

Americo Christopher



Americo Christopher, better known in his baseball playing days as "Rinky," had some great statistics as one of the leading batters in this area back in the 1930s.

He recorded his greatest season with the American Hat team in the Stamford Twilight League when he batted .696 in 16 games. In the same season he had 11 hits in a double header as he led the Laurels to victory.

Always a good hitter, Rinky played baseball for 16 years. His lone coaching job was with the Strawberry Hill AC team.

In a Norwalk City Twilight League championship game, while playing for the Laurels against the Pastimes, Rinky accounted for all 12 runs in the game. As he explains it: "Seven of these runs were scored by the Pastimes . . . Everyone makes an error now and then." It

was one of the few times that Rinky could not find the handle on the ball.

He was one of four baseball playing brothers. In one game Rinky and Phil played with the Laurels while Quinto and Dom played with Harlic Bag.

Rinky played with the Laurels, Pastimes, Hat Corporation, Norwalks, Old Well, American Hat, Strawberry Hill, Wanderers of Westport, Wilton, and the Katonah, NY club. He played in the Stamford and Bridgeport twi-loops as well as the Norwalk League.

While with the Norwalks at Amusement Park, he played against such top-notch traveling pro clubs as the House of David, Detroit Clowns, Bloomer Girls, Pennsylvania Red Caps, Brooklyn Royal Giants, and the Pittsburgh Crawfords.

Rinky, a native of Norwalk, lived here until about 10 years ago when he moved to Fairfield where he resides with his wife, Shirley, at 122 May Street. They have one son, Gary, of Fairfield, and one daughter, Jean Radabaugh of Yuma, AZ. They have five grandchildren.

He is a retired foreman in the construction business.