



LA SALLE CLUB

1987 BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

LA SALLE CLUB MEMBERS, OLD TIMERS
AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE

36TH ANNUAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

BANQUET ON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1987

SOCIAL HOUR - 6:00 P.M.

CAFETERIA

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

4315 SACRAMENTO BOULEVARD

\$8.00 PER PERSON

ELECTED TO THE 1987 HALL OF FAME

Gene Brocker
Norman Coad
Virgil Farnsworth
Wayne Hanscom
Larry Manuiian
Joe Masi
"Buddy" Peterson
John Rakela
Bill Taylor
George Valine
John Vukovich
Bill Wright

Arthur D. Thomas

LA SALLE CLUB HALL OF FAME

COMMITTEE

Bill Avila
Lou Bordisso
Elmer Enos
Harry Knight
Bill Morebeck
Pete Perich
George Radovich
Vincent Stanich
Bill Swillich

LA SALLE CLUB BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
ROSTER

1953
*John "Buddy" Ryan

1955
The Knezovich Brothers - Al, Mel,
*Paul, Ray and *Don

1957
Al Heist

1958
*Brick Eldred, Living Member of the
Rooney O'Neil Family

1959
*Earl McNeely

1960
*Joe Marty

1961
*Elwood "Kettle" Wirts

1962
*Joe Williams, *Cliff Darringer,
*Fred Pearl, *Mel French

1963
Horace Smith, *Harry Lilly, *Ralph
Stroud, the 1934-35 Julius Style Shop
Baseball Club, *Julius Anapoisky

1964
*Walter Mails, *Henry Clark, *Dan
Donavan, *Fred Murphy

1965
*Big Bill James, *Jimmy Lane,
*Manuel Petralli, *Capt. Bill Ryan

1966
*Parker Sheehan, Eddie Manger,
*Dewey Elliot, *Vern Hodge, *Bob
Schang

1967
*Jack Dooley, *Frank Osborn, *Frank
Bacon, *Arthur Luddy, *Tommy Dunk

1968
*Franz Rooney, *Francis Hall, *Edwin
Grove, *Lloyd Snook, *Fred Bottaro

1969
Ray Rohwer, *Pete Hepting, Jim
Gorman, *Steve Marietta, *Bill Shick

1970
*Ted Zackney, Tony Freitas, *Albert
Westlake, *Albert Felix, *Marvin Nevis

1971

*Frank Raton, *Dick Deterding,
George Lial, Eggert Rohwer, *Harry
Hooper

1972

*Clyde "Tub" Perry, Lenny Backer, Joe
Rooney, *John Silvey, *John Corato,
Ralph Young

1973

*Paul Genshlea, *James R. Kelly, Tom
Pendergast, *John B. Costa, *G.W.
"Mick" Hall, Jr., *Frank Judy

1974

*Allan Bryne, *Clarence Murphy, John
"Chick" Casali, *Joe Lima, Elmer
Congdon, Hank Mess, *Jack Hoagland,
Roscoe Kimble

1975

Tony Zupo, *Dick Lamb, *James A.
"Lefty" Cooke, Larry Williams,
*Wallace Canfield, *Fred Belluomini,
Mike Visintainer, *Ralph Downs

1976

Frank Armstrong, Mike Separovich,
*Elwood J. Keema, *George "Butter"
Cole, Phil McGee, Larry Gillick,
Steve George, Elmer Enos

1977

Alex Kampouris, *Earl Eberlein,
*Peter Mitchell, *Dave Roderick,
*Dr. Alfred Oliver, *Joe Smith,
Bill Avila, Mike Page

1978

*Earl Wagner, Lloyd Wagner, *Jack
Stassi, Herb Forsch, Manuel Salvo,
Clement "Boo" Coyle, Gus Korstein,
William Peccole, Harold "Sam"
Sperbeck

1979

Lou Bordisso, Ned Carbone, Joe
Duarte, *M.G. Culjis, Lloyd Toomey,
Percy Gassaway, *Karl Reimer, Mike
Bakarich

1980

Lou Heizer, Victor Pitts, George
Lerra, Robert Duggan, Lou Weislich,
Elton Rogers, Bill Swillich, Tony
Dutra

1981

Vincent F. Stanich, Clarence Azevedo, John Pintar, Ken Brock, Mark Separovich, Manuel Joseph, Glenn Smith, Bill Kenealy, Vito Virga

1982

Joe Frates, Jimmy Flynn, Fir Galli, Ed Hughes, Tom Parodi, Ernie Cervantes, Syl DeGregorio, Tony Separovich, Pete Tomasini, Johnny Vergez

