

34th Annual Baseball Of Fame 1988

BERT BONOMI

BERNIE BERTOLOTTI CB '41

MARTIN SLAVICH

STEVE CUCKOVICH

'SUNNY' JOE VALINE' CB '42

EMERSON WALLACE

DAN BIANCHINI

ORVE GEOVE

CARL LAUCHERT

WALLY TURPIN

BUD HANNA CB '29

Bert Bonomi

A Sacramento youngster all the way. Excelled in baseball and basketball with McClatchy High School and Sacramento Junior College.

Joined Bercut Richards in the Sacramento Winter League while still in high school.

Was top scorer in basketball at JC in 1941 and 1942 when he also played with Argonaut Liquor and Julius Style Shop.

Then spent 3½ years in the Service, finishing up at Mather Field in 1944 when he starred on the basketball team and was one of the nation's leading scorers ~~with~~ averaging 20 points a game.

Following the war Bonomi went to Twin Falls, then to Fresno; in 1948 with Houston and Fresno; With Fresno and then to Willos in the California League when he was the club's manager.

Made the California State League All-Star team in 1947...with a batting average of .330 and 119 Rbi's...Also hold the State League record with 21 triples which held up for 30 years.

Back to Chico in the Valley League in 1949, a pennant winner. The following year Bert went to Colusa and also another pennant winner.

Had a very successful venture as a coach with Wouthside Legion for over 10 years winning the area championship six times.

Voted into the Marysville Hall of Fame in 1984...

Ernie Bertolotti

Graduated from Christina Brothers High School in 1941 after distinguishing himself in baseball and basketball. Was coached by Henry "Bud" Han at Christian Brothers by 1940.

Broke into pro ball with Wenatchee in 1946 under Manager Buddy Ryan. That was a pennant winning club
Good enough to play in the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League with Argonaut Liquor in 1947 and with pennant winning Matt's in 1948.

Was recruited to play for Colusa Prune Pickers in the Sacramento Winter League in 1950....other outsiders to be signed by Colusa were Bobby Schang, George Valine and Glenn Dufour.

An active booster of the Southside American Legion baseball team.

Martin Slavich

Although Martin has been living in San Pedro for the last 30 years, he maintains a fine relationship with the bushers coming up each year to umpire in the Old timers game incidental to the picnic.

His forte was pitching and he amassed many records in the semipro circuit. One of his memorable games was pitching for the Roseville Merchants when he strick out 12 of the first 15 batters to face him. During his long career he has pitched three one-hit games.

He umpired locally and in the valley for over 10 years. He than called them in the soft ball leagues for over 35 years.

During his career he has received 15 awards from the City of Sacramento. Slavich has other talents. With time permitting Martin will give you some of his impersonations.

Steve Cuckovich

Like many of his baseball contemporaries Steve also graduated from Sacramento High School in 1935. He distinguished himself as one of the game's long distance clouters. In 1935 he hit two home runs in a game against Marysville High School. Steve had played with a Sacramento Valley League team under an assumed name as he had two years of eligibility in high school.

While performing at Edmonds Field, Cuckovich had a home run over the left field fence, which was quite a clout for an unshaven youngster.

While performing on the local lots he played on five championship clubs...One of his real thrills was finishing second behind Lou Bordisso for the 1938 batting title.

During his life time he has had two holes in one.

A few of the top clubs with which Cuckovich was identified were Canney Union, Gene Hughes, Clark's Wanderers, Auburn Cubs, Bercut Richards, Dante Club and the Signal Depot.

Steve is still an active golfer and who knows, he ~~may~~^{MAY} be responsible for ~~the~~^{other} records to ~~the~~ TOPPLE

Joe "Sonny" Valine

Valine ~~was~~ graduated from Christian Brothers pitching ^{THE ENTIRE} ~~for~~ four years before going out into semi-pro ball. 1939-40-41-42

He was quite a pitcher and contributed more than his share of victories for many club with which he was identified.

First, it was in high school where he excelled...Then with Post 61 and later with the Southside A. C. when that club performed in the Sacramento Winter League.

He then ventured into the Placer-Nevada League where he pitched in 1948 with the Colfax Lions; the following year, 1949, he moved over to play with the Grass Valley Miners.

He got into some action in the Sacramento County League with Clarksburg and North Sacramento and finally with Woodland in the Sacramento Valley League.

One of his thrills during his career as a ball player was in playing with Post 61 when they played for State Championship against Los Angeles.

In 1941, Valine was at his peak and received a try out with the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League who farmed him out to their Alameda League Club.

Emerson Wallace

Emerson was born in Des Moines, Iowa, but he went to the local school and graduated from Sacramento High School in 1930.

He broke into the Sacramento Winter League that year with the Subway Garage and then with the Red Jackets. That club claimed the pennant that year.

Graduating to the National Division of the Sacramento Winter League, Wallace played with Van Hassels, Thomas Black Cats, Al's Aberdasher, Carpenters Union, McKinley A. C. and with the pennant winning Argonaut Lakers.

After his career was over he aligned himself with Tomasini's Old Timers...

Then he became eligible to play for the Sacramento Police team by virtue of being a member of that department. He played for that club for 12 years, managing that group in his final year of competition.

Also played soccer; one year with the seniors and several with the juniors.

Dan Bianchini

Bianchini was active in the promotion of bush league ball for a period of 25 years.

