John B. Schuerholz

Star athlete in '30s John B. Schuerholz Sr., a star athlete in Baltimore in the 1930s whose family name is known in area amateur sports, died Friday of cancer at Stella Maris Hospice in Cockeysville. He was 77.   
  
"People have told me he was one of [the] best athletes of his day in the city of Baltimore,'' said one of his sons John B. Schuerholz Jr., executive vice president and general manager of the Atlanta Braves.   
  
Mr. Schuerholz was known for his expert ball handling and quickness on the court as a basketball player for the Arundel Boat Club in the old Baltimore Basketball League, his son said. "My dad and his brothers all played on the team together, coached by my grandfather, William.''   
  
At age 15, Mr. Schuerholz started playing semiprofessional baseball for the Buck Glass Co. in Locust Point. From 1938 to 1940, he played in the professional minor leagues in Ayden and Wilson, N.C., as a second baseman and shortstop -- a career that ended after he broke a leg sliding into second base.   
  
He subsequently took a position in the payroll department at Bethlehem Steel in Sparrows Point, where he worked for 43 years.   
  
"He had just gotten married and had a baby on the way and felt it was more important to establish himself in the workplace,'' said his son, who lives in Atlanta.   
  
Mr. Schuerholz remained active in amateur sports, coaching sandlot teams and attending his sons' games.   
  
In addition to his son, he is survived by his wife of 54 years, the former Maryne "Rinny'' Wyatt of Parkville; two other sons, Jerry Schuerholz of Perry Hall and Larry Schuerholz of Abingdon; a sister, Mary Horton of Overlea; two brothers, Donald Schuerholz of Ellicott City and Wilson Schuerholz of Timonium; and eight grandchildren.   
  
Services were to be held at 10 a.m. today at the Ruck Towson funeral home, 1050 York Road.

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