



**West Covina
Big League Dreams**



CITY OF WEST COVINA BIG LEAGUE DREAMS WALK OF FAME CEREMONY

**Saturday, November 19, 2011
10:00 a.m.**

**WEST COVINA
BIG LEAGUE DREAMS SPORTSPLEX
2100 S. AZUSA AVE.
WEST COVINA, CA 91792
(626) 839-1100**

WEST COVINA 2011 WALK



In 2008, the West Covina City Council approved the creation of a Walk of Fame inside the Big League Dreams Sportsplex to honor athletes, coaches and sports group volunteers from West Covina who have made significant contributions to make West Covina a better place to live, work and play. The Walk of Fame includes bronze plaques that are inserted into the concrete walkways that transverse the Big League Dreams facility. All honorees are selected based on nominations received from the public and



Richard Bletcher - Little League Volunteer

Richard Bletcher lived in West Covina for more than 25 years. He attended Cameron Junior High School and graduated from West Covina High School. Bletcher also attended Mt. San Antonio College. As a child in West Covina, he played baseball with South Hills Little League and Maverick Baseball League. Twenty-seven years ago, Richard formed the Mt. San Antonio College Winter Baseball Program, now known as the Southern California Winter Baseball Association, in which he is still very active all these years later. For more than 15 years, Bletcher served as a volunteer with the West Covina American Little League, serving as a coach, a board member and league president. After serving on the board, he continued to volunteer an additional 17 years as an umpire and a gardener for the league. While with West Covina American Little League, he won numerous baseball championships.



Alex Chavez - Pony Baseball Volunteer

Alex Chavez is a 25-year resident of West Covina, and he has volunteered for more than 15 years at Walmerado Park as a Pony Baseball coach and 10 years as league president. As a coach for West Covina Youth Pony Baseball, Chavez's teams won several championships, including the 2011 West Covina Youth Pony Baseball 13U World Series Championship Team and the 2004 Shetland World Series Champions. Last year, his So Cal Smash 12U travel team, made of West Covina residents, traveled to Cooperstown, New York and won the All-Star Extravaganza. Chavez is a member of the West Covina Sports Council and has also coached West Covina Youth AYSO Soccer.



John Cheatle - Pony Baseball Volunteer

John Cheatle has lived in West Covina since 1953. Because of his love of baseball, he volunteered for about 30 years as a coach in the community. Cheatle coached West Covina's first Pony League World Championship team in Springfield, Ill. in 1974. He also coached at Edgewood Little League, Pony & Colt Little League at Orangewood Park, and Maverick Field. In addition, he coached for six years at West Covina High School. In all, Cheatle won numerous tournaments and league championships during his coaching career.



Sandy Durko - Football

A graduate of West Covina High School, Sandy Durko played in the National Football League (NFL) from 1970 to 1974. At West Covina High School, he played baseball, basketball and football. Durko played on West Covina High School's CIF Football Championship team in 1965. He attended college at the University of Southern California, where he played defensive back for the Trojans. As a player for USC, Durko was selected as an Honorable Mention All-American, played in three Rose Bowls and was a member of the 1967 National Championship Team. In 1970, he was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals and played with the team from 1970 to 1972. In 1973, he joined the New England Patriots and played through the 1974 season. In 1973, he was selected as Most Valuable Defensive Back for the New England Patriots. Durko is currently a resident of Palos Verdes Estates and is an active volunteer with the city's Disaster Preparedness Committee.

OF FAME HONOREES

evaluated by the Walk of Fame Committee, honorees must have exhibited high ethical standards in their respective athletic fields and in the community.

