

John S. and Pearl Malawka Memorial Athletic Scholarship



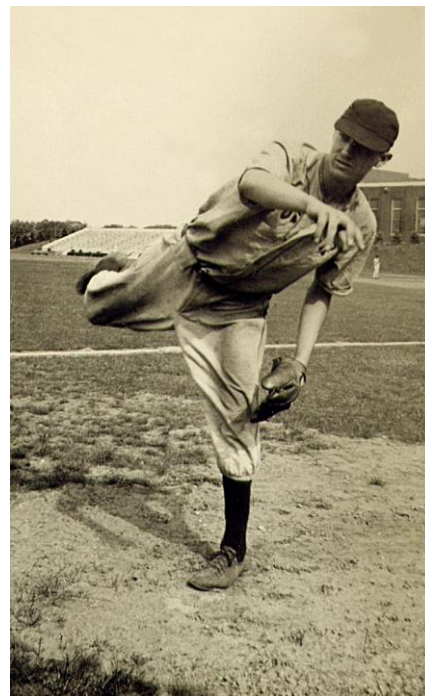
The John S. and Pearl Malawka Memorial Athletic Scholarship was first awarded in 2001 through Westfield High School and Westfield Vocational Technical High School. In late 2007, Audrey Sawicki established an endowment with Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of Westfield to annually award this scholarship to one scholar athlete from WHS and one from Westfield Vocational Technical High School.

John Malawka was a graduate of Westfield Trade School in 1938 where he was outstanding in baseball as a pitcher and hitter, and in basketball as a forward and point guard. He also graduated from Westfield High School, Class of 1940, where he continued to excel in sports.

As a pitcher, Johnny "Fireball" Malawka was clocked hurling 90

miles per hour! He was named to the Greater Springfield Inter-Scholastic All-Star Team in baseball, and he won the Duffy Clark Batting Award at Westfield High School. Johnny was also a member of the All Western Massachusetts Basketball Team.

During World War II, John was a Signalman Third Class in the U.S. Coast Guard and was cited for Exceptional Bravery in the rescue of a Russian seaman. At the end of the War, he returned to Westfield and was employed at Foster Machine Company. John also played semi-professional baseball for Foster Machine, All-City Baseball in Westfield, the Greater Springfield Baseball Team, Club 25, and the Holyoke Rosary Team. Additionally, he played semi-professional basketball with the Rosary All-Stars, the Holyoke Hurricanes, the Holyoke Highlands, the Holyoke Ward, Sacred Heart of Springfield, the New England Pros in Hartford, CT, and the Westfield Maroons.



Pearl (Broski) Malawka was a graduate of Westfield High School, Class of 1942. During World War II, she was employed as a Supply Clerk for the U.S. Army Quartermaster Depot located at the Eastern States Exposition Grounds. After the War, Pearl was employed as an Inventory Clerk at Foster Machine. Later, she also worked at Dietz Bakery. Pearl was very active for her church and was president of The Holy Family League of Charity that raised funds for Brightside. She was well known for her helpful visits to the elderly or sick in their homes, hospitals or nursing homes.

The John S. and Pearl Malawka Memorial Athletic Scholarship is a legacy which honors the athletic achievements, compassion and enduring love of this extraordinary couple.

Written by: Audrey Sawicki (sister of Pearl Malawka)
October 14, 2007