1983

Joe Orongo, Jim Cluff, *Howard Jan, Ernie Perry, Bobby Schang, Bob Peccole, Joe Anderson, Dooley Bertolani, Orval Tregellas, Horace Dunning

1984

Art Quadros, Ray Silva, Soto Trillo, Frank Nelson, Elmer Newman, Ponce Alvarado, Wilbert Azevedo, Bill Gianatasio, Scotty Mackay, Woodrow Scott, Yubi G. Separovich

1985

Charles Luchini, Fred Schroeder, Steve Zupan, Italo Vesci, Connie Weisker, Fred Kienle, Jack Dark, Joe Faraci, Carl Younglove, Hank Lema, Babe Bertolani, *Ed Keenan, Pete Pitalo, Bill Hallauer, Eddie Fitzgerald, Paul Bowa, Izzy Smith, Jim "Tiny" Hansen, Eddie Katsulis

1986

Joe Borich, William Conlin, Curtis Coppin, Glen Dufour, James Herrera, Les Lollis, Charles Schanz, Curt Schmidt, Manuel "Babe" Thomas, Wally Westlake, Jack Andrews, Harry Bright

* Denotes deceased members

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CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
High School
4915 SACRAMENTO BOULEVARD
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95820

GENE BROCKER

top light catcher

Gene/is a Marysville native allx the way. Through high school, his baseba playing days it was all marysville. His entire business career was spent in Marysville where he collaborated with Victor Pitts in the operation of the Eagles Nest, a watering spa which has been the stopping off place for those who have been befriended by the likable Brocker.

Most of baseball days were spent with the Marysville Giants as their premier catcher. However, during his glory days he did get in come playin in the professional ranks...When signed by the SF Seals in 1947, he was farmed out to Salt Lake Bees where he spent two years. He was voted the popular in 1947 most ~~xxxxxxx~~ player/~~xxxxxx~~ and in the following year he was voted the most valuable player. In 1949 he finished up with the Seals and was a member of the club when they made their first good will trip to Japan. Brocker caught all 11 games in the barnstorming tour...Seals won 10 of them.

Brocker was with the Polons in 1950 and 1951...He finished up his pro career~~xxxxxx~~ with the Amarillo Gold Sox. He then came ba~~x~~ to the semi-pros to ~~fixi~~ conclude his career with the Marysville Giants where he ended up as the club's manager.

NORMAN COAD

Norman Coad could be classed as one of Sacramento's pitching greats. He first showed his skills on the mound by pitching for Sacramento High School in 1934 and 1935. He helped the local high school win the northern California Championship in 1934...While still in high school, Coad pitched for the Julius Style Shop to several pennants from 1935 to 1942. He did a brief stint with the San Francisco Seals in 1935.

After he left the local bush scene Coad pitched for the Marysville Giants in the Sacramento Valley League. He continued on in the promotion of baseball even after he could not continue on as a competitor.

He became active in Little League where he spent 35 years ^{to} ~~in~~ promote the type of competition, plus 10 years as a district administrator.

His extra-curricular work did not go unnoticed as he was given two resolutions from the State Assembly; two resolutions from the City Council and a resolution from the Board of Supervisors.

Coad retired from his position as manager of the Executive Airport on March 1, 1986, after serving in the post for 40 years.

He capped it off by serving as Vice president of the California Assn of Airport Executives. He has four grown children, 2 sons and 2 daughters.

Br. Brock

DIED

VIRGIL FARNSWORTH

Virgil was a catcher during career in baseball, first, with the Colusa Prune Pickers after finishing his stint ~~at~~ Colusa High School. His career started in earnest after he graduated from high school in 1925 when he joined up with Mickey Shaders group who usually played in the Arizona-State League. After failing to make the grade Virgil came back to Colusa for three years and then joining the Army Air Force prior to World War 2. He played with the Air Force club all during the war and then to McClellan Air Force base for a six year prior. He was called up for the Korean conflict from 1951 to 1953. He played for the Volfax club in the P-N League for two seasons and then back to his first love with McClellan from 1955 to 1962, where he managed the club. He then coached and managed Post 61 in the Juniors Legion competition. He later became commissioner of Legion ball. He became active in Sacramento Bushers Baseball Assn and later helped Kettle Wirts in coaching the annual Sacramento Bee Baseball clinic. After a stint as an umpire, Farnsworth became active in Little League baseball. Farnsworth has already been inducted into the Northern California Sports Association Hall of Fame.

WAYNE HANSCOM

Hanscom hailed from the middle west, but found his way into Sacramento back in 1942 when his employer the A. C. Nielsen Marketing Research Company transferred him from Chicago. He spent ~~eight~~^{NINE} beautiful years here until he was transferred back to Chico.

