

F.J. "RED" KANE PARK

HOCKEY IS LIFE

Red Kane will be the first to tell you that "Francis" isn't a good name for a hockey player. Yet Francis Joseph "Red" Kane not only lived his boyhood dreams of becoming a professional hockey player, he became much more than that to the city of Arlington.

Before making an impact on Arlington, Kane spent his childhood growing up in Stratford, Ontario, with 11 other siblings. As a young boy, he wanted to do only one thing: play hockey.

Kane's hockey career began when he left home at 15 to play on the amateur hockey circuit. "It was during the Great Depression and you were lucky to get a job," Kane recalled.

After playing with the Falconbridge Falcons and Brantford Lions, Kane turned pro at age 20 when he signed with the Detroit Red Wings in 1943. After playing one season with the Red Wings he moved on to stints with the Indianapolis Capitals, Tulsa Oilers, St. Louis Flyers, Fort Worth Rangers, Los Angeles Monarchs, New Haven Eagles, Springfield Indians and Vancouver Canucks.

During Kane's nine years of professional hockey he played in 447 games as a defenseman and was known for his aggressive style. It was his hard-hitting play that gave Kane the dubious honor of being "the player who spent the most time in a penalty box during the season" with Indianapolis. As an aggressive player, Kane also acquired the nicknames of "Raisin", "Killer" and "Champion Bad Man".

Ever the avid athlete, Kane also played baseball in addition to hockey. He was recruited by the Kingston Colonials, a team in the Canadian-American League, and played first base for several seasons. Ironically, it was while playing baseball, not hockey, that Kane suffered most of his sports related injuries.

Upon retiring from professional sports in 1952, Kane and his first wife, Lorna, decided to settle down in

North Texas. They wanted to live in a small town with a population of around 10,000 and chose Arlington as their home. As a proud resident of not only Arlington but of the United States of America, Kane became an American citizen in 1958. He also bought a laundry business and eventually expanded it into four dry cleaning stores located throughout the city.

As a local businessman, Kane got involved with the Arlington Junior Chamber (Jaycees), a community leadership group. His involvement with the Jaycees eventually led to his appointment on the Parks and Recreation Board in 1963. As a member of the board Kane helped guide the Parks and Recreation Department through a time of explosive growth. During Kane's tenure, which included service as the Parks and Recreation Board chairman from 1976-1981, the city built numerous park and recreation facilities.

F.J. "Red" Kane Park was dedicated in 1995 to honor a true sportsman who used his aggressive and can-do style to impact Arlington and make it a better place. The 23-acre park features a basketball court, two playgrounds, a duck pond and open space.

References:
Photos courtesy of Red Kane family collection



'Red' Kane and his second wife, Marilyn Havenhill Kane at the park entrance during the park dedication in 1995.



Red Kane, Indianapolis Capitals, 1943



Red Kane, Detroit Red Wings, 1943

FORT WORTH RANGERS—1948-49



Front Row, left to right: George Chandler (Trainer), 2. Joe Innarelli, 9. Sam Kennedy, 10. Eric Unger, 1. Harry Jessiman, 5. Vic Lofendahl, 3. Larry Travis, Tony Savage (Coach). Back Row, left to right: 16. Sam Cosonato, 7. Russ Kopak, 12. Roy Glover, 4. Red Kane, 15. Billy Cupolo, 14. Freddie Weaver, 11. Bill Warwick.

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