It can be said that Howard Gura believes the only colors that matter are orange and black. As a 1966 graduate of Shelton High School, he excelled as a 3 sport athlete, serving as captain of both the baseball and football teams. Even though he was the leading scorer in both football and basketball, baseball proved to be his most successful undertaking. He was voted to the All-Housatonic League Team in baseball 3 times: 1964, ‘65, and ‘66. Howard was a 4 year starter and compiled 83 hits, including 28 in an 18 game season in 1966. As a senior, with a lack of pitchers on the team, Howard moved his success to the mound. He responded with a 6-2 record, a majority of the team’s 10 wins that year. He finished his high school career with 8 HRs and .402 overall average. Howard played collegiately at UConn under Coach Larry Panciera and distinguished himself as a leadoff batter and center-fielder until graduating in 1971.

Howard’s entire 37 year professional career was as an educator and administrator with the Shelton Public Schools. He began coaching as an assistant with his high school baseball coach, and SCDC Hall of Famer, Joe Benanto. Shelton’s prowess as a baseball program was difficult to match, winning 4 state titles in the 1970s : ‘72, ‘73, ‘74 and ‘76. Howard was named head coach of the Shelton girls’ basketball program in 1979. He had tremendous success, winning 328 games and the 1985 state title. He was also an assistant football coach at the school, celebrating a title in 1988. Being a coach of a state championship team in all three sports he participated in, is a feat he still proudly celebrates.

Last Fall, Howard was inducted into the CT High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. In 2017, he was selected as a member of the inaugural class of Shelton High School’s Hall of Fame.

Howard and his wife, Judy, have two children: Holly Betz and Scott Gura (a teacher and current head baseball coach in Shelton) and 4 grandchildren: Kaylee, Mia, Jenna and Lacey Gura.