

RH HoF Reference Data for Phil Clements

Nominated as: Player

Vetter: Steve LaRussa, HoF Trustee & HoF 2019

Nominator: Tim Hoyles

References: John Larson & Allen Green

Steve LaRussa Notes:

After reviewing the nomination for Phil, reading the references replies, and having a good talk with Tom about Phil, I believe he is a qualified candidate for the Hall of Fame.

He is 100% the quality person we desire to have in our group. His references replies were simple and to the point...he was and is a fantastic teammate to be around. The type of silent leader who leads by example and makes everyone want to elevate their own game. One whose presence on the field and dugout makes the game and the chemistry of a team click.

His nomination by Tim Hoyles delves more into his actual ability and longevity of playing and managing at a high level of talent and respect. Over 30 seasons of Roy Hobbs tourneys, part of 12 championship teams and MVP of team in many of those years.

As he has grown older and not participated as much as a player, he still remains active as a manager who puts teams together to help local leagues thrive. Even putting teams together to help a 50+ league that is a 3-4-hour round-trip drive away. To get a group of guys together to do that and be that dedicated is incredible as most of us know whom are over 50...your pool of guys who can still play and have the desire to play dwindles so much as we get older.

Phil went to the 2009 Mariners/A's fantasy camp, where he was named MVP of his camp's team by none other than Dave Stewart (former A's great pitcher and one of meanest SOB'S to ever play baseball) and former Mariner pitcher Brian Holman. It was an award based on character and the opinion of the coaches of whom they would want to build a team around. He was the oldest player there by far and not the best physical player there. That tells us all we need to know of the man's character. He impressed an MLB World Series MVP that much!

Career and Achievements from nominator and references

Quick Facts

- **Born:** 1938 (86 years young!)
- **Hometown:** Big Rapids, Michigan
- **Roy Hobbs Journey:** Started in 1991
- **Divisions Played:** Multiple age divisions over 30+ seasons
- **Current Status:** Still participating at age 86!

The Ambassador

Phil Clements doesn't just play Roy Hobbs Baseball—he grows it. For over 30 years, he's been introducing players to "The Real Game," creating a ripple effect that has brought countless adults back to baseball.

Championship Legacy

- 🏆 **12 Championship Teams** across various age divisions
- 🏅 **"The rings to prove it!"**
- 🏆 **Multiple Team MVP Awards** during championship runs
- ⭐ **First Championship:** 2005 with Western Silver Foxes
- 🏆 **30+ Seasons** of Roy Hobbs tournaments

Notable Achievements

- **2009:** Represented Roy Hobbs at Mariners and Athletics Fantasy Camp in Phoenix
- Team leader on 12 championship teams
- Helped establish and sustain a 50+ league in Michigan
- Drives 3-4 hours round trip to support local leagues

The Mentor

Phil's impact transcends statistics: - Introduced countless players to Roy Hobbs Baseball - Mentors players on respecting the game - Forms teams to support local leagues when needed - Creates opportunities for others to play competitive baseball

Love of the Game

At 86 years old, Phil embodies what it means to play baseball for life: - Still actively playing in the 70+ division - Travels across the country for tournaments - Never hesitates to form teams when leagues need support - Makes 3-4 hour round trips just to play

Building Baseball Communities

When asked to form a team for a new 50+ league, Phil didn't hesitate: - Recruited 20-25 players from Grand Rapids - Managed logistics for players traveling 1-3 hours each way - Ensured league sustainability through his commitment - Demonstrated that distance is no barrier to playing baseball

What Makes Phil Special

- 1. His Love of the Game** - Shows up consistently, as long as health allows - 30+ years of dedication to Roy Hobbs Baseball - Still playing competitive hardball at 86
- 2. Fellowship and Mentorship** - Creates lasting bonds with fellow players - Excellent teammate, coach, and mentor - Known for his talent and positive demeanor - Someone

Phil's Gratitude

He has told his Michigan teammates time and again ...*"It has been a memorable journey... many thanks to everyone at Roy Hobbs Baseball for making the journey possible over all these years."*

Phil feels eternally grateful to Roy Hobbs for: - The wonderful people he's met - The experiences he's had - The ability to play real hardball at 86 years old

The Clements Effect

Phil's legacy isn't measured just in championships or seasons played—it's measured in the lives he's touched and the players he's brought to the game. Every player Phil introduced to Roy Hobbs Baseball represents another branch of his baseball family tree.

Why Phil Belongs in the Hall of Fame

- Pioneer player since 1991
- Ambassador who grows the game
- Mentor who teaches respect for baseball
- Champion who leads by example
- Living proof that baseball is truly ageless

At 86, Phil Clements continues to show that Roy Hobbs Baseball isn't just about playing—it's about community, dedication, and an undying love for America's pastime.

Nominator Tim Hoyle's Comments:

1. Please tell us how this individual and his character affect Roy Hobbs Baseball, the game of baseball and his baseball colleagues on and off the field, and why.

Phil Clements introduced me to Roy Hobbs baseball as he has to many others after I started playing adult baseball myself in 1999. I had played with Phil on one of our local teams here in Lansing, Michigan, for several years when he invited me to play on a team he had formed to play in a western tournament not affiliated with Roy Hobbs. When I heard about Roy Hobbs, Phil directed me to join and I've been involved with Roy Hobbs ever since.

I have been involved with Phil when he has been my manager as well as a teammate and during that time, I've been exposed to someone who not only loves the game but lives it as well. While he's not as active in our local league as a player anymore, he will still put together teams to support our league. And throughout all this time, Phil will drive the 3-4 hours round trip to participate.

2. What qualities and/or Roy Hobbs Baseball accomplishments make this individual special ... that they STAND APART from their peers and should be recognized through induction to the Roy Hobbs Baseball Hall of Fame?

Through his own baseball experiences, Phil would not hesitate to take on the role as a mentor and/or manager when needed or asked. Phil started playing in Roy Hobbs himself in 1991 and hasn't looked back. As he has aged, he still loves to play "The Real Game" and travels the country when needed to do so.

A couple of years ago I was forming a 50+ league in our local area, and I asked Phil if he could form a team to bring in from Grand Rapids. Without hesitation he took the lead. As I've found out just recently, it's a lot to take on when you need to pull together 20 -25 adults baseball players and hold them together for the duration of a league schedule, particularly when there's 1-3 hours of travel time to and from the playing field. When asked, Phil has always been able to make that commitment to support the Game!

3. From your list of character qualities and/or your line of reasoning in support of your candidate, if you could pick only 2, which would they be and why? These should be compelling and your stories should demonstrate how your candidate is EXCEPTIONAL in regards to Roy Hobbs Baseball. *

1. His love of the game: Phil shows up and continues to do so as long as his health will allow him to.

2. His love and true fellowship for and with those who continue to play the game throughout their lives.

Phil is and always has been a great teammate, coach and mentor to those of us playing in adult baseball. He has always been someone you want to have on your team for his talent and demeanor.