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2017 Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Trustees

Co-Chairmen: Carl Rakich, Florida, & Tom Giffen, Florida, and members: Joe Adams, New Jersey, Gary Dover, Tennessee, Tommy Faherty, New Jersey, Rob Giffen, South Carolina, JD Hinson, North Carolina, Ted Lesiak, Ohio, Joe Maiden, California, Tim McGoldrick, Ohio, Glenn Miller, Florida, Bob Misko, Florida, Mike Murphey, Washington.

Nominations for the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame and the Ambassador of Baseball award are accepted January through June 1. Go to royhobbs.com, click on Hall of Fame, and click on Nominations. Complete the form and click on submit; only on-line forms accepted. Please keep in mind that 3 additional references are required and that letters of recommendation and other supporting materials are vital to the nomination. Additional material may be mailed to Roy Hobbs Baseball / Attn: Hall of Fame / 4301-100 Edison Avenue / Fort Myers FL 33916.

The Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Yearbook is an official publication of Roy Hobbs Diamond Enterprises LLC.
This publication is designed by Sean Jenkins of Roy Hobbs Diamond Designs and edited by Tom Giffen.
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NO 01

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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A CERTIFIED 501©3 ORGANIZATION

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October 1, 2017

Welcome to the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame

On behalf of the Roy Hobbs Foundation Board of Directors and the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Trustees, we would like to welcome you to the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame and thank you for taking the time to be a part of the 2017 celebration of Baseball Excellence within our Community.

Congratulations are in order for each of the 8 members of the Class of 2017 and the recipient of the Hall of Fame's Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball award. We want to recognize and celebrate all of their contributions to the game of Baseball, to their teammates and to the greater amateur Baseball community, which has benefitted so much from the visible and invisible efforts and gifts of these passionate baseball-loving individuals.

The Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame is guided by the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Trustees, who developed the Mission Statement that has been the guidepost throughout the nomination and election process, which includes voting by the existing members of the Hall. We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Trustees and to the many volunteers who spent the time to gather background data on the nominees for getting us to this day.

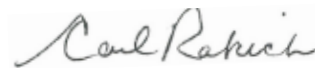
The Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Mission Statement: *The Roy Hobbs Baseball Hall of Fame is established to recognize and honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game of baseball through their involvement with Roy Hobbs Baseball for at least 10 years, the Roy Hobbs World Series and their local leagues and teams. Individuals shall have made contributions as players, coaches, managers, umpires and administrators. Contributions should have been made on and off the field of play, all impacting the dugout; a prime consideration for induction is the individual's contributions to the game, their teammates and baseball colleagues.*

We thank you for your commitment, passion and love of Baseball. We appreciate your presence here to express your appreciation as we celebrate the accomplishments of today's honorees. Please know that all proceeds from the annual Hall of Fame Induction Celebration go to support the mission of the Roy Hobbs Foundation.

Best regards,




Tom Giffen, HoF 2015
Chair, The Roy Hobbs Foundation
President, Roy Hobbs Baseball
Member, Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Trustees



Carl Rakich, HoF 2016
Chair, RH Hall of Fame
Trustees



Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame

Process involves input from nominators, references & members of the Hall of Fame

The Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame was developed in 2011-12 to honor outstanding baseball service and accomplishments on and off the field of amateur baseball players in the Roy Hobbs ranks.

The Roy Hobbs Foundation, which oversees the Hall of Fame, recruited a volunteer Board of Trustees in 2012 and tasked that group with developing a set of criteria and a mission statement. That group of 7 individuals developed basic criteria and selection process as well as a Mission Statement, the second generation of which you can find elsewhere on this page.

While the Mission Statement places emphasis on contributions off the field, it does not rule out excellence on the field, and the Trustees have attempted to make it clear that character in the Dugout is an important part of any nomination for excellence on the field.

The Mission Statement was updated in 2015, while at the same time, the now-13-member Board of Trustees decided to establish the Ambassador of Baseball Award and named it after the first recipient, Brian Mullen.

The Hall of Fame selection process starts with nominations, which can come from anyone, and a nomination form is available at royhobbs.com on the Hall of Fame page. Complete data on the nominee is important, and references are vital to the process.

The nominations are turned over to a vetting committee whose members interview the nominator and any references listed on the nomination. The nominators and references are asked a series of questions via email, and their answers go into the packet of material the screening committee compiles on each nominee.

The nominations and supporting materials are then sent to the Hall of Fame members along with a ballot ... anyone receiving a vote on 70% of the ballots returned by the Hall of Fame members is elected. In 2017, there are 46 living members of the Hall, and 31 voted, meaning nominees needed 22 votes for election.

The Trustees validate the members' vote and then review the nominations of anyone receiving at least 50% of members' vote for possible inclusion. The Trustees then vote to see if anyone will be added to the current class. It takes a 70% vote of the Trustees as well.

There is no target number to elect each year.

The Ambassador of Baseball Award is selected by the Board of Trustees each year. Nominations may come from anyone with an interest, and the number of individuals so honored each year will be at the discretion of the Trustees. There is no target number on Ambassadors either.

-- Tom Giffen, President, Roy Hobbs Foundation

Induction Celebration Nov. 11; Get tickets at RHWS offices

The Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Trustees cordially invite you to join them and the Roy Hobbs Baseball staff for the 2017 Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Inductee Dinner and Ceremony Saturday, November 11.

The RHHoF celebration will be held at the Dolphin Room of The Shell Factory in North Fort Myers. The Shell Factory is located at 2787 North Tamiami Trail (Business US 41), about 3 miles north of the Caloosahatchee River.

Social time starts at 6:30 p.m., with a multi-station buffet served at 7:15 p.m., to be followed by the induction ceremonies at approximately 8 p.m. The event should be completed by 9:30 p.m.

