

Hartford Courant.

July 03, 1992

Lime Katzman Can Show The Way From Last To First

By OWEN CANFIELD; Courant Sports Columnist

Lime Katzman, 61 years old and still a tiger in a two-on-two **basketball game**, figures that after 43 years of doing one job very well, he's entitled to go play with his five grandkids. And he's going to do it.

"I feel wonderful and I've got a lot of friends," said the **sports** editor of the Evening Sentinel in Ansonia.

Lime is a hard-bodied guy with thick glasses and half a cigar poking out of his mouth. His given name is Harry. It was shortly after Katzman had moved to Ansonia with his family from Windsor, Ontario, at age 4 that Katzman got his nickname. "I used to love lime rickys," he said. "So for a long time the **kids** called me Lime Ricky. Then everybody dropped the Ricky, but the Lime stuck." Everyone he knows except his wife continues to call him Lime.

His dad opened a grocery store in Ansonia after the Katzmans settled in. One day 5-year-old Harry, who wasn't really making mischief but only curious, lost his right arm in a meat machine.

He adjusted to the condition and did not allow one missing wing to become a handicap. For one thing, he discovered basketball. The introduction was **painful**.

"My brother used to take me to the YMCA and I dreaded it," he said. "I hated it because of my arm. I was always the last guy picked, at first. If they had 11 guys, I didn't play. I hated being left out.

"But you know what? Five years later, I was always the first guy picked."

He became Lime Katzman, the terrific one-armed basketball player. There was little he couldn't do that a man with two hands could do. He played with Kentucky's Bill Spivey, the famous 7-foot-2 center, and UConn's Worthy Patterson on the Ansonia Norwoods, a semipro team in a league called the Connecticut Basketball Association. It was during a time when many towns had semipro teams.

"Spivey is still my buddy," said Katzman. "He was involved in that scandal in the early 1950s. But if he had been able to play in the NBA, he would have set every record and they would have stood until Wilt Chamberlain came along. Wilt would have broken them."

Katzman played softball, too, **batting** from the left side. He says he was glad when the slow-pitch game arrived.

In the past few years, he has become devoted to racquetball and two-on-two basketball.

Covering local sports in Ansonia is a heavy load. No town in the state has a high school football team more consistently successful. They go year-round with football in the lower Naugatuck Valley. But all sports are important to the citizens of Ansonia.

Lime's been a busy man for better than four decades. Old habits die hard so I expect he'll remain so.

Good work, Lime Ricky, and take it easy on the opposition when you suit up for a little two-on-two. Some of those younger whippersnappers probably don't realize Lime Katzman hasn't been picked last for anything for 50 years.