Although he was born in Lucca, Italy, Danny grammar school and high school days were spent in Clarksburg where he operated the franchise in the Sacramento County League and later collaborated with Joe Frates in managing the Julius Style Shop in the Sacramento Winter League.

While at Clarksburg, his club served in showcasing the baseball ability of Johnny McNamara after that youngster had spent his earlier years with Christian Brothers and Sacramento Junior College. Woodie, Held and Augie Amorena also played on the Clarksburg club.

Danny was a pitcher for Clarkeburgh High School and later was active in the Sacramento Winter League for 10 years.

In his very younger years, Danny essayed a no-hitter at Wm. Land Park. Danny spent 2½ years in the U. S. Navy and briefly attended Hastings Law School before entering business in Clarksburg and later West Sacramento.

Orval Grove

It was a happy day for the Sacramento citizens back in 1949 when Orval Grove, a tall, handsome pitcher, was sold by the Chicago White Sox to the Sacramento Solons who were struggling for pitching help. Grove filled in admirably, pitching winning baseball during the 1950, 51 and 52 seasons before he hung em up.

Grove was a three-letter man for Proviso High School in Maywood, Illinois before he went on the Elmhurst College for two years.

Orval signed a White Sox contract in 1938 and was farmed out to Longview, in the East Texas League. ^{In 1939} ~~On September 1939~~ he was promoted to Oklahoma in the Texas League where he spent two years. In 1941 he played with Shreveport and was sold to the parent White Sox club in 1942. Grove was an instant hit in the majors. ^{He} enjoyed his greatest success in 1943 with the White Sox--winning nine straight games..Made the all-star team with an ERA of 2.87...His record that year was 15 wins and nine losses...Started 24 games and completed 18. Had a no-hitter against the Yankees with two outs in the 9th inning, only to have his very best friend, Joe Gordon, single to center. Made the 50 year high school year book of Who's Who. Was one of two pro athletes to be selected.

Carl Lauchert

Lauchert did not play any organized baseball until he return from World War 11 in 1946.

He immediately joined Matts as a first sacker and was a member of that years championship ball club. Carl was a regular for Matts on another pennant winning club in 1950.

Additionally, Lauchert also was a member of the Rio Vista Red Sox and the Carmichael Fireman, all winners in their respective leagues.

Carl was adjudged the "most valuable player" with Matt's "B" club in 1954 and 1955.

Before retiring as an ^{competitive} athlete Lauchert was a member of two championship soft ball clubs, Ludwig All-Stars and the Hilltop Club.

Carl retired from the State of California in 1980.

~~DIED~~

Wally Turpen

Turpen was born in Oakland in 1922, but spent his youth in Sacramento where he distinguished himself as a right handed pitcher, first with McClatchy High and later with Sacramento Junior College. He later played American Legion ball and then in the Sacramento Valley League and later with several clubs in the Placer-Nevada League.

His athletic endeavors spanned a period from 1939 to 1965.

He was good enough as a pitcher to enjoy short stints with Pocatello in the Utah-Idaho League; with Sacramento Solons in 1945 and then with Oakland in 1946.

He concluded his professional career with Wichita and Shreveport in the Texas League.

Turpen had the privilege of coaching American League ball and finally went on to become commissioner.

ADDENDA #1 AND #2 -

COACH - 1935 to 1940
Christian Brothers
Basketball and Baseball - varsity and B & C teams

COMPETITOR -

- A. Christian Brothers 1925 to 1929
Basketball, baseball & football

Sacramento Solons - Professional Baseball
- B. Pacific Coast League - Triple A - 1935
- C. St. Marys College - 1932 to 1936
Basketball & Baseball
- D. Sacramento Winter League - 1930 to 1940
Semi-pro Baseball - Julius Clothiers - Kimball
Upson & others
- E. Basketball - Club type 1930-1932
YMI, Spalding Sporting Goods, Cal Western States
Life

Earned full academic scholarship for basketball
to St. Marys College
- F. Semi-pro Baseball - Yuba City Bears - 1930s
- G. Semi-pro Baseball - Sacramento Valley League
1946 to 1952 - Played for Chico Colts and managed
the team in 1950 and 1951
- H. Broadcasting - 1947 to 1967
Broadcast play by play of Chico Senior High School
and Chico State University Football and Basketball
games

Sportscope - 15 minute sports show, 6 nights per
week on KHSL Radio

Television - 2 15 minute shows per week - Sportscope
1 30 minute show per week - Coaches Corner
- J. Sports and Recreation supervisor as Captain with
United States Airforce (World War II) on General
Couzins staff - 1940 to 1946

ADDENDAS #3 & 4

- A. Community Service Award by Chico Rotary Club - 1954
(Considered most prestigious of Rotary Awards)
- B. Chico Senior High School dedicated their year book (Caduceus)
to me in 1954
- C. Retirement from Broadcasting - special night at Chico
State University - 1967
- D. Honorary "Block C" award - Chico State University 1967
- E. Hall of Fame - Elected to Northern California "Old Timers"
Sports Association Hall of Fame 1975
- F. Hall of Fame - Chico Sports Hall of Fame 1975
- G. Sacramento "Over the Hill Gang" recognition 1987

ADDENDA #5

Helped in promotion of youth activities and community projects
as:

- A. President of Babe Ruth League - Baseball
- B. Little League Baseball
- C. Multi year President of Northern California Sports
Boosters Organization
- D. Helped organize and served three terms as president of
Chico State University Century Club
- E. March of Dimes Annual Fund Drive - promoted by use of
KHSB radio and television facilities