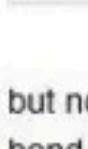




New ballgame for father, son

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By Thor Jourgensen / The Daily Item | 0 comments



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LYNN — Michael Mahoney's father died when Mahoney was 15 years old,

but not before father and son forged a close bond very different — but just as strong — as the one that defines Mahoney's relationship with his son, Paul.

A personal injury lawyer for 20 years who has won verdicts in excess of \$1 million for clients, Michael Mahoney moved his office and staff of six this week from Blossom Street extension to 152 The Lynnway with its view of Seaport Marina.

"I'm at a stage in my career where I wanted to own something and I love the ocean," he said.

A 23-year-old University of Chicago graduate, Paul Mahoney's earliest baseball memories are rooted in his former Lynn backyard, where his father — despite a disabling neck injury — played catch with him, using a "bazooka gun" to lob baseballs in his son's direction.

He attended his first major league baseball game at 7, and the Mahoneys branched out from Boston to attend games at ballparks across the country. They tallied up trips to 30 ballparks and attended five World Series.

"It was cool — just something the two of us could do," Michael Mahoney recalled.

Paul Mahoney admits his father's fondness for top-notch hotels often made room service seem like a more exciting attraction than baseball. During their cross-country excursions, he also listened as his father talked about overcoming youthful mistakes and conquering adversity.

"I got to know my dad a lot better," he said.

During their baseball excursions, Mahoney father and son met operations managers for the Yankees and repeated trips to see the New York team play sprinkled the seeds for a relationship that landed Paul Mahoney a job with the Yankees in 2014.

Working as a stadium operations specialist, Mahoney got to know Yankee Stadium's nooks and crannies and the ins and outs of major league baseball. He used that experience to help land a job with State Street Global Advisers in Boston.

On Monday, he started working in the finance world.

"It's a great opportunity," Mahoney said.

Paul Mahoney is named for his grandfather, "an action guy" in Michael Mahoney's words, who

owned a Revere nightclub and loved to take young Michael on drives through Somerville and

Boston while he told stories and stopped to see friends.

"I grew up with a lot of colorful characters and I was a little bit of a wild kid: It was less about school and more about hanging out with the guys," Mahoney said.

Mahoney's wild side sent him bouncing from high school to high school. Living in East Boston, he attended Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, at his father's suggestion, to learn plumbing. He didn't take an interest in the trade but he managed to change his behavior and start focusing on what he wanted to do with his life.

"I was a disc jockey at night which meant I had all this time in the day to go to school," he said. Mahoney earned a GED diploma and set his sights on college and then a dive into the ocean changed his life. At 22, he broke his neck. Dependent on a wheelchair, he had to relearn tasks like pulling on his pants and getting into a car.

"I spent six months in the hospital. I had a little hope and I just tried to do something every day for myself. Eventually, I had a track record of successes," he said.