Admission is by ticket only. Tickets may be purchased in advance at player registration or at the World Series Headquarters, on-line at the www.royhobbs.com/halloffame or by email request to km@royhobbs.com. A limited number of tickets will be available.

Ticket prices are \$45 for guests over age 21, and \$25 for guests ages 10-20. Children under the age of 10 are free. Tickets include dinner, soft drinks, and, for those 21 and over, there will be 2 tickets for beer or wine.

All ticket orders must be placed before end of business on Nov. 10.

RH Hall of Fame Mission Statement

The Roy Hobbs Baseball Hall of Fame is established to recognize and honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game of baseball through their involvement with Roy Hobbs Baseball for at least 10 years, the Roy Hobbs World Series and their local leagues and teams. Individuals shall have made contributions as players, coaches, managers, umpires and administrators. Contributions should have been made on and off the field of play, all impacting the dugout; a prime consideration for induction is the individual's contributions to the game, their teammates and baseball colleagues.

HALL of FAME ROSTER

Jim Ahlborn, 2017
 Alfred Ayala, 2013
 Roger Begue, 2014
 George Blackwell, 2017
 Don Booth, 2015
 Willie Boyd, 2017
 Denny Brown, 2015
 Dominick Catinella, 2017
 Warren Clark, 2015
 Bill Clary, 2014
 Dave Cooper, 2015
 Troy Cox, 2013
 Ronnie Craig, 2013
 Jack DeHeer, 2013
 Bill Devine, 2014
 Gary Dover, 2015
 Tommy Faherty, 2014
 Ellen Giffen, 2017
 Tom Giffen, 2015
 Lane Green, 2013
 David Harvill, 2016
 Bob Hawkins, 2013
 JD Hinson, 2016
 Gerry Huppmann, 2016
 Clyde Jones, 2015
 Dick Kissik*, 2016
 Roger Laurella, 2016
 Bart Leathers, 2013
 Joe Maiden, 2013
 Kevin Marden, 2015
 Dave Mathews, 2014
 Kevin McBurney*, 2013

Rick McGalliard, 2014
 Tim McGoldrick, 2013
 Joe Monari, 2014
 John Morris, 2014
 Randy Moselle, 2015
 Mike Murphey, 2015
 Frank Murphy, 2016
 Dave Mydland, 2016
 Fran Podraza, 2013
 Bill 'Doc' Pollak, 2013
 Carl Rakich, 2016
 Mark Riennerth, 2017
 Fernando Roman, 2017
 Lanny Ropke, 2016
 Vito Ruscio, 2014
 Tom Scull, 2014
 Hank St. Clair*, 2013
 Marty Stanczyk, 2015
 Ron Staples, 2016
 Mic Stump, 2014
 Dutch Van Wey*, 2014
 Bob Wagner*, 2013
 Bart Waldman, 2017
 Joel Weinstein, 2014
 Todd Windhorst*, 2013
 Rick Winstead, 2014
 Gary Wright, 2013
 Harry Young*, 2013
 Dave Zavracky, 2016
 * -- deceased



Jim Ahlborn

Ahlborn: A pretty damn good catcher



By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

Jim Ahlborn lost cartilage in his hips after decades of catching. There were three years on the varsity at Brentwood (Pa.) High School, then playing at Edinboro University and playing in Roy Hobbs for more than 20 years, going all the way back to his first World Series in 1994.

That's a lot of getting up. A lot of getting down. And then repeating the process, game after game after game. ... Year after year after year. ...

The lost cartilage led to hip replacement surgeries in 2010.

The left hip was replaced in May of that year and the right one in September.

Despite losing all that cartilage Ahlborn never lost his love of the game and returned to catching for his Pittsburgh team.

"Our team is just that – a team," Ahlborn said.

It's fitting, perhaps, that Ahlborn works in sales for A & H Equipment, a supplier of heavy equipment such as street sweepers, snow removal trucks and asphalt repair vehicles. Catchers are the hardy workhorses of baseball, players who

see Jim Ahlborn on page 11

What did he say?

Why play baseball? "It's the one sport I've truly loved my entire life."

What keeps you playing? "The camaraderie with our Pittsburgh group and winning! (And titanium body replacements.)"

How'd you get hooked on baseball? "Following the Pirates as a kid in the '70s."

What do you say to people who think you play softball? As famous teammate Mark Schmidt interjected to a woman when we were on the road, "It's hardball ma'am, not softball."

What does it mean to be elected to the Hall of Fame? "Tremendous honor but also speaks for our entire group over the years."

What's your favorite baseball memory? "Way too many to choose from but walking through the handshake line after winning a championship, that's it."

Willie Boyd

Boyd: Somebody pinch me!

By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

For Detroit mailman Willie Boyd, the return home from the 2017 Roy Hobbs Baseball World Series will mean carrying a special delivery.

He'll return as a new member of the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame. The Border City Brewers veteran knows it is a very special honor.

"A blessing," Boyd said. "I'm flabbergasted."

The honor is doubly special because his love of the game runs deep. Boyd,

58, and his family moved from Indianapolis to Detroit in 1968. That was perfect baseball timing for a then very young Willie. The Tigers won a seven-game World Series over the St. Louis Cardinals that year.

see Willie Boyd on page 11



Willie Boyd

What did he say?

Why play baseball? "Why not? It's a game that's been played for ages and anyone can play it for as long as they want providing they are healthy and willing."

What keeps you playing? "LOVE for the game."

How did you get hooked on baseball? "When my family and I moved to Detroit in 1968 and the Detroit Tigers won the World Series, I started playing then and I'm still playing now."

What do you say to people who think you play softball? "I correct them by saying NO, I play hardball, the small ball, fast pitch, like the Tigers."

What's your reaction to being elected to the Hall of Fame. "It's a great HONOR to be elected, I've won multiple World Series Championships but the Hall of Fame, that's an honor because it's not how well you play, it's what you put into the game on and off the field, your personality, and most of all what other people think of you."

What is your favorite baseball memory? "It was throwing a no-hitter in a semifinal playoff game. Now it'll be being elected into the Hall of Fame. It's still hard to believe. Somebody pinch me."

George Blackwell

Blackwell: Knowledge, enthusiasm, communication



By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

George Blackwell is 76, has played baseball since his Pennsylvania childhood in the 1950s and doesn't intend to stop playing.

"I'll play 'till I'm 96," Blackwell said.

Before that far-off birthday, Blackwell has something else to take care of – induction into the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame. He recalls receiving the call informing him of his election.

"I was just ecstatic," Blackwell said. "Very humbling. I don't

take it lightly. I'm honored."

Blackwell earned his election through a life in baseball, including playing at Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh, more than 30 years of senior baseball in Minnesota and coaching Blake High School to the Minnesota state tournament for the first time in its history. He's also played Roy Hobbs since 1998.

When Blackwell's Hall of Fame candidacy was vetted, three qualities stood out:

1. Knowledge of the game.
2. Enthusiasm for the game.
3. Ability to communicate the game and promote it.

see George Blackwell on page 15

What did he say?

Why play baseball? "For the love of the game."

What keeps you playing? "Being around some great guys who love the game as much as I do."

How'd you get hooked on baseball? "Started at an early age, 7 or 8. My dad got me started and the rest is history."

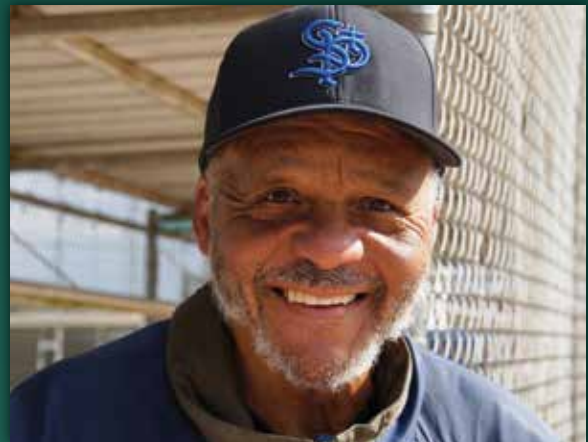
What do you say to people who think you play softball? "Yes! It really is baseball."

What does it mean to be elected to the Hall of Fame? "Very honored and humbled to be elected. It's a special honor to be a part of this group."

What's your favorite baseball memory? "Playing catch with Roberto Clemente when I was invited to a Pirate tryout in 1960."

GEORGE BLACKWELL

**65 YEARS OF PLAYING, MANAGING
AND ORGANIZING BASEBALL IN
MINNESOTA AND ELSEWHERE ...
HERE'S TO MANY, MANY MORE YEARS!**

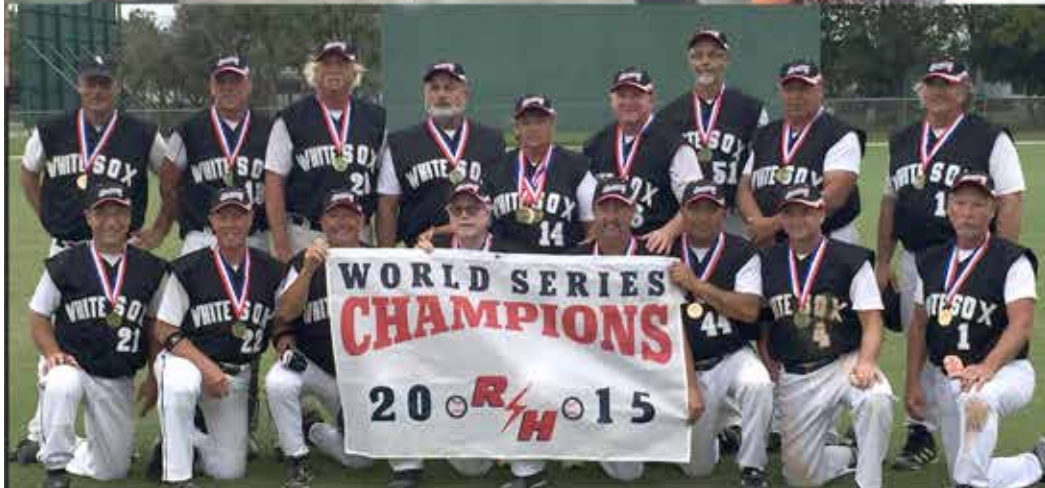


**CONGRATULATIONS TO GEORGE
BLACKWELL FROM THE MINNESOTA
SAINTS AND THE MINNESOTA BASEBALL
COMMUNITY ON HIS WELL-EARNED
ELECTION TO THE ROY HOBBS
HALL OF FAME,
CLASS OF 2017**

DOMINICK CATINELLA

Dominick Catinella embodies the game of baseball. Everyone that has ever met him knows of his great love of this All-American past-time. Dominick lives and breathes baseball! His passion for baseball has been a life-long commitment, not only as a player at a very young age, but continuously throughout his adult life. He joined the Roy Hobbs family in 1985, as a veteran of the 35+ League, through the Masters, Legends, Classics and teetering on Vintage, Dominick has remained faithful to the crack of the bat!

Dominick's contagious enthusiasm for baseball has never faltered throughout every stage of his life. To our family and extended family, and many friends, Dominick, Glove 22, is a legend in his own time.



Dominick has given so much of himself to baseball. He has a love for the game that makes you so grateful to be a part of the game with him.



2017 ROY HOBBS BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Dominick Catinella

Catinella: A passion for big boy baseball



By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

For Dominick Catinella, the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be more about family than baseball, more about his wife and kids and grandkids than even the Oak Lawn Roy Hobbs League.

In all 16 family members plan to be at the induction starting with his wife of 43 years, Kathleen. Look in the crowd for their four children - Nicole, Dominick II, Daniel and Lauren. The "kids" are all now in their 30s. The four grandchildren will be there. That means Delaney, Charlie, Connor and Clara Grace,

ages between 2 and 6.

And Catinella's twin sister - Lois. By the way, she is 59 minutes older than Dominick.

This will obviously be a special night for Dominick.

"I don't know if I'm going to get through the evening," the 67-year-old Catinella said.

He has a great deal to talk about in his baseball life, which was kick-started nearly 60 years ago when he watched the 1959 Chicago White Sox lose the World Series to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

A few years later he was on the baseball team at Lindbloom High School in Chicago. Baseball in general and Roy Hobbs in particular have been a big part of Catinella's life ever since. Well, not all of it with Hobbs because the organization didn't

see Dominick Catinella on page 15

What did he say?

Why play baseball? "Keeps me young."

What keeps you playing? "Lasting friendships made over the years."

How'd you get hooked on baseball? "Watching the '59 White Sox and knowing every player on the team."

What do you say to people who think you play softball? "I say, 'No, the little 9-inch ball. It's called Big Boy Baseball.'"

What does it mean to be elected to the Hall of Fame? "An inspiring pinnacle to reach this accomplishment in the game I love."

What's your favorite baseball memory? "Playing on my first Colt championship team in 1964."

Jim Ahlborn

continued from page 8

do heavy lifting and just keep plugging away.

That's Ahlborn.

Now, 7 years after two hip replacements his love of the game and dedication have led him to the Hall of Fame.

But it takes more than love of the game, dedication and talent to earn Hall of Fame induction. Ahlborn has demonstrated those other qualities over many years as an administrator, coach and manager.

Ahlborn and his Pittsburgh teammates have been fixtures in Fort Myers since his first trip here.

"I got hooked on it," Ahlborn said of playing in the World Series and on Lee County fields.

Not in 2010. That was because of the hip surgeries. He's missing the 2017 World Series because of surgery for stenosis, which he described as a lower back degenerative condition of the spine.

Other than when medical situations dictate that he miss, Ahlborn has played and caught. He even caught the year after having both hips replaced.

The combination of attributes that have propelled Ahlborn to the Hall of Fame were summed up by Rob Fester, who knows him well.

"Jim is a great teammate, a good friend, and an even better man," Fester told a Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame trustee during the vetting process. "And, he's a pretty damn good catcher, too."

Willie Boyd

continued from page 8

Boyd was hooked and remains hooked. His passion for baseball, his knowledge of the game and respect for its traditions as well as his character leap off the pages of his Hall of Fame vetting report.

Nominator Dave Cooper: "I have known him for 30 years and have yet to hear a bad word come out of his mouth."

Mike Taylor: "He plays the game with competitive fervor while being respectful of his teammates and his opponents. He sacrifices himself to make the team better."

Russ Bortell: "He epitomizes not only what Roy Hobbs Baseball stands for, but what the game of baseball was meant to be and how to be played."

Gary Ignasiak: "Put Mr. Boyd in any dugout and you have given your team a chance to win."

Boyd recalls his reaction to the news of his election as he was driving away from a bowling alley.

"I had to pull over," Boyd said. "It was unreal. I never thought that would happen."

Boyd has served in the past as a vetter, a person who researches the worthiness of potential Hall of Famers.

"I said I wish I could get to the point where I could get to the Hall of Fame," said Boyd, a three-time World Series MVP.

Now he has.



CONGRATULATION

GLAD TO HAVE YOU

Carl Rakich

David Mydlanek

Capt B. Gou Sr. MBB

Roger Bayne

June 2013

Jimmy Rapke

Warren T Clark

Brick McEllis

Dennis Bost

Mike

Debbie

Tommy Fabecky

Dave Cooper

Tom Scull

Tom Staples

Gary

John Mord

Rich Kessell

2015

John a Vignier

You hit it out of the park -
Congratulations!

Joe Marden

Harry D. Young

Carl

Kevin Marden

Randy Masek

NS CLASS OF 2017

DU ON OUR TEAM!

Dave Hamill

J. D. Henson

Bar Leathers 2013

Vito Ruscio

Henry A. McClain

Roger Laurella

Bill Chy Bill Dennis

Sam Polinger HOF13

David P. Matthews

Bob Hawkins '2013

T. J. W. #56

Gary W. Wright 2013

R. A.

1999 CA '13

Joe Monahan Tom McDermott 2013

Frank Murphy

Bill "Doc" Pollak '13'

Ronald E. Brice

Todd Lindquist

Richard Wentland

Edith Lutz

Victor Vinyan

Alfred J. J. 2013

Mark A. Starnes

THANK YOU

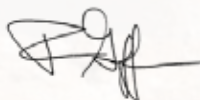


This may be the Roy Hobbs World Series' 29th birthday, but for Ellen and me, it is our 25th year as your hosts at the Roy Hobbs World Series. That's just 2 months shy of 25 years since we took over Roy Hobbs Baseball at the 11th hour on New Year's Eve 1992.

It has been an incredible journey, filled with twists and turns, fastballs and curves, with a few changeups and screwballs thrown in for good measure ... an unforgettable journey filled with great pleasure.

Most of all, it has been 25 years of being richly blessed with incredible relationships with an immensely diverse community throughout the United States, and internationally as well. It's impossible to count the blessings we have received through adult amateur baseball. It is the people, the players, the managers - it is you!

We are honored to be elected to the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame. As we have said from the start, Roy Hobbs Baseball is not about us - it is about YOU, your passion and your love for the game. Thank you for your support of our efforts to grow the Roy Hobbs annual celebration of playing baseball - the greatest of all team games.

 Ellen Giffen

Ellen Giffen

Giffen: Unsung labors behind the scenes



By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

You won't see Ellen Giffen slashing doubles into the gap, firing fastballs from atop a mound or laying down bunts.

But her behind the scenes work helps make that possible every fall for thousands of players in the Roy Hobbs World Series. She's an administrative wizard whose work helps make the four-week event possible.

She and her husband, Tom, the president of Roy Hobbs Baseball, purchased the organization 25 years ago.

Its unsung labors for a quarter of a century that earned Ellen's election into the Hall of Fame. The organization's success isn't possible without her competence and people skills. And Roy Hobbs is built on people skills.

"Our event is an event of families and teammates," Ellen said.

Hall of Fame vetter Bart Leathers wrote in a vetting document of her administrative skills: "She handles these matters with great aplomb and a friendliness that is so welcome by players and coaches alike."

Details are endless. They include players, coaches, locker rooms, umpires, fields, rain delays, concessions, restaurants, hotels, car rentals companies, souvenirs, the shop, clothing and more.

see Ellen Giffen on page 21

What did she say?

How did you get hooked on baseball? "There's really something special about the heart of baseball. ... I didn't play baseball. ... I would say through my mom listening to Indians games on the radio."

What do you say to people who think Roy Hobbs Baseball is softball? "I'm kind of abrupt. It's hardball; it's not softball."

What does it mean to be elected to the Hall of Fame? "I consider it an honor. ... I really appreciate it. ... There's way more to our events than what is on the field."

What's your favorite baseball memory? "It was quite a few years ago. ... A team of players with Irish descent won a championship and did an Irish jig on the field."

George Blackwell

continued from page 9

What keeps him playing is a feeling that keeps many men playing into their 70s and beyond.

"It's something you can't get out of your system," Blackwell said.

The camaraderie of the game is a powerful magnet. "There's nothing like it," he said.

He instilled that in his players at Blake High School. He also has done that with his Minnesota Saints for more than a decade.

His vetting document noted that Blackwell has a "servant's heart."

He also has a baseball heart. Blackwell recalls as a standout high school baseball player participating in a Pirates' tryout at Forbes Field. On that day, the then 18-year-old bumped into the greatest Pirates player ever in the dugout. Roberto Clemente, as Blackwell recalls, was rehabbing an arm injury and asked the kid to play catch.

Blackwell naturally said yes. Now, nearly 60 years later, that experience still resonates with Blackwell, who every year comes to Fort Myers, where the Pirates had spring training during most of Clemente's career. One of the Terry Park ball fields is named for Clemente, a fact that makes Blackwell think back to that day at Forbes Field when he played catch with a legend.

"Every time I go to Terry Park I think about it," Blackwell said.

The main thing with Blackwell, though, isn't the past; it's the men he plays with now.

"I want to surround myself with good guys, great teammates," Blackwell said.

Until he's 96. ...

Dominick Catinella

continued from page 11

exist when Catinella graduated from high school.

But for the past quarter of a century Catinella has been a key figure in the Oak Lawn League. Key figure? That's an understatement. He spent 12 years as president and 26 years on the board. Catinella has been a coach, manager, umpire and player.

Hall of Fame nominator Bonnie Fear described him as a "fixture."

Fear said Catinella is often at fields early in the morning to make sure they're ready for play. He's also a fixture in Fort Myers. This will be his 19th consecutive World Series.

Hall of Famer Vito Ruscio said Catinella also helps players on and off the field. "He is there for them," Ruscio said.

Hall of Famer Roger Laurella described Catinella as "a special kind of person with a countless amount of energy."

Through it all, through all the years since watching the White Sox in the 1959 World Series and high school ball and Roy Hobbs there has been one constant for this new Hall of Famer.

"What drives me is my passion for baseball," Catinella said. And, of course, his family.

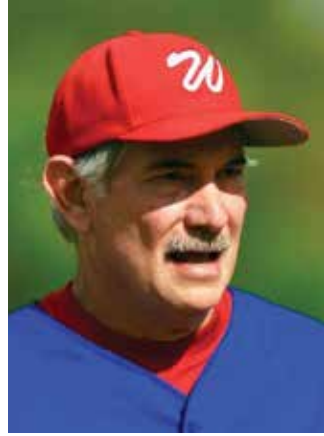


THE SEATTLE MARINERS CONGRATULATE BART WALDMAN

ROY HOBBS BASEBALL HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2017

Bart Waldman

Waldman: A servant with a slider



By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

Bart Waldman has accomplished a great deal – Harvard, Georgetown Law School, Seattle Mariners' vice president/legal counsel and member of a Washington Titans team that won four consecutive Legends titles, 2005-08.

Yet when Waldman received the news about his Hall of Fame election the reaction was profound.

"Lawyers aren't often speechless," said Waldman, who is now retired from the Mariners.

The Hall of Fame has that impact, especially for men such as

Waldman who have loved baseball since boyhood. He grew up in Connecticut as a Yankees fan. Although the favorite Yankee of most kids then was Mickey Mantle Waldman's was third baseman Clete Boyer.

"My favorite tended to be more of the underdog," Waldman said.

He looks on himself that way, describing himself as a "not

see Bart Waldman on page 18

What did he say?

