

2007 SAUGERTIES SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Emanuel "Red" Drescher



RED DRESCHER, 1948



WOW 68 YEARS PLAYING DARTBALL!!!

Red was born to Frederick and Minnie Drescher on July 20, 1925 in North Bergen, NJ. In 1937 his parents moved Red and his siblings, Stuart, Willie, Winifred and Lorraine, to Saugerties. Red attended Saugerties High School before enlisting in the United States Navy. On February 1, 1948, Red married his wife Katherine at the St. Paul's Lutheran West Camp Church. They were blessed with two sons David and Kevin. Red has been further blessed with three grandchildren.

Red began his involvement in Saugerties sports as a pitcher, playing baseball for the Malden teams. Red was also a fine pitcher for the West Camp softball team in the Post-War softball league. He was known as a fierce competitor until an injury forced his retirement in 1958 or 1959. After which he served as an assistant coach for the Grand Union Girls softball team for two seasons.

In 1937, at the age of 13, Red began playing dartball with the St. Paul's Lutheran West Camp Church team. His dedication and longevity was exhibited by playing with this team until it disbanded in the late 1970's. After which he continued playing dartball with the Katsbaan Apaches and Sawyer Motors teams until 2005. Even more astounding he never missed a game for any reason other than military service.

Red's excellence was measured by his consistent standing among the High Batting Average category. For 68 years he ranked among the top Batting averages in a 27-team league that consisted of 270-300 players. In 1956, Red enjoyed a year that he considers to be his sports career highlight. In this magical year his West Camp team won

the Saugerties Dartball League, The Newburgh IBM Club Tournament and The Poughkeepsie IBM Club Tournament. Red was awarded the High Average All-Star Trophy in the Newburgh and Poughkeepsie IBM Club Tournaments. In 1980-1981 Red was honored as the Saugerties Dartball League Man of the Year and he was inducted into its Hall of Fame.



When asked about his sports career, Red mentioned the magical year of 1956 as his career highlight. He said that he was inspired in sports by fellow Hall of Famers Joe Sinnott and Ken Flicker. Red stated, “Ken Flicker was the best all around player I have ever seen in my 68 years of playing dartball.”

“I’ve seen many fierce competitors on the Saugerties sports scene but none more than Red.”—Joe Sinnott. Competitiveness is one of many qualities one would use to describe a Hall of Famer. Some others are excellence, longevity, dedication and sacrifice. Honoree Emanuel “Red” Drescher exhibits all of these qualities.

Red’s military and community service records are as impressive as his dartball ledger. These endeavors demonstrate Red’s sacrifice and commitment to his country and community. Red enlisted in the United States Navy in October 1943. He completed his basic training in Geneva, NY. After which he served in the Philippines during World War II. During this time he engaged in four major battles. He engaged in combat in the battles of Mindanao, Luzon, The Leyete Gulf and Okinawa. He was honorably discharged in 1945 as a 3rd Class Motor Machinist. He also sacrificed and served closer to home. Red served the Saugerties community by volunteering with the Saugerties Ambulance Service from the 1960’s through 1983. He is a life member of the Katsbaan Fire Company. He is also a member of the Saugerties Exempt, American Legion, VFW and Masons Lodge. He has also served on the West Camp Church Council.

Congratulations to you Red as you take your rightful place along side those who have inspired you.