**Paper: Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH)**

**Deceased: RAYMOND H. POSIPANKA, PLAYED, COACHED SPORTS**

**Date: February 21, 1998**

Raymond H. Posipanka earned his living by selling insurance, but playing and coaching sports dominated his life.

He lettered for four years in baseball and basketball at Cathedral Latin School. In 1945, his senior year, he played on the basketball team that won the Cleveland City Championship.

Upon graduating, he played basketball for the Army at Fort Logan, Colo. After his discharge, he played three years of professional basketball and seven years of minor league baseball.

Later, he coached youth baseball and basketball teams in Willowick. His most recent contribution to the world of sports was sharing his expertise with the Lake Catholic High School freshmen girls basketball team, on which his granddaughter plays.

Mr. Posipanka, 70, of Willowick, died Tuesday at LakeWest Hospital in Willoughby.

The Cleveland native had lived in Willowick for the last 43 years.

He was a Metropolitan Life Insurance salesman in Lake County for 34 years before retiring in 1990.

From 1947 to 1954, he played minor league baseball with the New York Yankees farm system.

When the minor league New York Celtics basketball team was re-formed in 1947, Mr. Posipanka became one of its forwards. His three-year stint in basketball continued with the Sunbury Mercuries and the Harrisburg Senators of the Eastern Professional Basketball League.

Later, he coached baseball in the Willowick Boys Little League for 15 years. He also coached St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church's CYO basketball teams.

Mr. Posipanka was a Eucharistic minister and member of the Holy Name Society and Athletic Association at St. Mary Magdalene parish in Willowick.

He was a past president of the Villa Angela High School Dads Club.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Katherine; daughters, Anne Marie Petric of Eastlake and Patricia M. Molder-Jakimowicz of Willowick; sons, Robert G. of Eastlake and Thomas A. of Willoughby Hills; and four grandchildren. His daughter, Mary Theresa, died of a heart disorder in 1980 at age 17.

Services will be at 9:30 a.m. today at St. Mary Magdalene Church, 460 E. 321st St., Willowick.

Arrangements are by the McMahon-Coyne Funeral Home of Willoughby.

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