

Jim Matregrano



Jimmy Matregrano was regarded as one of the best all-around baseball players to call Norwalk home back in the 1940s and early '50s.

"Big Jim Matregrano," as he was known in local baseball circles, put fear in opposing players both when he was in the batter's box or on the mound. As a pitcher in the Norwalk Twilight League, he compiled a record of 85-7. At the plate, he never batted under .350.

In the summer of 1949, 'Big Jim' batted a robust .448 with seven doubles, six triples and five home runs to help the Pastime Athletic Club to a 40-7-2 record and the City League championship. In 1946, he hit .420 for the Connecticut Potato Chips and went 11-1 as a pitcher.

Matregrano, who patrolled the outfield when he didn't pitch, played for a number of local teams, including seven straight championship clubs from 1945-51 with Strawberry Hill AC, Sirois AA, YPHA, the Pastimes, Norwalk Tire, Connecticut Potato Chips and the Laurels. He also played professionally for a

brief time with the Class A Portchester Clippers in the old Colonial League.

Matregrano had a number of four-hit games in his career. Like the time he had four hits for the Pastimes against the Colonial League All-Stars. He collected another four hits for the Norwalk All-Stars against the Katonah (N.Y.) Indians. And he went 4-for-4 and was the winning pitcher as YPHA beat the New Canaan Maroons.

Matregrano also played 12 years for the Colonials, a pre-World War II club. In the 1970s, he decided to revive and coach the "new" Colonials in the Thursday night Norwalk Recreation Softball League.

Vincent (Jim) Matregrano passed away on Aug. 16, 1980 at the age of 59. August 16, incidentally, was the same date another great hitter/pitcher named Babe Ruth passed away in 1948