Elia spent his first two seasons as a cornerback on the defensive side of the ball. As a sophomore, he intercepted five passes and helped Milford to an 8-2 record. He was named to the Central Mass. All Star Team at cornerback as a junior.

Mike got his chance to start on offense at halfback his senior year in 1978. He responded by gaining over 1,300 yards and scoring 20 touchdowns to become the top scorer in Central Massachusetts. His efforts helped the team to a 9-1 record, a Midland League Championship and a Division I Super Bowl berth. He was named a Midland League and Central Mass. All Star on offense and was chosen to play in the North-South Shriners Game.

Baseball was another stage on which Elia shined. He was an outstanding centerfielder who could track down a long fly ball with the best of them. He also hit .300 as a junior and followed that up with a .330 average his senior year. A terror on the base paths, he earned Midland League All Star status in both years.

Upon graduation, Mike enrolled at Trinity College and continued his exploits in both sports. He worked his way up from fifth string tailback to average over 300 yards each year and finished his career with 23 touchdowns. The football team won the New England Small College Championship with a 7-1 record during his sophomore year. Mike hit .330 his junior and senior years and played on an ECAC Championship team his senior year. Mike was also a major contributor on both the Milford Legion Baseball Team and the Milford Town Team.

Mike and his wife Lynne, who reside in Erie, Pennsylvania, have four daughters- Kristen, Lauren, Katie-Grace and Anne.



Joseph E. Murray
Class of 1936

Joseph E. Murray has a telling quotation from famed basketball coach John Wooden on his desk- "The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team." That tenet has been a guiding force in Murray's life and career, from his days on the football and baseball fields of Milford High School to his Nobel Prize winning career in organ and tissue transplants.

Joe played football and baseball for legendary coaches Ted Steeves and Fitter Cahill. A tackle on both offense and defense on the gridiron, he wasn't afraid to mix it up. However, in the days of leather helmets, a concussion ended his career early.

As a first baseman on the baseball diamond, Murray was described as "a smooth fielder with a good bat, an all-around athlete." As a captain of the team, he hit .412 during his senior year and was a .375 career hitter during his Milford Legion days.

Graduating as the top student-athlete and number two in the Class of 1936, Murray attended Holy Cross and graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1943. He served as a surgeon in the Army for three years at Valley Forge Hospital where he first confronted some of the challenges of performing transplants. After the war, Dr. Murray joined the exploratory renal transplant program at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. His work there led to breakthroughs in the field of kidney transplants and eventually to the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1990.

In the lobby of Brigham and Women's Hospital is a quote Dr. Murray likes to emphasize: "Service to society is the rent we pay for living on this planet." Joe Murray's service to mankind is unmatched by any Milford High School graduate.

Although he has made his home in Wellesley for the past 55 years, Dr. Murray fondly recalls his parents and his Milford roots. "Milford was one big melting pot with a wonderful ethnic mix. It was a great sports town and a wonderful place to grow up." Dr. Murray and his wife Virginia are the proud parents of six children and seventeen grandchildren.