

1990 La Salle Club Baseball Hall Of Fame Nominees

GEORGE ANDROVICH: See Attached

BILL BALAKIN; See Attaced

BILL CHRISTIE; See attached.

CLAY DALRYMPLE; See Attached.

TONEY KOESTER See Attached.

JOHN PARINO; See Attached.

SAM POWELL; See Attached.

AL SACCANI; See Attached.

EDDIE SAMCOFF; See Attached.

NED SHEEHAN; See Attached. CB Grad

GEORGE ANDROVICH

Although George was adept in Soccer, Baseball, Basketball and football, it was in the art of umpiring that he made his mark on the local sports scene.

Born in Sacramento, he is one of the very few left from the old St. Stephen's School, which was located at 3rd and O Street.

After his playing days were over Androvich concentrated on managing many of the local teams. It was, while managing baseball that he led the Acme Transfer Company to a championship in 1936. With the YMI he entered the softball competition at the World's Fair meet that he brought home another championship.

He then entered the umpiring field, performing in Sacramento Winter League Placer-Nevada League, American Legion, high school, college and Pacific Coast League.

In the soft ball field he managed YMI state soft ball tournament in 1939.

George organized Northern California Umpiring Association and taught umpiring at the City Recreation Department. He also had a stint as a sports commentator on Thursday night on KFBK.

BILL BALAKIN

The other Russian on the Hall of Fame list is Billy Balakin. Like his contemporary, Eddie Samcoff, he, too, graduated from Bryte, Elementary and Woodland High School. Instead of persuing the professional route Balakin engage in youth baseball, spending time in the Legion ranks and later with Woodland Oaks in the Sacramento ~~San~~ Valley League in the early 40's... He did play basketball and ~~baseball~~ football at Woodland H in 1941... He played "fast pitch" softball with Western Pacific...Later in the Sacramento County League with Florin and Rio Vista...

In the Winter League he played for Dreamland Dance, Manuel Joseph, Bryte Spot, Matt's Draying and Southside Legion.

Spent 18 years in Youth baseball from 1958 to 1976, managing in little Senior League..Also in Sonny Davey League in Sacramento winning four cchampionships, 1971 and 1974.

Received Man of the Year honors for District #6 at 11th Annual Father Sons banquet by NCBBA in 1972 in Sacramento Area Youth Baseball and the Bryte & Broderick atea.

BILL CHRISTIE

A ~~ixix~~ life long resident of Sacramento Christie spent most of his time playing basketball and baseball with the Golden States. He graduated from Sacramento High School, playing 1st Base on the ~~1936~~ ¹⁹³⁸ club... ~~played~~ While performing in the Sacramento Winter League he ~~performed~~ with Argonaut Liquors, Julius Haberdashers, Golden State and Carmichael. In professional baseball he spent on/year with Visalia in the State League...He did sign with the Chicago Cubs. George Lial was the scout who recommended him.

He played center and guard with Golden State on three city championships. He spent a total 10 years, 1940 to 1950 in local baseball competition.

He spent much time in baseball as a mere ~~ix~~ child. Serving as mascot for Chinn-Beretta, a top club in the Sacramento Winter League.

A coincidence...Bill is a brother-in-law to Ned Cheehan, who, too is being inducted into the La Salle Hall of Fame.

One of the old Sacramento Solons management greatest accomplishments is the ~~signed~~ ^{Chico catcher} signing of Clay Dalrymple to a professional baseball contract back in 1957 and ultimate selling of the accurate throwing youngster to the Philadelphia Phillies in 1960. He spent nine years with that club before he closed out his baseball career with Baltimore Orioles. in 1971.

While with that club he held a record number of ^{consecutive} 628 errorless chances without an error. Outstanding achievements in the National Division was breaking up Juan Marichal's no hitter in the seventh inning when the young pitcher was debutting for the Giants.

Also in the hitting department was ^{his batting} 1.000 in World Series, when he collected two hits in as many trips to the plate. The two safeties were off of Nolan Ryan and Tom Seaver in 1969 World Series against the New York Mets.

Dalrymple was a power hitter from the left hand side of the plate collecting 55 home runs during his career.

