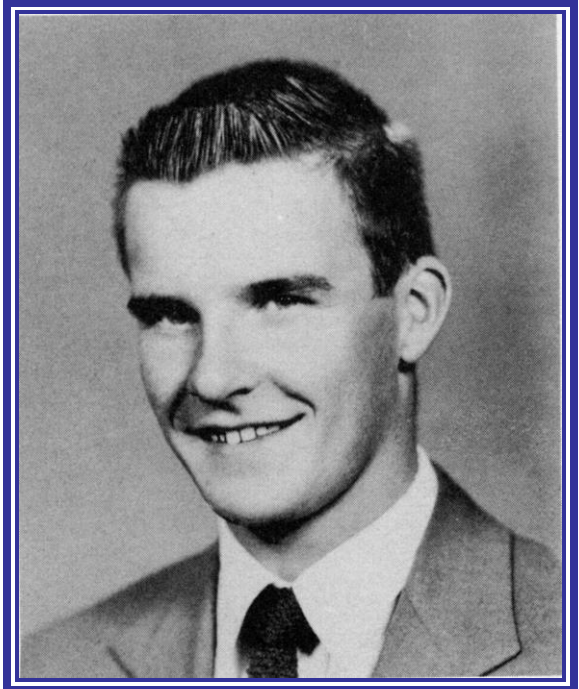


## CARL LEE RANNE

Lee, as he was called in his LHS days in the early 1950's, left behind memories of athletic excellence as well as strong leadership, a "citizen-athlete". Research confirmed that Lee's high school career embodied outstanding performance in three sports: track, basketball, and especially, baseball. Lee's youth predated Little League in Lunenburg, but, in the the summer of 1951, before he began his freshman year, he pitched a no-hit no-run game in a Junior Interstate Baseball League game against New Ipswich, N.H. The next year, while only a freshman, the following comment appeared in the Fitchburg Sentinel: *"One of the best-looking young schoolboy pitchers in the area is 14-year-old Lee Ranne a freshman right-hander at Lunenburg High School. The youngster, they tell us, has fine control, a good fast ball and a fair curve. Most of all, he's a marvelous competitor and is generally described as the best Lunenburg prospect in many years."* He is remembered as a "pinpoint control" pitcher, and for having pitched a no-hitter in his junior year. A Sentinel



write-up of another game that season states that Lunenburg defeated arch-rival Townsend in a 5-0 shutout, during which Lee pitched the whole game and added three hits, and drove in three runs. The Sentinel again referred to Lee Ranne in July of 1954, citing his win pitching for the Leominster American Legion team and mentioning that he had caught the eye of New York Yankee scouts.

Basketball was Lee's second sport, in a time when the games were played in the tiny gym in the brick building. It was very intense to experience, with the fans/students practically on the playing floor and seated in folding chairs on the stage. Lee dominated the court, playing varsity all four years. Lee was named a Wachusett League All Star in 1955, his senior year. He was the high scorer of several games reported in the Sentinel.

Until his junior year, Lee was a two sport athlete. Why? Because baseball and basketball were the only sports offered to boys at that time. But then Lunenburg offered track as a third option and Lee quickly took to the sport. His high school yearbook refers to Lee's running track, and his "leading the race" to the fire station (then one door down the street) when the siren called the volunteer firefighters to duty. In 1955, Lee was the top scorer in the Triangular Track competition held at Fort Devens, winning three of nine events: the high jump, broad jump, and 220 yard dash. At the North Central Massachusetts Track and Field championships at Crocker Field in June of 1955, Lee set a Worcester County schoolboy high jump record of 5'10.5". In that meet he also ran the anchor leg for LHS's first-place, half-mile relay team.

In addition to his memorable athletic accomplishments, Lee served as class president for his junior and senior years. His list of school activities is long and impressive.

In recognition for his many accomplishments in Lunenburg High School's sports history, we proudly honor Carl Lee Ranne with induction into the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame.