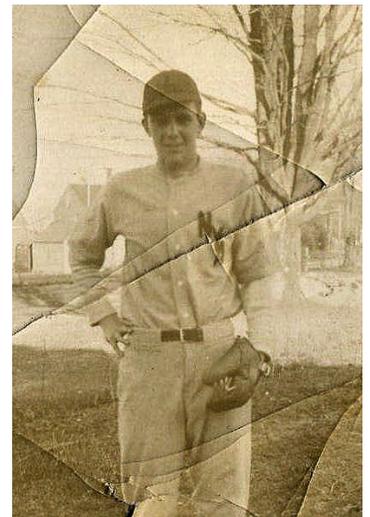


Lester Roy Wile '39



Lester R. Wile, a member of the North Yarmouth Academy class of 1939, was a member of the NYA basketball team, baseball team, swim team and tennis team. Lester was born in Marlboro, Massachusetts but moved to Yarmouth in sixth grade where he attended the Yarmouth public school. In tenth grade, Lester began his career at NYA, deciding to take college preparatory classes on the recommendation of Headmaster Stanley W. Hyde. Lester did not think he would be going to college, but Mr. Hyde convinced him that graduating from NYA would give him an advantage. After NYA, Lester served in the Army with the 339th Harbor Craft Company, stationed in England and Antwerp. He was scheduled to go to the Pacific, but the war ended before he was deployed. After more than four and half years in the service, Lester returned home to Yarmouth to work with a local contractor. In 1984, he succumbed to liver cancer, but his memory lives on through his service and athleticism at NYA.

Lester was a pitcher on the 1938 Triple C Championship team with Edgar F. White. Out scoring their opponents 69 to 35, the 1938 team won every home game, and finished the season with a record of 7-2. That NYA team was a member of the "A" division, and with Lester pitching, they beat a highly talented Standish team both away and at home to clinch the Triple C Championship. In the away game, Lester registered six strikeouts while leading the team with two hits. He pitched to catcher Orrin H. Phipps '39, whose calls of "pitch to me Wiley baby!" are still fresh in the mind of alumna Florence B. Wile Hodsdon '39. In Lester's senior year, the baseball team continued their success but fell short of winning the Triple C Championship. The 1939 yearbook says the team "showed a decided preference for its home diamond, winning every league game played in Yarmouth and losing every one it played away."



Lester was also a gifted basketball and tennis player and set records in the pool. The basketball team played in Cutter Gymnasium, the current NYA library and student lounge. In their free time, Lester and his friends were known to go bridge jumping off a certain bridge in Yarmouth, which may have helped his swimming. An excellent swimmer, Lester broke the backstroke record at the YMCA. Lester R. Wile is remembered as a fine student but a remarkable athlete, and his impressive athletic career at NYA is highlighted by the 1938 Triple C Championship Baseball team and his record setting swimming. North Yarmouth Academy is honored to induct Lester Wile into the inaugural class of the Edgar F. White '38 Athletic Hall of Fame.