

Charles Cundari



Charles Cundari is a member of the locally famous sports family which made a name for itself as an outstanding softball contingent. Playing with his brothers Dom, who was honored two years ago by the Old Timers, Jimmy, Lou, and the late Rocky, with his father Rocco on the bench, the Cundaris elevated the O'Brien Press softball team to five city championships and second place finishes in the 1950s and '60s.

Cundari started his career with the Washington Village Boys Club baseball team, under Coach Rudy Costa in 1947–'49 and, after breaking his leg in a game against the Norwalk Hilltops in 1949, was advised that he would not be able to play competitive sports again.

He not only played again, but, joining his family, organized O'Brien Press in 1956. He coached the team and played eight years at shortstop, helping to win city titles in 1956, '57, and '58. From 1959 through 1963, Charlie coached and played shortstop as O'Brien won two more titles and placed second three times.

From 1964 through 1980, Cundari coached O'Brien Press in an independent schedule, playing some of the top softball teams of the area. He numbers among his memorable achievements two steals of home to win games by one run, as well as his participation in a no-hitter by Harry Fiedler when he made three over-the-head catches to help preserve the no-hitter.

Cundari was rated one of the finest defensive shortstops in the area. A switch hitter, he hit for power and he could also hit for average.