The period spent locally was very fruitful ^{ONE} on the playing field. He finally ~~asked~~ Asked the Julius Style Shop for a tryout and Dick Crabbe, the club's manager, installed him as first base where he was an instant hit as a high calibered ball player.

He played with Julius from 1942 to 1945...Some of his teammates were Joe Borich, Gil Urbano, Frank Katoni, Ernie Bertolotti, Joe Weir, Wally Turpen and Joe Pedone.

He next joined Muir-Acme in 1945 and that club won a championship. Some of the players with him were Paul Bowa, Billy Rico, Joe Duarte, Ronnie King, Leo Visintainer. Billy Rico signed him for his Carmichael Fireman in 1946 and he was one of the group to make the trip to Wichita to bring back the International Championship in Semi-Pro ball.

With North Sacramento that winter and then in 1947-48 he played for the Southside Legion who won the championship with the following ball players playing a key role: John Parino, Izzie Smith, Eddie Samcoff, Gus Stathos, Russ Knight, Pennie Salas, Bill DeFazio, Warner and Palaki.

The following two years, Hanscom moved over with Lou Bordisso when the latter took over Matt's and won two successive championships. Hanscom's record in the ~~two~~⁹ years he played locally was to be a member of eight championship's club.

Hanscom was happy to fly here tonight from Glenview, Illinois, where he is now residing. He is looking forward spending a few hours with his many teammates who still reside locally.

LARRY MANUIAN

Larry's career in baseball is a unique one...Here he is being inducted into the La Salle Hall of Fame...This honor is usually bestowed upon a retired ball player...But Larry is still active in baseball as a player with the Sacramento Smokies, performing for the last 24 years with this very colorful ball club. Larry is also the manager of the club and he always busy making up a very ambitious schedule which takes his club away from Sacramento for a period of two weeks on some occasions. His club is well known in the Rocky Mountain Area and in the northern part of California...Although no official records are available, it is safe to assume that Larry's team has accounted for more than 400 victories.

In that period Larry claims about 400 RBI's...

Larry played with Christian Bros. High School, Fresno State College and in the Army in the European Theater in 1944.

Professionally, Larry played with Knoxville Smokies where he batted .333. He had a brief stay with the SF Seals in 1940 where he broke his hand. Prior to going into pro ball he was a member of the Manhart Legion Post Club in 1938 when that club won the state championship after winning 26 straight ball games. During that season Larry batted .420. Larry also played a little football with the US Army when his unit was training in Georgia prior to going overseas.

JOE MASI

Joe Masi was a powerfully built catcher much on the lines of Ernie Lombardi. When he had served his apprenticeship in high school he was in demand by many of the managers in the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League and that is the competition which he enjoyed. Baseball was his chief form of recreation and he was at ease behind the plate with the rifle arm which very few players on the base paths would challenge.

He graduated from Sacramento High School in 1933. While still in high school he cavorted with the Manhart League post in 1931 and 1932.

In the top division he performed with Julius, Muir A. C. Thomas Black Cat and Parrell Tavern.

After his playing days were over Masi continued on managing Little League teams and later on he showed his expertise with youngsters in the Babe Ruth competition.

BUDDY PETERSON

as shortstop

Buddy, who played but one position [↑] in his years of baseball, spent his prep years at Lincoln High School in Portland, Oregon...then it was off to professional baseball for 17 years, spending 10 years ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ in Triple A and seven years of winter league ball in the Caribbean, South America and Mexico ~~xxx~~ in Japan where he spent three years making it as an all star. He was a Coast League All-star in 1955, 57, 58, 59 and 1960...The teams he performed with in the States were with San Diego, Chicago White Sox, Vancouver in the AAA and with the Baltimore Orioles. He was the manager of the year in the Appalachian League in 1966. Then he settled in Sacramento and now is a full fledged citizen in our

Community.

JOHN RAKELA

Rakela's career on the local lots was spent in the lower divisions where he excelled as a right handed pitcher.

He did his most important bit of performing on the Sacramento High School and later with the Sacramento Junior College where he concluded his schooling in 1935. That year he was offered a contract with the St. Louis Cardinal farm system, but he found it unacceptable.

Teams he played with were Foster & Kleiser; Herman's Barber Shop; helped St. Mary's Church win the 1936 Twilight League Championship. After his playing days were over Rakela Coached East Sacramento Little League for 16 years ...During that period helped build two major/^{Little}league baseball diamonds and later assisted in the construction of a Senior League baseball diamond.

Was Commissioner of Big League baseball District #7 in 1968 and 1969.

Was a member of the group which arranged for the "estern Finals for Big League Championship held here in Sacramento.

Bill Taylor

Tall, left handed pitcher

Was born in Sacramento and attended Christian Brothers and Sacramento High School...

