



VIRGINIA FINNAGAN-SNOWDEN HHS/BMHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024



Virginia Finnagan-Snowden and her brother, Waller, were the Jaqueline and Jackie Robinson of Billerica sports. Waller was inducted into the Howe/BMHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002, and now his sister joins him. Virginia was the first African American female basketball player in Billerica history.

Virginia graduated from Howe High School, Class of 1941, having played for Coach Rose O'Neil and leading the girls team to the All-Suburban championship game. In addition, Virginia was named a Lowell Sun All-Star as part of the Suburban Team of 1940. She played field hockey for Coach O'Neil as well.

Virginia was also instrumental in starting the school's cheerleading squad. Her mother, Bertha Mae, helped make the first-ever cheerleading uniforms worn by Billerica girls. But Virginia was far from just a pioneering athlete in town, having been





extremely active throughout the Billerica community. She also served as a Den Mother for her son's Boys Scout troop.

Virginia worked in the electronics field at Raytheon, Sylvania, and Control Data. She married Donald Snowden and they raised two children, Donald Snowden Jr. and Jeanne B. Wilson, forming a talented and forerunning family for all Billericans to respect and appreciate.

