



Christopher C. "Pep" Morcone Class of 1930

Christopher C. "Pep" Morcone was one of the best athletes at Milford High School in the late 1920's, excelling in football, basketball, and baseball. During the 1928 and 1929 seasons, he demonstrated his skills as a hard-running halfback and receiver on the football field, captaining the 1929 squad to a record of 8-2 and the Midland League Championship. A three-year starter on the baseball diamond, Pep started out as a slick-fielding first baseman and, by his senior year, became a hard-hitting catcher whom Coach Hop Riopel referred to as his "main cog" on the team.

Pep was chosen to play first base and captain the first Milford Junior Legion Baseball team in 1929. Upon graduation from MHS, he would then attend New Hampton Prep, where he again was a three sport star, before earning a scholarship to play both football and baseball at Dean Academy. In 1933, he played football and baseball, again on scholarship, at Simpson College.

After his brief stay in college, Pep stayed actively involved in athletics, playing semi-pro football and baseball, umpiring and coaching. Although he never had any formal coaching training, Pep played for some great coaches and extracted the best from each of them. Pep started on the path to "Milford Baseball Legend" in 1949 when he took over the Junior Legion Post 59 Baseball Team. His 1952 and 1953 teams put Milford on the national baseball map, as he guided those teams to back to back National Finals. In addition to that achievement, over 21 seasons he led the team to a record of 286-98, 16 Zone Championships, four State Championships and three Northeast Regional titles.

Pep would serve the town of Milford in many other capacities over the years. For that reason and for his success as a coach, he is memorialized with a plaque at Fino Field which reads "He led by example.... he had an uncanny ability to motivate young men... he instilled in his players a great sense of pride... he developed and nurtured the fine tradition which is Milford Legion Baseball."



Ernest A. Richards, Sr. Class of 1933

By all accounts, Ernest A. Richards, Sr. was a dominant player on the football gridiron for Milford High School. During the 1931 and 1932 seasons, he starred on Milford teams that posted back-to-back one loss seasons playing against the state's powerhouse teams.

When the Scarlet and White wanted to run the ball, they did so behind Richards. In both 1931 and 1932, Richards was named the best offensive lineman in the area by opposing high school football coaches. Upon graduation in 1933, Ernie was the first player under legendary Hall of Fame Coach Hop Riopel to be offered a full scholarship to play football at Bucknell. Unfortunately, due to the Depression, he turned down the scholarship offer to work and help support his family.

After his standout career at Milford High, Ernie was able to continue playing football for the next decade for the semi-pro Hopkinton Stone Throwers. He had a positive influence on many young boys during the 1940's and 50's at the Milford Boys Club, coaching football and baseball, and was one of the first coaches in the Milford Little League, coaching the Eagles in 1952.