

## **THE MIAMI HERALD, April 6, 1988**

### **Broward**

**“Slow treatment killed husband, lawsuit claims”**

**By James F. McCarty**

Former baseball player and Fort Lauderdale restaurateur Sy Shifman died three years ago because doctors at Florida Medical Center didn't treat him in time, his wife claims in a malpractice case that began Tuesday in Broward Circuit Court.

Shifman, 57, was feeling sick when he walked into the Lauderdale Lakes hospital at 5 a.m. Jan. 31, 1985. He died three days later.

Marion Shifman of Plantation, his wife of 33 years, has sued the hospital, and seven physicians for malpractice, claiming her husband lay for more than 12 hours on an emergency room bed – periodically checked by physicians, but not properly treated.

Shifman was a 15-year-old phenom catcher when he earned a spot on a New York Yankees farm team in 1942.

Later, Shifman made his name as a restaurant owner in South Florida. Three Potato Four was his. So was the Cat's Meow, before it became a strip joint.

When he arrived at the hospital, Shifman was suffering from a bacterial infection, shock, pneumonia, severe low blood pressure and rapid breathing – all nonfatal conditions if diagnosed properly and treated promptly, said Sheldon Schlesinger, Marion Shifman's lawyer.

Attorneys for the hospital and the doctors say every measure was taken to save Shifman. They say Shifman arrived about an hour later than his wife claims. And they point out the patient was in stable condition.

“He walked in the door. He wasn't rushed in by an ambulance,” said Vic Womack, a lawyer representing Florida Medical Center. “He looked to be in fair condition.”