He made the varsity on the ^{Basketball} baseball teams at both schools, graduating from Sac High 1936.

While still a teen ager, Taylor almost immediately graduated to the National Division

of the Sacramento Winter where he played for Al's Haberdashry, Painters Union and Gene Hughes. Bill indicated that he was the first ^{Black} ball player to ^{PLAY IN} the

National Division in the history of Sacramento.

Just prior to the war, Taylor moved to Los Angeles where he attended Pasadena J. C. and Loyola University...

After a stint ^{of} four years in the service, Taylor returned to Las Angeles joining the L. A. Fire Department where he worked until his wife passed away in 1963...

That was the signal for him to return to Sacramento where he went to work for the City of Sacramento Tree Division. ^{He Retired IN 1983}

Taylor played with ^{Colfax} in the Place-Nevada League under Fred Schroeder IN 1938.

Bill Taylor

Basketball

Link Joseph

Bob Uecker

Black

PLAY IN

City of Sacramento

He Retired IN 1983

IN

GEORGE VALINE

A complete bred Sacramentan Valine went to Cathedral Parish, William Land, Sacramento High School and Sacramento Junior College.

He was busy performing in the Sacramento Winter League when Jay Kelchner, St. Louis Cardinal scout spotted him and got him under contract to a Sardinian contract... back in 1938. As the Sacramento Solons was a farm club of the Cardinals during that period, it was safe to assume that he would eventually take over the second base spot after he was served in the low minors.

However, that never did come about, although he did make it ~~xxxxx~~ Houston in the 1941 Texas League after playing one year with Springfield, Mo. Later, Valine drifted to Bakersfield in the California State league as a shortstop. He bowed out of professional ball after spending two years with Spokane in the Western International League with Spokane.

Although he no longer played baseball professionally after ~~in~~ 1950 he was good enough to play in the Sacramento Valley League where he performed with the Colusa Prune Pickers from 1951 to 1955.

In addition to his baseball skills, Valine was also the city champion in table tennis for several years and he has a mantle full of trophies to show for it.

JOHN VUKOVICH, SR

In the early 30's we inherited a youngster by the name of Johnny Vukovich from Jackson. When that young outfielder graduated from Jackson High School in 1930 he matriculated at Sacramento Junior College Prior to his entrance to University of California at Berkeley.

He lettered in both schools and was ready for the competition which was furnished him on the lots of Sacramento. He spent most of his semi-pro days with Kimball Upson in the Sacramento Winter League. Later when he no longer qualified as a journeyman ball player he affiliated himself with the old timers who performed for the Sacramento Liquor Company.

He later identified himself with Pony League and Little League baseball in Sutter Creek where he now makes his home. He later umpired and much later helped to organize the Boosters Club at Amador High School. Being a UC graduate, he finally made it as a 50 year member of the Big "C" Society.

This may come as a surprise to many but it's possible that his son, John, Jr., may be the next manager of the Chicago Cubs.

BILL WRIGHT

When "Big" Bill Wright first started to wield the bat as a high school player many could envision a Goliath in the field of baseball...This youngster had great power and when he graduated from Sacramento High School he could pick any college he wished to go to. He accepted a baseball scholarship with St. Mary's College in 1937 and he stayed until he graduated in 1940. He signed a pro contract immediately and reported to Danville, Virginia in the spring of 1940 where he stayed for one year. Then he moved on to Vancouver for two years. After a four years respite during the war, Wright reported briefly to Los Angeles...The last two years of his pro career was spent with Spokane, in the Western International League where he covered the outfield. His outstanding achievement in baseball was hitting a grand slam the first time he pitched in pro ball.

While with Vancouver Wright was voted the most valuable player in 1942. Wright came back to play with the Marysville Giants in 1950 and 1951. He closed out his career with Colusa in the Sacramento Valley League from 1952 to 1955.

MILTON D. THOMAS

Thomas' baseball career as a catcher spanned 18 years from 1923 to 1940. He started with Harkness Junior High and later with Sacramento High. He graduated in 1925 and then embarked upon an ambitious career which included playing in the Sacramento Winter League with Julius, Painters Union, Ed Bell Starts, Nevis-Carnie, Van Hassels, Kimball Upson and Heeseman Clothiers. During the summer he performed with Chico, Colusa and Woodland.

A small part of his career was spent with Oakland in the PCL; Bakersfield in the California State League; S. F. Seals in the PCL. In 1931 he called it quits in the pro ranks by performing with McCook in the Nebraska State League.

He never did have any problem lining up with a club in the local leagues as he possessed a "rifle Arm" with most of the baseball managers seeking him as their No. 1 receiver.