Brother was a basketball player, to play for the Knights. Cassella was literally recruited to get him through with eight more scores and three more extra points. They knew he deserved the scene as a junior with eight extra point conversions. They expected it at the start of his senior season, and he didn't shrink from the challenge, and he carried that momentum into his high school career. He was a leading scorer for Wilcox Tech's basketball team as a freshman, and that spilled into his sophomore year at Southington. With one year of varsity experience at Wilcox, coaches took a chance on Cassella as a sophomore where he quarterbacked the attack. "Nardi and [Dick] Lorenzo were the scorers," he said with a laugh. "I used to joke with them that I'd give them the ball, and I would never see it again—especially Lorenzo. He was an excellent scorer. Walt [Lozoski] wanted me to control the game, and that's what I tried to do." He wasn't asked to be a scorer, but that wasn't a problem. Cassella became the playmaker on both sides of the court. "Coach Lozoski always put him on the other team's high scorer, and he would play such a tough defense," said Nardi. "Corky was a great defensive player and an assist man. He wasn't a great scorer, but anytime there was somebody on the other team that could score, Coach would put him on that guy." Cassella's basketball teams rallied for two league titles. As a three-year infielder, his baseball teams rallied for a trio of conference trophies and a postseason run that ended with a second place finish in the state tournament. But it was football where Cassella really captured the spotlight. He dominated both sides of the ball, helped lead the Knights to a state title as a junior, and carried a rebuilding team to a 5-2 record as a senior. In the waning minutes of their first contest his senior year, Southington was clinging to a six-point lead over Woodrow Wilson when Cassella grabbed the ball and held it. "On the first play of the game Woodrow Wilson went and scored, so they were ahead of us from the first play of the game. After that, we settled down and beat them in a close game," said Orsene. "At the end, Corky was running the clock out because there was so little time. He got the snap, and he was running back and forth all over the field trying to kill the clock." He did, and the Knights won. When it came to effort, nobody gave more than Cassella. That's why members of the Southington Sports Hall of Fame selection committee chose Cassella for the Class of 2011. On Wednesday, Nov. 9, he will be inducted into the Southington Sports Hall of Fame at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville. "It's quite an honor," he said. "I wanted to live up to our tradition that's what the people in Southington expected from us, I think. They wanted a winning team, and that was it."