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Northwest-native Sandberg inducted at Cooperstown

Ryne Sandberg, a graduate of Spokane's North Central High School, joins the ranks of the Baseball Hall of Fame

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPOKANE, Wash. — New baseball Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg was shy, quiet, a bit old school and in many ways seemed a quintessential Spokane Guy from North Central High School.

In those qualities he was similar to John Stockton, a future basketball Hall of Famer who attended Spokane's Gonzaga Prep High School at about the same time.

Along with NFL quarterback Mark Rypien of Shadle Park High School, the three athletes dominated Spokane prep sports in the late 1970s.

"That's pretty incredible for a small town like that," Sandberg said during a conference call with reporters on Tuesday, shortly after his election to Cooperstown. "They take their sports very seriously up there."

"Growing up in the Pacific Northwest, I think that's where I established the work ethic I maintained through my whole career," Sandberg told reporters. "A lot of that comes from the hardworking attitude that's in Spokane."

Sandberg is only the second graduate of a Washington high school to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. The other is Earl Averill, a 1920 graduate of Everett High

School, who was inducted in 1975.

Numerous other Hall of Famers have passed through Spokane over the years, including former Spokane Indians Stan Coveleski, George Kelly, Duke Snider, Hoyt Wilhelm, Tommy Lasorda and Don Sutton. George Brett is a co-owner of the Spokane Indians.

Unlike Stockton and Rypien, who both maintain strong ties to the Spokane area, Sandberg graduated from North Central nearly 27 years ago and rarely looked back on the Lilac City. He lives in Arizona. The baseball field at North Central is named for him, and the school still has some of his trophies.

Sandberg's father Derwent, a mortician who died in 1986, was a baseball fan and named him after pitcher Ryne Duran.

His mother Elizabeth died in July. An older brother died in 1992, while brother Del is a teacher in Olympia and sister Maryl works for a Seattle television station.

Sandberg grew up on the north side of Spokane, and played baseball, football and basketball at North Central. As a basketball player, he averaged 13.3 points a game his senior season and was among the league leaders in rebounding.

In football, Sandberg led the Indians

to an undefeated record and the Greater Spokane League title his senior season. He completed 77 of 142 tosses for 1,180 yards, 12 touchdowns and just two interceptions, and was offered a scholarship to Washington State University.

But baseball was his best sport, and he was a big reason the Indians reached the 1978 state baseball championship game. The Indians finished 25-3 with Sandberg hitting .417 with four home runs. He was spotted by Philadelphia scout Bill Harper, who was impressed by his speed.

The Phillies drafted Sandberg in the 20th round of the 1978 baseball draft and he played minor league baseball in Helena, Mont. Sandberg was traded to the Chicago Cubs along with Larry Bowa for Ivan DeJesus in 1982.

Sandberg's combination of power and consistency made him the best second baseman of his era, but he played on just three winning teams in 15 seasons with the Cubs.

A 10-time All-Star and nine-time Gold Glove second baseman for the Cubs, he hit 282 homers, and his .989 fielding percentage is the highest ever at second base. The 1984 NL MVP finished with a .285 lifetime average. He was an All-Star from 1984 through 1993.

Sandberg played in two postseason series, in 1984 and 1989. But he never went to the World Series, something the Cubs haven't done since 1945.

Club Sports: Cycling team returns veterans

Continued from page 13

"We're a much more experienced team," club coordinator Jason Thorpe said. "And we're a lot better trained."

The Ducks return a more seasoned squad after having only two riders last year with any kind of competitive cycling experience.

Also adding optimism is the hiring of Jenette Rose, an expert-level coach.

"This is the first year that we've had a real coach," Thorpe said.

The Ducks, who also field a women's team, compete in the Northwest Collegiate Cycling Conference that includes Washington, Oregon State, Western Washington, Washington State and Portland State, among others.

Collegiate cycling events, called omniums, consist of multiple races during a two-day period.

Road races, usually divided into "A," "B" and "C" races if there are enough participants, consist of 30-to-70 mile

treks, depending on the omnium.

On the same day, team trials are run. These are six-to-nine-mile sprints where "it's not uncommon to be really sick after," Thorpe said.

Most exciting are the criteriums, where several blocks in the host city are roped off, and race participants compete for 45 minutes plus two laps in a free-for-all.

Oregon has its first omnium March 19 in Walla Walla, Wash.

Roetman: Home wins important, not rivalry

Continued from page 13

has known it for a long time. And if the freshmen don't know it yet, they soon will: Winning home games is essential to winning the Pac-10 title and any dreams of advancing to the NCAA Tournament.

If the youthful Ducks want to

consider themselves legitimate contenders for a spot in the postseason, defeating the Beavers on Saturday is a good way to start.

"We want to protect our house," Hairston said. "We don't want to lose anymore at (McArthur Court)."

While rivalry games are always

fun for a team and its fans, winning at home and focusing on the long-term goals of the season carry more weight for the Oregon men's basketball team.

And that's exactly how it should be.

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