Why play baseball, what keeps you playing and how'd you get hooked on baseball? "I have to answer these together. ... The answer evolves as I age. As a kid, you played because it was fun, social, challenging, and at the same time it gave you a sense of belonging. In the 1950s, baseball was the very fabric of America. When you played, you experienced part of Americana. It was like picnics and fireworks. ... As an adult, you continue to play because it reminds you of the unqualified joy you experienced on the ballfield as a kid. It is a complete escape from the pressures of everyday life - Then you discover the team bonding and friendships are more important than the games. As I'm fond of telling teams I coach, "Think of every game as a doubleheader. We play it once on the field, then again over a burger and beer. We never lose the nightcap."

What do you say to people who think you play softball? "You never let the error stand uncorrected. I don't know how many times I've said, 'We play real baseball. Hardball. Overhand pitching, curve balls, bunting, base-stealing, nine innings. Someday, when we slow down and can't do this anymore, we'll consider softball . . . or golf.'"

see What Did He Say? on page 18

Mark Reinerth

Rienerth: All about Baseball and Rhino

By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

Mark "Rhino" Rienerth is all about baseball and his nickname.

"I don't do golf, hunting and fishing," said Rienerth, who resides in Norfolk, Va. "I don't do the guy thing except during Roy Hobbs."

The Tidewater Drillers pitcher is a Virginia baseball man and always has been, ever since he was an 11-year-old Little League All-Star in Onacock and on through Onacock High School and as an All-Southern Conference pitcher and team captain at the College of William and Mary.

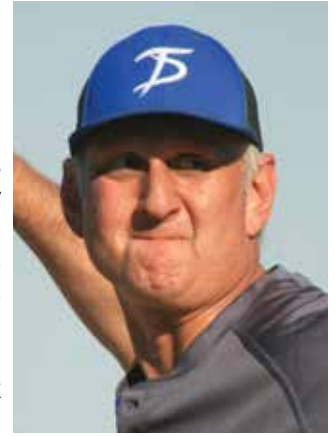
He started adult baseball in 1977 and later found Roy Hobbs, playing in his first World Series when the event was still held in Orlando.

"I had the time of my life," Rienerth, 61, said.

He was hooked and estimates this year's World Series is his 27th. Rienerth isn't a Hall of Famer because of longevity. A great deal more went into his election than merely playing a long time.

He's a seven-time World Series MVP for the Drillers, a

see Mark Reinerth on page 18



Mark Reinerth

What did he say?

Why play baseball? "The camaraderie. You don't get it anywhere else."

What keeps you playing? "It's part of Americana."

How'd you get hooked on baseball? "I remember the very moment. I grew up in the small town of Onacock, Va. ... When I was 6 or 7, I threw stones at a buoy and then saw how I could make them skip. ... Ever since I could throw from three arm slots."

What do you say to people who think you play softball? "I usually roll my eyes and say I play the real sport."

What does it mean to be elected to the Hall of Fame? "It means I'm still alive and playing after 25 years. It's nice to be recognized."

What's your favorite baseball memory? "Oh, man that is just so tough. ... Winning a Little League championship. ..." (After an Orioles' game at Memorial Stadium in the 1960s, a kid named Rhino asked a young player for his autograph.) "There was a signature of this guy – Jim Palmer."

Fernando Roman

Roman: LBBA league a labor of love



By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

Fernando Roman placed a call from Puerto Rico to Florida a few days after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in September.

The place where he grew up was reeling but a chance to talk baseball and his election to the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame was too good to pass up.

"We don't have lights, power," Roman said.

Maria didn't turn out the lights on his love of baseball. With no power and no access to television

news or the Internet Roman was living through a virtual news blackout on his home.

Roman may not have known what was going on around the island but he was sure about something – the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

"I'll be there for the induction no matter what," Roman said.

Baseball has been a big part of his life since his grandfather encouraged him to watch the 1967 World Series and see Puerto Rican Jose Santiago pitch for the Boston Red Sox.

A passion was lit. He played as a kid until the death of the greatest Puerto Rican player ever, Roberto Clemente, in a mercy-mission plane crash. Roman was 16 at the time and heartbroken and couldn't go on with the game.

see Fernando Roman on page 22

What did he say?

Why play baseball? On watching Santiago pitch in the 1967 World Series: "I said, 'Oh, wow! I love this game.'"

What keeps you playing? "I love baseball. ... (To play again) I started running and bicycling to get in shape."

How'd you get hooked on baseball? (Santiago, 1967) "That hooked me. I started playing Little League."

What do you say to people who think you play softball? Laughs and said, "I don't play softball. People have invited me. No. No. I play hard ball."

What does it mean to be elected to the Hall of Fame? "This is an honor. ... Like a prize for all the work I do in Puerto Rico. The players say, 'Thank you for the opportunity to play baseball again.'"

What's your favorite baseball memory? 1. Winning the 2008 4A championship. 2. Hall of Fame. 3. Watching Red Sox win 2004 World Series.

Mark Reinerth

continued from page 17

durable pitcher whose expertise is not overpowering hitters, just getting them out, consistently. Throughout his nomination documents, leadership – in the dugout, on the field, and behind the scenes – was a focal point.

And, Reinerth helps organize Drillers teams that play in the World Series, has coached youth teams in his community and then there are the intangibles, qualities that can't be measured by wins and losses.

"He makes us all better players because of his passion and love of baseball and the fact that he deeply cares about us – his teammates," said nominator Gary Wright, who is also a Hall of Famer.

Away from ballfields Reinerth is in wealth management. The name of his company is Rhino Wealth Management and his email address includes the name Rhino.

That's how he is known in the Virginia and Roy Hobbs baseball worlds.

see Mark Reinerth on page 22

Bart Waldman

continued from page 17

particularly athletic" and "cerebral" kid. But he was athletic enough to play collegiate baseball and star for the Titans.

Like others in the Class of '17, Waldman is a pitcher, a pitcher with a particularly effective slider that "can make a grown man cry" said Hall of Famer Billy Devine. Beyond that, however, he is a leader in the dugout, on the field and off.

