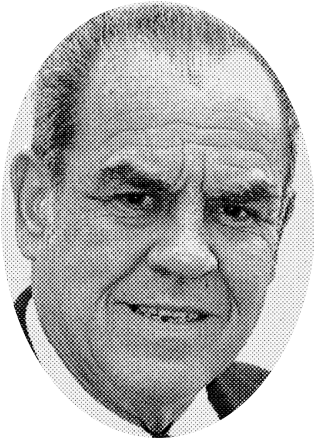


## *Joe Cusack*



**J**oe Cusack was one of Norwalk's top softball pitchers of the 1950s and '60s. Originally a catcher, he returned the ball so fast to his brother that his brother convinced him they should reverse roles. The result was the development of one of the best fast pitch hurlers of the period.

Over the years, starting in the '50s, Cusack pitched for many of the top softball teams of the area and played with all of the renowned softball players of the period, including the Maruccis, Cundaris, Buschbaums, Mimi Lawrence, Bob Fontaine, Jack DeRosa, Joe Melici, Roy Eckert, and many others.

He started his career with the Old Well Restaurant team, which won the city championship under Coach Eckert. With the Terrace Restaurant, under Coach Sal Canale, he played six years.

Cusack's most prolific period was with O'Brien's Press, from the late '50s until the mid '60s, where he helped the team win city championships in 1960 and 1962, playing under Coach Charlie Cundari. All of the Cundari brothers were on the team.

He finished his softball career with the Cottage Bar & Grill team.

Cusack participated in five championship teams during his career, and, in a remarkably effective period, pitched seven shutouts in a row against Georgetown. During his career he has a record of five no-hitters.

During his period of activity as a fast pitch standout, Cusack also played basketball with the Neighborhood Center and Meadow Street PAL, playing with Ed Luczkowski and Angelo Dominick under Coach Chick Buschbaum. In football, he played with the PAL as a defensive end under Coach Vinny D'Orso.

In later years, Cusack spent 15 years as an umpire in the Rowayton Little League, Darien Little League, and the American Little League.

Cusack was married to the late Pauline Marie Testa and has one son, Joe, Jr. He is still active as a shipper for MBI and security for OWL Security.

He resides at 10 Arch Street.