Extra curricularly, Clay~~x~~ did some football playing with Chico High, but it was all baseball when he attended Chico State from whence he was signed to a Sacramento Solon contract by Dave Kelley. Kelley also engineered Clay's sale to the major leagues...

Those who appreciate Tony Koester could be the many old timers in our midst~~er~~...Now 86 years of age, Tony can recount many facets of his long and illustrious career as a broadcaster with the ~~KBK~~ Radio Station. He first came to KFBK to become the play-by-play announcer for the Sacramento Solons for its home and road games...That was in 1937. He retired in 1968 and ~~again~~ in 1974..After his third retirement in 1980, Tony continuing on in his chosen field. He is still free lancing in Oroville.

He specifically broadcast baseball from 1938 to 1956...

Now we will turn the Mike over to Tony so he can give you some first hand information about his career....

JOHN PARINO

A classic second sacker was Parino, who persued that one positon during his entire career in high school, college, semi-pro and poeffessional baseball.

He favored football and baseball in high school and college, performing at Sacramento High and then with Oregon State and University of the Pacific.

While in the Sacramento Winter League he performed for six championship clubs, winding up with the Carmichael Fireman for the 1946 season, when that club went back to Wichita to win the International Championship. ~~xx~~ That same year, 1946, he was noted The Most Valuable Player in in ^{batting} the Sacramento County League; he also won that County League/championsh ~~win~~ in 1946...He ~~xxxxxx~~ was voted the top second sacker with Marshall and Longview Texas in the East Texas League in 1947, 1948 and 1949.

SAMMY POWELL

Sammy was born in Wigen, England, after the turn of the century... That makes Powell about 87 years of age. However, Sammy is a piker in the family when it comes to longevity. His mother was 108 years old when she died here in Sacramento in 1984. His oldest sister here in Sacramento is 91; another ^{baby} in Esparto is 89. The ~~third~~ sister is 77.

The family left England in 1911. They tried ^{to} book passage on the Titanic which was set for her maiden voyage in April, 1912, but it was over-sold, and the Powell family had to settle for a tugboat by the name Lake Manitoba and it took 17 days to cross the atlantic to Quebec. The group were bemoaning the fact that they could not go first class on the Titanic. History will tell us that the Titanic was sunk in April, 1912, just a year after the Powell were ensconced in their new home in Canada.

Sam's dad worked for the Canadian Pacific, but he wanted his family to live in the United States. After a couple of moves, Sam found himself in Portland, Oregon, where he took up to learn the Machinits trade. It gave him an opportunity to join the U. S. ~~Mar~~ Air Force, where he spent three years. Sam was a natural born athlete and he took up the game of baseball as well as getting his licks in with soccer.

When he joined his oldest sister in Sacramento, Sammy made a few trip to Willow to play ^{As a pitcher} for that town team in the Sacramento Valley League. He also hooked up the Western Pacific soccer team, after getting a brief tryout. He played center forward for three years and then moved to the position of goal tender, when he began to slow up. The last team he play with was Milwaukee ^{Soc SA} which was sponsored by Al Saccani.

Powell moved into down ~~town~~ town Sacramento opening a malt shop at 8th and Kay. He ^{later} opened one of the first bars in Sacramento when prohibition was repealed. When the war broke out Sammy sold his bar and moved into North Sacramento where he as been operating ever since. He served on th

... City Council from 1952 to 1956. Manager of North Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, 1957-1960

A special award given in recognition of outstanding dedication to the sport of softball in Sacramento Area.

Founder of baseball in North Sacramento..Acquisition of Dixie

Field in North Sacramento.

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AL SACCANI

A successful beer distributing business provided Al Saccani with the wherewithal to sponsor more athletic ^{teams} ~~clubs~~ than anyone in the history of Sacramento.

Not only did he bankroll a record number of clubs, but he also provided his followers ^{with} many championships in baseball, softball, basketball and soccer. A total ~~x~~ of 17 championship trophies grace the shelves at Saccani's place of business at 5th and First Avenue.

His softball clubs were the most successful with a total 325 wins and 45 losses in ^{at} ~~1957~~ a seven-year period. 51 wins in 1957; 73 wins in ¹⁹59 36 victories in 1960 were his heaviest years.