Nominations are considered from any athletic program or sport. In addition, This year, join us in thanking West Covina's 12 honorees:



Greg Gano - Sports League Volunteer

Raised in West Covina, Greg Gano lived in West Covina for 47 years and attended Cortez Elementary School, Cameron Middle School and West Covina High School. For more than 15 years, Gano served as a volunteer in various sports programs in the community. He served as a coach and board president of West Covina American Little League and coach of the West Covina Bruins and West Covina Youth Basketball. In 1982, he coached the West Covina Pony Mustangs Championship in Washington, Pa. Gano also coached football, basketball and baseball at West Covina High School and football for two years at South Hills High School. As a coach, his teams won numerous local championships and he earned several awards and accolades, including CIF Coach of the Year in 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2003, and he was a finalist for San Gabriel Valley Coach of the Decade. Gano is currently the Varsity Football Coach at Damien High School in La Verne.



Jason Giambi - Baseball

A former West Covina resident and a graduate of South Hills High School, Jason Giambi is currently the first baseman for the Colorado Rockies. Giambi played college baseball at Cal State Long Beach before being drafted by the Oakland Athletics in 1992. That same year, he was also selected to the 1992 U.S. Olympic Team that played in Barcelona, Spain. He played for the Athletics from 1995 to 2001, the New York Yankees from 2002 to 2008 and the Colorado Rockies since 2009. In 2000, he was named the American League MVP, he has been selected to the All-Star Game on five occasions and he is a two-time Silver Slugger Award winner. At the end of the 2011 season, Giambi has established a career batting average of .281, with 1,948 hits, 428 home runs, 1,397 runs batted in and 20 stolen bases.



Jeremy Giambi - Baseball

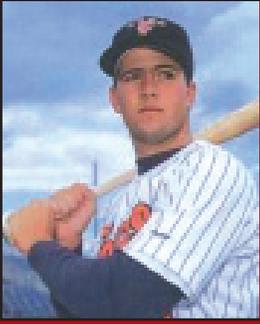
A former West Covina resident and a graduate of South Hills High School, Jeremy Giambi played Major League Baseball from 1998 to 2003. He played college baseball at Cal State Fullerton before being drafted by the Kansas City Royals in 1996. In 1998, Giambi was selected as Minor League Baseball's Pacific Coast League Rookie of the Year. He made his major league debut for the Kansas City Royals in 1998, played with the Oakland Athletics from 2000 to 2002, the Philadelphia Phillies in 2002 and the Boston Red Sox in 2003. In 2004, Giambi played for the Los Angeles Dodgers in their minor league program and the White Sox in 2005. In his career, Giambi had a career batting average of .263, with 372 hits, 52 home runs and 209 runs batted in.



Cory Lidle - Baseball

A former West Covina resident and a graduate of South Hills High School, Cory Lidle was a Major League Baseball pitcher from 1997 to 2006. He was an active player in the West Covina baseball leagues. He played at West Covina American Little League from 1980 to 1984, West Covina Mustang Pony from 1985 to 1986, West Covina Mickey Mantle from 1987 to 1988 and West Covina Babe Ruth from 1989 to 1990. During his senior year at South Hills High School, Lidle had a record of 12-2, had an earned run average of 1.02, was named All San Gabriel Valley Pitcher of the Year and was named to the All CIF team. The Minnesota Twins drafted Lidle in 1990. He made his major league debut with the New York Mets in 1997. He played for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays from 1999 to 2000, the Oakland Athletics from 2001 to 2002, the Toronto Blue Jays in 2003, the Cincinnati Reds in 2004, the Philadelphia Phillies from 2004 to 2006 and the New York Yankees in 2006. In his career, Lidle had an earned run average of 4.57, with 82 wins and 72 losses, and 838 strikeouts. He was killed in a plane accident on Oct. 11, 2006. Lidle will be inducted posthumously into the Walk of Fame.





Kevin Lidle - Baseball

A graduate of South Hills High School, Kevin Lidle was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in 1992. In 1992, he was also invited to try out for the 1992 Olympic Team. From 1992 to 2005, Lidle played Minor League Baseball as a catcher, pitcher, infielder and outfielder. In his 11 years in the minors, he earned a .207 batting average, with 40 home runs and 209 RBIs. Lidle attended Vine Elementary School and Hollencrest and Sierra Vista middle schools, and he played for West Covina American Little League from 1980 to 1984, West Covina Mustang Pony from 1985 to 1986, West Covina Mickey Mantle from 1987 to 1988 and West Covina Babe Ruth from 1989 to 1990. In high school, he was also a member of the wrestling team, received the Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, and earned all CIF Honors. At the completion of his Minor League playing days, Lidle served as a scout for Major League Baseball, and for many years he has been providing private baseball instruction at the Kevin Lidle Baseball Academy, one of the top-rated baseball training programs in Florida, where he currently resides. Lidle has participated in sports clinics for baseball leagues in West Covina and has been involved with various charities.



