



Benedetto Tomaso **Class of 1928**

Benedetto “Bennie” Tomaso played shortstop for the Milford High School baseball teams of 1927 and 1928. This period of time coincided with the recent arrival of legendary Hall of Fame Coach Albert “Hop” Riopel on the MHS campus. Bennie’s 1928 senior class would be the first class to have been under Coach Riopel’s tutelage for all four years, and the fruits of his labor began to take shape.

The 1926 and 1927 teams sowed the seeds for the great teams that would follow. The 1926 team won Milford’s first Midland League Championship since 1915. Although the 1927 team ended the season with a mediocre .500 winning percentage, many of the players- Ben Tomaso, Frank Merrilees, Ralph Shaw and “Pep” Morcone to name a few- would gain the needed experience to carry the team the following season.

During his senior year in 1928, Bennie held down the shortstop position, making only one throwing error the whole season, Ben also had a super season at the plate with a .487 batting average. Playing against towns such as Natick, Framingham, and Marlboro with twice the population, Milford compiled a 17 - 4 record, defeated Hudson for the Midland League Championship and was considered one of the best teams in Massachusetts. Thus began the dynasty of Milford High School baseball champions that was to follow.

Bennie also put his talents to use on the gridiron. At 5-foot-3 and 120 pounds, he was also a varsity football player his senior year, scoring a touchdown against Clinton and playing fearlessly on defense against a powerful Framingham team.



Alfred B. Cook **Class of 1934**

Alfred B. “Cookie” Cook was one of the most talented athletes to ever play baseball for Milford High School and the Powers Post # 59 Junior Legion Baseball teams. A slick fielding second baseman, he could also handle the bat, and had a knack for coming up with timely hits.

At Milford High School, Cookie played three years of varsity ball, and was a fixture at second base for his junior and senior years. The energy that he brought to the field, in addition to his leadership, impressed his peers both on and off the field. He was elected captain of the baseball team and Class President in his senior year. As the 1934 edition of the Oak, Lily and Ivy yearbook stated “Are we proud of our president! He has every quality that a leader should have.... He may yet be President of these United States.”

As a 15 year-old newcomer to the eventual Junior Legion State Champion Powers Post team in 1932, he could be counted on as a solid contributor at his position when called upon. He became the starting second baseman in 1933, and captained the squad in 1934.

Cookie continued his success on the diamond at Worcester Academy in 1935 and 1936, again being elected as a captain by his peers. He also showed his athleticism by playing on the varsity football team there. He also played semi-pro ball in the summer of 1937 in Littleton, NH, before moving on to captain the Brown University team in 1938.

Cookie was never able to fulfill his potential as a leader that his classmates envisioned for him, as he passed away at the age of 23. The Milford Daily News honored his memory by presenting an annual trophy in his name to the winner of the Town League Basketball Championship, of which he was one of the original members.