and as a sports writer for Knights in his high school paper. "Far as I'm concerned," said Jim Senich, a sports writer for The Southington Observer. After graduation he found the radio, and his voice took on a different sound as they journeyed across the football field. Galiette tried his hand at TV and explored new ways to cover high school and college athletics. If there was a way to trump amateur sports, Dick Galiette found it and excelled. Few journalists have enjoyed more notice or acclaim at the local, state, and national press, but even fewer have stretched as far beyond the world of media.

Galiette moved seamlessly from the local fields to Yale and ESPN, where he brought a dignity to his coverage that few others in the sports media or broadcasters, when they think of Connecticut and the football program, do not many people around who, in the way he acted. There are too many to mention, but they all wore the uniform and gave it their all."

"Later on, Tony Terzi did the same thing," said former Blue Knight baseball coach John Fontana. "I would actually call him a pioneer." Senich. "Later on, Tony Terzi did a lot of high school games, but Dick was the first one to do it. He didn't just pay lip service to high school sports. He would actually broadcast them."

"He told me that a lot of guys doing games today get real excited early in the game about one play," said Senich. "They don't realize that the excitement should build. Otherwise, at the end when you get excited about a big play, it won't mean that much. I always thought about that when I was doing games on the radio through the years." Galiette treated each story with the same passion and energy. His efforts earned him a position with ESPN as an early anchor for "SportsCenter" broadcasts. Galiette never seemed to let the celebrity go to his head. He continued to stay involved with local sports organizations, serving whatever role was needed. In fact, Galiette continued to provide columns to the local media with a regular column in The Southington Observer that continued until shortly before his death in 2005.

"He always came back to town," said former Blue Knight baseball coach John Fontana. "When there were banquets in town, they would want him to emcee. He would shoot out of the 6 o'clock broadcast, host the event, and go back for the 11 pm show. He never said no, whether it was little league or high school." Galiette never seemed to be afraid to step out of his comfort zone. In 1999, he accepted the Executive Director position with the National High School Coaches Association. "Back then, the national association was nothing like it is now. If there was a clinic or a convention that they put on, there would be about 1800 people fighting to get in. Now, you're lucky if you get a few hundred," said Fontana, who also serves as Executive Director of the CT High School Coaches Association. "He needed to run multiple things during the week. He'd have to organize meetings, clinics, and press conferences. The organization had nobody who could stand behind the podium to introduce people like Lou Holtz. He had that poise behind the microphone, and it worked really well." His efforts earned him the wide-spread respect of national coaches. In 2005, Galiette became the first media member to be inducted into the CT High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In 2008, he received the Schenkel Award posthumously from the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame. This fall, Galiette will become the first media member to be inducted into Southington's Sports Hall of Fame. Dick Galiette, at left with former Yale Coach Carm Cozza, broadcasted the Yale Bulldogs over 33 football seasons.

He was a wonderful guy. He didn't walk around with his chest pumped out, saying, 'I'm Dick Galiette.' He had every reason to be proud of what he did because he had some great years at Channel 8 or covering Yale, but there was no pretense.

"The amount of time he put in to do a Yale football radio broadcast is pretty amazing," Former Yale coach Jack Siedlecki said when Galiette passed away in 2005. "You would have thought he was doing a network production every week. He knew our depth chart, he knew our statistics."

"I think the best way to describe him is he was a really solid human being.

"There are too many to mention, but they all wrote the uniform and gave it their all."

"Steve Conn, Yale's assistant athletic director and sports public relations director said that Galiette brought a dignity to his coverage and a sense of class to the program. His legacy of excellence raised the bar for Ivy League athletics."

"To me, Dick was the consummate professional, the guy who was always dressed to a T," Conn told reporters in 2005. "He wore a shirt and tie to games no matter the weather conditions. He felt that was the way he should represent the radio station and the football program and he never deviated from that in the way he acted. There are not many people around who, when they think of Connecticut sports media or broadcasters, wouldn't think of Dick Galiette." In fact, few broadcasters enjoyed such a celebrated career. Galiette moved seamlessly between media outlets, shifting his roles from radio announcer to sports columnist and sports director at Channel 8 as he was changing hats. On the radio, he championed the college athlete. On the television, he took new ground with his coverage of high school sports. "He was a trail blazer," said Senich. "Later on, Tony Terzi did a lot of high school games, but Dick was the first one to do it. He didn't just pay lip service to high school sports. He would actually go out to the games. He would do video interviews at the end of each game. He'd do a big buildup to a big game. To me, he was a pioneer."

"Senich credits Galiette as a mentor in his own career. Senich followed in Galiette's footsteps in 1988 with a shift from newspaper to the radio—a career that has spanned over three decades.

"He told me that a lot of guys doing games today get real excited early in the game about one play," said Senich. "They don't realize that the excitement should build. Otherwise, at the end when you get excited about a big play, it won't mean that much. I always thought about that when I was doing games on the radio through the years." Galiette treated each story with the same passion and energy. His efforts earned him a position with ESPN as an early anchor for "SportsCenter" broadcasts. Galiette never seemed to let the celebrity go to his head. He continued to stay involved with local sports organizations, serving whatever role was needed. In fact, Galiette continued to provide columns to the local media with a regular column in The Southington Observer that continued until shortly before his death in 2005.

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