Al was born in Pennsylvania in 1904. He came west in 1922, after learning the auto mechanics business. He was a Buick specialist and he plied his trade between Sacramento and San ~~Francisco~~ Francisco and finally settled in Sacramento in 1932. He sold near beer at the outset and when prohibition was repealed in 1933, Saccani was all set up to go ^{to} ~~to~~ legalized beer. His biggest winner was Burgermeister for a number of years.

In today's market Al stocks more than 100 labels of imported beer. He has enough volume to maintain two semis, hauling thousands of cases beer from the southern part of the state to Oregon and Washington. *He was THE FIRST to PALLETTING BEER CASES FOR EASIER LOADING AND UNLOADING...*

Saccani did not compete in baseball to a great extent, but when he did he delegated Joe Frates to lead his clubs. Hal Harney was the general manager of his softball clubs. Saccani ^{has} ~~was~~ sponsored Womens slow pitch and Women's soccer. In the 50's Saccani sponsored an ice hockey team. In the late 50's his softball team went to Clearwater, Florida to compete for the fast ball softball championship. He lost in the finals to Raybestos. In the early 60's, he sponsored a Women's bowling team. Although Al was not athletically inclined, he did have four sons who were adept in football. His oldest ~~of~~ the late Richard, excelled as a backfield man at Lowell High School in S. F. as did his son Don. Gary ^{Release} ~~starred~~ ^{starred} with McClatchy 1964, fin ^{Case}

ishing as an-all star quarterback on Coach George Bican's team. Gary, a versatile athletic, also played defensive back. He was given a full football scholarship at Stanford, but a leg injury cut his career short.

The greater Sacramento Softball Assn honored ^{AL}~~him~~ in 1978 for his dedication to the sport of softball.

Tonight we are honoring Al for his ^{WORK FOR}~~dedication to~~ the youth of Sacramento ^{AND} for the sponsoring of the many clubs in this area.

Eddie Samcoff, is one of two Russian youngsters who ~~are~~^{is} being inducted to the La Salle Hall of Fame this evening. The other is Billy Balskin and they both hail from the other side of the river in Yolo County.

Samcoff was an infielder, playing mostly as a second baseman. He spent five years in pro ball and when that phase of his career was ended he concluded it with a ~~small~~^{SMASHING} success in the Sacramento Winter League with 15 years under his belt.

He was very skillful as a minor leaguer and he was good enough to crash into the major leagues where he played four games with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1951. He started his playing ^{AT} Woodland High School and later with Sacramento Junior College. As he reached the college level he was good enough to spend several years with the Matt Drayers. ~~xxxx~~

During his playing days in the Sacramento Winter League he also played ~~in~~ during the summer with the "tokton Ports, which won 26 straight games back in ¹⁹⁴⁶ 1947. He was named "Player of the "Year" and sold to the Oakland Oaks in the Pacific Coast League. He was shunted on the Bremert Charleston, S. C. Sioux City, Iowa and then on to the Athletics and finally with the Memphis Chcks in 1951

He won the batting title with Julius ~~in~~ with a .490 average.

He was named the California State League player of the year in 19

In 1986 he was elected to the Northern California Old Timers

Hall of Fame at Marysville...~~ix~~ Tonight it is the La Salle Hall of

Fame...

Although he has been a native of Boise, Idaho for the past 40 years, Ned was born here in Sacramento...Like many Catholic youngsters he attended and graduated from Christian Brothers High School. He went on to attend Santa Clara University. He captured four letters in baseball at Christian Brothers.

Baseball was the only sport that he engaged in...He was ^{INITIALLY} signed by the New York Yankees in 1936 and finally got to play ~~any~~ professional baseball 10 years later.

He was an outstanding outfielder during his entire career playing in the Thre-Eye League, Piedmont League and with Boise, Idaho in the Pioneer League.

It was while finishing his career that he amassed a few records for which he was proud...By batting in 109 runs in 123 games with Boise and 104 runs ~~and~~ in 120 games with the same team in 1950. Ned led the same league in doubles in 1949 with ~~39~~ 39. Ned spent over four years with the U. S. Air Force.

The trip to Sacramento for tonight's Hall of Fame dinner is sort of a home coming for ~~xxx~~ Ned.