Said teammate Rick Park in his reference: "We cannot play baseball without guys like Bart who organize, recruit and put whole teams together which benefits all. Tireless, thankless work that is pure service so others can play this kids game at our age. It's a blessing to know a guy like Bart."

The main thing is the game. He doesn't take anything for granted, especially World Series games in stadiums.

"You take the mound and they play the national anthem and I always tear up," Waldman said.

That's Bart Waldman – Hall of Famer.

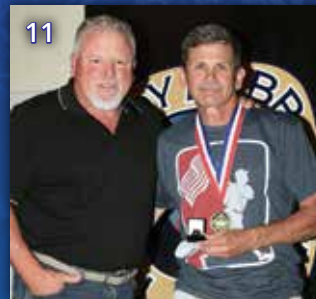
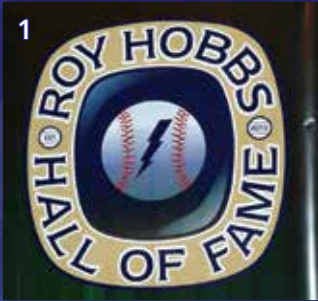
What did he say?

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What does it mean to be elected to the Hall of Fame? "It's a very singular and special honor."

Favorite baseball memory: "On-field, it has to be the Titans' first RHWS AAAA championship in 2005. Off-field, it has to be the final game of the 1995 playoffs between the Mariners and Yankees. I was at the game with my then 11-year old daughter, and I'll never forget the joy of jumping up and down and hugging each other when Edgar Martinez doubled in Ken Griffey Jr. with the walk-off winning run. A very special moment.

2016 Induction Photos



The 2016 Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Celebration was held at the Shell Factory in North Fort Myers. Some scenes from that event included ... 1) the RH HoF banner, 2) Roy Hobbs President Tom Giffen presenting Dick Kissik's Hall of Fame plaque to Dick's nephew Glenn Wilcox, 3) honoree Carl Rakich with presenter Don Smith, 4) honoree Ron Staples with Dave Mathews, 5) honoree Dave Mydland with Bob Schlimgen, 6) 2016 Brian Mullen Ambassadors of Baseball Juliet Hawkins and Bob Molbert, 7) honoree JD Hinson with wife Debbie Hinson, 8) honorees leading the crowd in "take Me Out to the Ball Game," 9) honoree Dave Zavracky with Walter Kotrba singing Dave's acceptance, 10) honoree Frank Murphy with James Hartung, 11) honoree Gerry Huppman with Flip Harrison, 12) honoree Dave Harvill with Gary Dover, 13) honoree Roger Laurella with Bonnie Fear, 14) honoree Lanny Ropke with Denny Brown, 15) The Class of 2016.

-Photos by Greg Wagner

Ambassador of Baseball Award Celebrates service to the game

Looking for an additional avenue to honor individuals for their meritorious service to Baseball, the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Board of Trustees established the Ambassador of Baseball award in 2015 and named it for one of the initial recipients: Brian Mullen.

Bonnie Fear, of the Windy City White Sox, is the 2017 honoree. See more on her on page 24.

Fear will be recognized at the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame celebration November 11 at the Dolphin Room of The Shell Factory in North Fort Myers. (The Shell Factory is located at 2787 North Tamiami Trail (Business US 41), about 3 miles north of the Caloosahatchee River.) Social time starts at 6:30 p.m., with a multi-station buffet served at 7:15 p.m., to be followed by the induction ceremonies at approximately 8 p.m.

The development of the Ambassador of Baseball award was the result of many voices suggesting that Roy Hobbs recognize Brian Mullen for his years of service to the World Series, service to Roy Hobbs players and service to the Game, Roy Hobbs President Tom Giffen said.

"A common theme running through those messages was that Brian Mullen was an Ambassador of the Game. For Roy Hobbs, the establishment of the Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball recognition seemed like 'The Natural' thing to do."

The Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball award is determined at the

sole discretion of the RHHoF Trustees. Honorees will be presented at the annual Hall of Fame induction celebration, and their names will be included on a perpetual plaque that hangs in the Roy Hobbs World Series headquarters.

The selection of Mullen as the namesake is reflected in his impact on the Roy Hobbs World Series since he joined the Hobbs staff in 1994.

Glenn Miller wrote this about Mullen in 2015:

"Every baseball fan knows about those rare creatures – five-tool players. Those are guys who can hit, hit with power, run, throw and field.

"Brian Mullen ... is a five-tool player, albeit 5 different tools

"Five tools? He's got them in abundance.

- Scorekeeper
- Announcer
- Site manager
- Statistician / helps seed playoff fields
- Customer

relations

"The last item may be the most important to the Mullen. 'The players are the real stars,' he said. 'If they didn't come down I wouldn't have a job.'

"From Roy Hobbs President Tom Giffen: 'Brian sets the standard for working with customers on a one-on-one basis. He is the guy with the perpetual smile and a personal first-name greeting for everyone.'

"Yes, Brian Mullen is an Ambassador with a capital 'A.' He does it all, like a five-tool player.

"And he does with a smile for everybody."



Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball

Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball Mission Statement

Roy Hobbs' Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball Award is presented during the annual Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame celebration. Recipients are associated with Roy Hobbs Baseball and are selected at the discretion of the Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Trustees and are recognized with a plaque for their Meritorious Service as an Ambassador of Amateur Baseball.

Ambassador of Baseball nominations will be accepted via email to RHHoF@royhobbs.com, and nominators will be asked to provide verifiable data in support of anyone they nominate.

Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball Honorees

Bonnie Fear, 2017
Juliet Hawkins, 2016
Rob Molbert, 2016
Brian Mullen, 2015

*Charles 'Chuck' Nave, 2015
* - deceased

2017 Ambassador Bonnie Fear, a lifetime of Baseball & family

By **GLENN MILLER**
Roy Hobbs Baseball

Bill Fear knows something about the 2017 Roy Hobbs Brian Mullen Ambassador of Baseball Award winner that not everybody likely knows about Bonnie Fear.

"She's been an ambassador of baseball her whole life," Bill said of his wife.

He should know. They will celebrate their 39th wedding anniversary in February. Bill knows about Bonnie's life in baseball, from playing as a girl to becoming a Little League coach at 18 when she ran a team where her younger brothers played.

Yes, Bonnie has always been about baseball, whether it's rooting for the Chicago White Sox in the big leagues or managing the Windy City White Sox in the Roy Hobbs World Series.

Dominick Catinella is one of her players on the Windy City team. He first met Bonnie when she was 17 and working at a Jewel grocery store he was managing in the Chicago area. She is now 60.

Catinella still recalls taking younger employees out for pizza after work on Friday nights all those years ago. Catinella and Bonnie went their separate ways for several years and then when Bonnie was with Bill they crossed paths again.



"She would come to all of Billy's games," Catinella said.

Now and for the past seven years or so Bonnie's former grocery store boss is one of her players.

"She's fair and knows the game," Catinella said. "And she usually makes the right decision."

Catinella applauds her selection as the Ambassador. "I think she's the perfect fit," he said.

Bonnie Fear has balanced baseball with family for decades. She's the mother of, as she put it, three "natural" kids and two foster children. She's now the grandmother of eight "natural" kids and two foster kids.

Of course, some things changed over time. As a child, Bonnie was a Cubs fan. Then came marriage to Bill.

"He changed me into a White Sox fan," Bonnie said.

But she's always been a baseball fan. When she was 18 Bonnie volunteered to coach a little brother's Little League. She was initially told no by league officials because, she said, they wanted men coaching.

But when not enough men volunteered the league president came to her house and asked her to coach.

Now, all these years later, her enthusiasm for the game hasn't waned. She watches the Little League World Series every summer. "I hibernate in August like a bear in winter," she said of watching televised Little League games.

This baseball woman earned the latest the Ambassador Award through decades of devotion to the game in general and Roy Hobbs Baseball in particular.

"Oh, gosh, I am so honored," Bonnie said. "Everybody who knows me knows how much I love the game."

see Ambassador on page 22

Ellen Giffen

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Ellen's workload is enormous as she did all of the marketing the first 20+ years in addition to holding down a full-time position as a Project Manager for Ruhlin Construction Company through 2005.

That meant meeting restaurateurs and hoteliers and rental car companies. Much of the marketing has now been out-sourced but other details remain endless. Ellen even used to physically carry boxes and trays of food and drink until injuring an arm five years ago.

Work, work, work. ...

"I take care of the apparel ordering," she said.

The 2017 World Series has 238 teams, about 4,000 players, 80-to-90 umpires, 20 concession workers, three

store employees and concierges scattered around five facilities. Ellen helps manage all that.

Dave McLaughlin nominated Ellen for the Hall of Fame.

"Roy Hobbs would not be as polished without Ellen," McLaughlin said in his nomination. "She has been instrumental in name recognition by both promoting and protecting the (Roy Hobbs) brand."

Running the World Series requires mastery of details, something Hall of Famer J. D. Hinson noted in his letter of reference.

"It would be impossible to list all of Ellen's contributions because she quietly does it in the background," Hinson said.

Hall of Famer Tommy Faherty said this of the World Series and Ellen's work that goes into making it come together every fall: "Just would not exist as is without Ellen's direction and leadership."

Fernando Roman

continued from page 18

But he returned to it as an adult, playing and doing so much more, including writing a book in 1992 about the last 30 months of the life of Roberto Clemente: "En el Cielo lo que se juega es Beisbol" (In Heaven, We Play Baseball). The book is in Cooperstown, New York.

He is essentially the father of Roy Hobbs Baseball on the island serving as president, coach, player, umpire and scorekeeper. He founded the local league (LBBA) in 1990.

He has made it possible for Puerto Rican teams to play every year for 27 years in the World Series; some 50 teams have made it to Fort Myers under his watch.

Hall of Famer Alfred Ayala said in his reference letter: "There would be no (Puerto Rican) teams at RHWS if not for Fernando."

Dexter Cosmo's reference: "Fernando is the standard bearer for adult amateur baseball in PR. Due to his leadership, the LBBA continues to survive and grow in spite of the severe economic conditions in Puerto Rico."

Roman has always been there for his league and has some personal experiences as well. During his stint as a professional umpire in Puerto Rico, he was on the crew at the Puerto Rican All-Star Game in 1995, with Roberto Alomar, Ivan Rodriguez, Juan Gonzalez and many other Major League Baseball's players. And, he umpired one year in the RHWS.

Yes, he does it all!

Mark Reinerth

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His wife is not known as Rhino. Her name is Linda. Every year, Reinerth said, he and Linda have a similar conversation just before the World Series. She'll ask him how long he will be gone to Florida for the World Series.

Rhino tells her basically the same thing every fall: "I'll say three weeks unless my body doesn't hold up. Then I'll be back tomorrow."

And this year it may be 4 weeks ...

Rhino's body is still holding up.

Ambassador

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Being singled out for selection out of what she sees as a vast field of potential Ambassadors stuns and nearly overwhelms Bonnie.

"There's so many people in the Roy Hobbs family," Bonnie said. "There's so many people involved who could win the award."

But there's only one Bonnie Fear.

And there's only one recipient of the 2017 Roy Hobbs Brian Mullen Ambassador Award.

"I'm speechless," Bonnie said. "I'm in awe of this prestigious award."

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ROY HOBBS HALL OF FAME

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