

William Alan Robinson

Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Inductee

Posthumously

2008



Bill with wife Karen



Son Paul, daughter Renee, wife Karen and Bill

William Alan Robinson, Billy as he was known to those around the ballpark, was born May 17, 1948 in Saugerties to his parents William and Helen Robinson. He was raised in Saugerties with his sisters Barbara, Cheryl, and Vivian. He attended Saugerties High School and received his GED before enlisting in the United States Army. He served a tour in Vietnam in September 1969 through November 1970. For his courage and bravery he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He returned to Saugerties and married Karen Whitney on December 21, 1971 at St Mary's of the Snow in Saugerties. He and Karen were blessed with two children, son Paul and daughter Renee. He was further blessed with grandchildren Mannon and Cade.

Bill began his involvement in sports playing in the Glasco Little League. Starting with Little League, Bill continued playing baseball through high school. He played for the SHS baseball squad. He was an infielder and a solid hitter. After returning from the service Bill was involved in SAA Men's Softball. He played mostly first base and some outfield for various teams including AJ Farms, Flamingo, Ostoyic Electric, Dairy Queen and Mahongney Ridge.

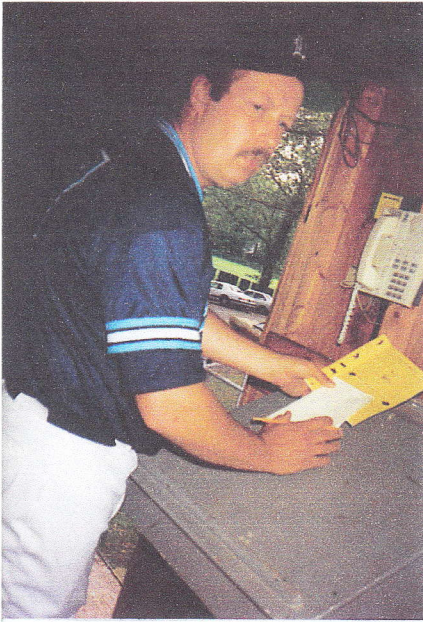
Bill also played basketball. He played for Hall of Famer Pete Kramer at SHS. Some of his teammates included Frank Serravello, Herbie Whitaker and Hall of Famer Tony Konopka. He also played basketball in the Premier League and the SAA Half Court League. He played For Naccarato Insurance in the Premier League teaming with Hall of Famers Tim Murphy and Jack Naccarato. Together they won a few league titles. Bill being the family man that he was gave up his playing career as Paul and Renee got older and began playing themselves.



1st Row: J. Silinovich, N. Ritchie, D. Notarnicola, B. Turek, J. Walton. Row 2: K. Woolsey, (Mgr.), J. Keenan, R. ick, J. Whitaker, T. Konopka, J. Wells. (Mgr.). Row 3: Mr. P. Kramer, F. Serravallo, H. Whitaker, W. Robinson, W. pper, A. Luchkowec.

Bill's Sawyer JV Squad

Even though Bill stopped playing he remained involved. He began coaching the Dodgers in the Saugerties Little League with life long friend and Hall of Famer Tim Murphy. He, Murphy and fellow Hall of Famer Pete Kramer coached some very competitive and championship caliber teams. He and Coach Kramer mad a homemade tennis racket to help their youngsters to learn to catch fly balls. He also coached in the Saugerties Babe Ruth League with Coach Kramer. Their Elks squad was always fundamentally sound and played with great enthusiasm. He also coached the all-star team that reached the Mid-Atlantic Regional. In addition, Bill also coached Little League Girls softball. He then went on and coached with the Saugerties Legion Post 72 baseball team. He assisted fellow 2008 inductee Dennis Sheehan. In 1989 the Post 72 squad won the Ulster County and District 3 championships. Bill was great on game rules and strategy. His son Paul remembered, "As a young athlete I see that I was much more apt to listen to someone else's advice regarding what I should do or how I should play over what my dad told me. Looking back now, I see that he was usually giving me that same exact advice, but I thought listening to it coming from someone else meant more than it coming from my dad. It took all of these years to realize just how smart he was concerning sports. I know he had a big influence on the athlete I turned out to be. I was never the most athletic person on the field and was far from ever being the best on any team I played on, but I know because of my dad I was a player that thought a lot about what was going on during games. I saw stuff that was happening on the field because of conversations I had with my dad either after games or watching games on the television with him. I know he was proud of what I did on the field, but I know he was just as proud of what every player he ever had an influence on did on the field as well." His biggest strength was he was a calming and positive influence on the players. He was the perfect compliment to the intense Sheehan. He and Sheehan remained a tandem as they went on to pilot the Dutchmen. Bill was the first base coach. He was a dedicated to his team. One day Karen came to get Bill because their daughter Renee needed to go to the emergency room. Bill says, "I can't go. I'm in the middle of a game." It was one of the many sacrifices Karen made so Bill could pursue his sports endeavors.



Bill submitting the Dutchmen lineup



Bill and Paul during the Dutchmen years

Bill was good player and a great coach. He had a career full of memories but his greatest memories and thrills were watching his children play. Bill especially enjoyed the championships Paul won in Babe Ruth and with the Legion team. He also enjoyed the home run Paul hit while playing with the Dutchmen. Paul reflected, "It was on Father's Day and he was sitting along the third base side with my mom. He went out and got the ball off the playground and kept it. When I was going through my father's stuff up in his room where he kept all of his baseball memorabilia, there was the ball sitting on top of the shelf. He had kept it all those years and never wrote a thing on it." He and Karen made sure to support Paul and Renee. Bill rarely missed anything in which his kids participated. He and Karen traveled great distances to see Renee play softball and to watch Paul play soccer, baseball and basketball.

He was also a huge Baltimore Orioles fan. He named the family dog after Brady Anderson. He met his idol Brooks Robinson and also Earl Weaver.



Bill with Brooks Robinson



Bill with Earl Weaver

Sadly, Bill passed away on November 27, 2006 after a long battle with leukemia. Bill was a guy who never wanted the headlines or wanted to be the head coach. He was a guy who just wanted to be around the kids and teach them how to play the game.

The Saugerties Sports Hall of Fame Club congratulates Bill's family and friends for his 2008 induction into the Hall of Fame. Bill's sports contributions and service are a testament to how much he loved and honored his country, community and family. Bill's community and family are proud to honor him.