Tracy McCluskey-Rose - Swimming

Raised in West Covina, Tracy McCluskey-Rose attended Vine Elementary, Hollencrest Middle School and West Covina High School. At the age of 6, McCluskey-Rose began competitive swimming at the Bainbridge Club, then with the West Covina Water Otters and eventually at West Covina High School. While at West Covina High School, she was selected team captain her senior year and was voted Most Valuable Swimmer for three years. In 1981, she swam at UC Santa Barbara and was selected the Team and League Most Valuable Swimmer as a freshman. From 1983 to 1986, she swam at Cal State Northridge (CSUN) as a member of the championship relay team. In 1984 and 1985, she was selected as the Team's Most Valuable Swimmer and earned an Athletic Academic Award in 1985. In 1994, she was inducted into CSUN's Hall of Fame. Over the years, McCluskey-Rose has continued to compete in swimming, marathons, triathlons and even represented the United States in international competition on the 2000 U.S. National 100k Team. She currently lives in Woodstock, Vermont, where she established and coaches the cross country and track and field programs at the high school.



Jim Merritt - Baseball

A graduate of Edgewood High School, Jim Merritt was a Major League Baseball pitcher from 1965 to 1975. He played for the Minnesota Twins from 1965 to 1968, the Cincinnati Reds from 1969 to 1972 and the Texas Rangers from 1973 to 1975. Merritt was selected to the 1970 All-Star Game and played in three World Series games. In 1970, he won 20 games with the Cincinnati Reds. In his career, he had an 81-86 record, 3.65 ERA and 932 strikeouts.



Shawn Wooten - Baseball

A former resident of West Covina and a graduate of South Hills High School, Shawn Wooten played Major League Baseball as a catcher from 2000 to 2005. Prior to his major league career, he played for two years at Mt. San Antonio College and was named Southern California Player of the Year in 1993. Wooten played minor league baseball for eight years before being drafted by the Detroit Tigers. He made his MLB debut with the Anaheim Angels in 2000. He played for the Angels from 2000 to 2003, including winning the World Series with the Angels in 2002. He also played for the Philadelphia Phillies and the Boston Red Sox. Over his five-year career, Wooten compiled a .272 average with 18 home runs and 86 RBIs. He is currently the manager of the Fort Wayne Tin Caps, a minor league affiliate of the San Diego Padres in Indiana.

WEST COVINA WALK OF FAME COMMITTEE

- Mayor Steve Herfert
- Councilmember Sherri Lane
- City Manager Andrew Pasmant
- Deputy City Manager Chris Freeland
- Big League Dreams West Covina General Manager Adrian Williams
- West Covina Sports League Representative Dave Bletcher
- At-Large Member Glenn Kennedy

PAST WALK OF FAME HONOREES:

- RICK AGUILERA
- TOM BRUNANSKY
- JEFF COOK
- DUKE DEFRADES
- MAL EATON
- JIM GONSALVES
- PAT HADEN
- DAN HAREN
- JAY JOHNSTONE
- MIKE LAMB
- BEE NICHOLS
- MIKE POWELL
- GARY ROENICKE
- RON ROENICKE
- AARON SMALL
- JOHN VANETTES
- KEN WELLS
- MICHAEL YOUNG

WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

- MAYOR:**
Steve Herfert
- MAYOR PRO TEM:**
Mike Touhey
- COUNCILMEMBER:**
Karin Armbrust
- COUNCILMEMBER:**
Sherri Lane
- COUNCILMEMBER:**
Shelley Sanderson