

## James "Junie" Creagh



**J**ames "Junie" Creagh was one of Norwalk's standout basketball players almost 50 years ago. Despite his size, Creagh was an outstanding guard and scorer who played with Norwalk High School, in the U.S. Army, and with local semi-pro teams.

Junie played baseball as well, as an infielder with a fine arm and a good eye at the plate.

He started his career in the late 1930s playing guard on the basketball team and pitching for the baseball team of Center Junior High School. During the same period he pitched for the Cranbury Panthers and played halfback on the grid team.

Creagh played three years as a guard on the Norwalk High School basketball team under Coach Eugene "Ike" Kern, and held down the third base slot for the baseball team for the same period. He was a steady infielder who came to play. A line drive type hitter, he hit for average.

While holding down his position with the high school basketball team, Junie played three years of basketball with the Junior Pros in the Norwalk YMCA where he earned the *Most Valuable Player* award in 1941. Among his teammates were Rudy Kuhlman and Danny Kaplan.

Graduating from Norwalk High in 1940, Junie entered the service with the 304<sup>th</sup> Ordnance where he played guard on the basketball team at Camp Davis in North Carolina. In 1945, shortly after the end of the war, Junie was in Pilsen Air Force Base in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, where he played outfield for the All-Stars.

Returning from the service, Creagh played two years of baseball under Coach Ralph Venezia of the Spring Hill Tigers and ended his career in the late 1940s with the Colonials. He later played some slowpitch softball with Hi-Ho and now, retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 38 years, he plays social golf.

Creagh is married to the former Margaret Federici. They have four children and live at 6 Jarvis Street.