



Vincent Dagnese **Class of 1943**

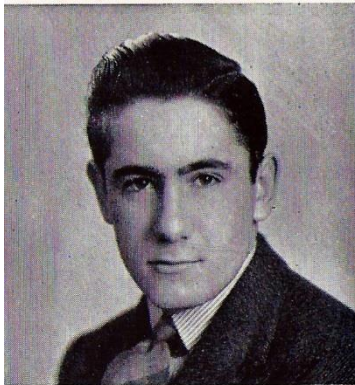
Vincent Dagnese was considered one of the most talented all-around athletes to have graduated from Milford High School. He excelled in both basketball and baseball, a three-year starter in basketball and a four-year starter in baseball, and was voted captain of both teams his senior year. He was voted the best athlete in his class as a senior.

Vinny was a sparkplug on the basketball court. An adept ball handler, he also was tenacious on defense. A complete player, he averaged 20 points per game for his career.

Using a turn-around jump shot as opposed to the traditional two-hand set, he was the high scorer in nine of the team's eleven games during his senior year. He led the 1943 squad to the Bay State League Championship and an appearance in the "Tech Tourney" at the Boston Garden.

On the baseball diamond, Vin broke into the line-up as a freshmen third baseman. During his senior year in 1943, he also was utilized as a pitcher and was the team's leading hitter. His 6-0 record on the mound included a no-hitter against Uxbridge in which he scored the only run of the game. Milford defeated a vaunted Natick nine by a score of 8-2, led by Vinny's 15 strikeout, 1 hit performance on the mound. Two days later, the "Steevedores" under Coach Ted Steeves defeated Framingham, with Vin again striking out 15 and allowing only 3 hits.

Three days after graduation, Vinny was drafted into the Army and served his country during WWII in the European Theatre at Monte Casino and Anzio Beach, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. Shortly after returning to the States, he received a medical discharge and was hired to coach the MHS basketball team in 1945. He led the team to three successful seasons before pursuing other interests.



John E. Espanet **Class of 1941**

John E. Espanet was a three-sport athlete at Milford High, earning letters in football, basketball and baseball from 1938-41. Although written accounts of athletic events during this time frame are sparse, anecdotes from "old-timers" all agree that John was one of the top athletes of his generation.

Team statistics printed in the Milford Daily News towards the end of the 1940 season, his junior year, showed that "Sliver" was third on the team with a "robust .371 batting average" and was tied for the team lead with 11 RBI's. A later article that same season showed Espanet going 4 for 5 at the plate as the "Steevedores" earned their "most thrilling victory of the season", 5-3 against

Needham to earn a berth in the state tournament.

The 1941 *Oak, Lily and Ivy* yearbook, in a recap of the baseball season had the following entry:

SHORT STOP: John Espanet, a senior and veteran, played third last year but was moved to short to steady the infield. He has done just that and looks better in every game. Possessed of a very accurate arm, he also has that very rare ability at the plate to come through in the clutch.

On the football side, "the Notre Dame system which Coach Charlie Brucato installed for the first time this season....snapped into groove.... and the result was an impressive 12-6 victory over Marlboro before a colorful crowd of 3,000 Columbus Day fans. Young Johnny Espanet blossomed out as a hip-swinging shifty back...." John would continue his exploits on the gridiron after graduation, leading the semi-pro "Crown Crusaders" to multiple winning seasons against the best competition in Eastern Massachusetts.

Sliver Espanet continued to give back to the community he loved as a coach of many Milford Little League teams throughout the 1960's.