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# Central Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame Press Release

Central Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame Council

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CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SPORTS

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CWU To Induct 1968 Baseball Team, Five Individuals into Hall-of-Fame

BY SCOTT EARLE

CWU Sports Information

ELLENSBURG - Central Washington University's 1968 baseball team and five individuals will be inducted into the school's Athletic Hall-of-Fame Saturday at the annual Alumni Homecoming banquet.

The banquet will begin at 6 p.m. at the Tunstall Dinning Hall on campus.

The new inductees will bring the total membership of the hall to 99 individuals and five teams.

Joining the 1968 baseball team will be long-time athletic director and coach Gary Frederick; swimming sensation Debbie Gray; basketball standout Ron vanderSchaaf, and CWU boosters Willie Strange and Robert Bonjorni.

Frederick, Central's athletic director for 19 years prior to resigning this fall, was instrumental in developing CWU as an NAIA small-college power and he also played a major roll in their recent move to NCAA Division II.

Frederick, who graduated from CWU in 1959, was a three-year lettermen in football (1956-58). He earned second team all-conference honors in 1957 and was a first team selection in 1958 at offensive center.

He began his coaching career at CWU in the fall of 1967, taking on the dual roll of assistant football coach and head baseball coach.

He held the baseball coaching position for 11 seasons (1968-78), winning a school-record 234 games and leading the Wildcats to the NAIA World Series in 1968 and 1970.

He was also an assistant football coach for 17 seasons, women's basketball coach for 11 seasons (1983-93) and is currently Central's women's fastpitch coach.

Frederick was named District Coach-of-the-Year five different times in baseball (1969, 1970 and 1971) and basketball (1986 and 1988). In 1997, the NAIA recognized his accomplishments when they inducted him into their Hall-of-Fame.

Gray, a native of Ellensburg, is one of the most highly decorated swimmers in Central's history, winning 15 All-American awards in her four seasons (1985-88).

She won eight individual All-American awards in breaststroke competitions and seven more as part of team relays.

Growing up in Ellensburg, she was coached and influenced by CWU athletes from a very early age.

"From age eight I was coached by Central swimmers," said Gray, a newlywed with husband Dan Snyder. "Having experienced coaches allowed me to grow every year and it made me feel a part of the school from a very early age."

After her graduation from CWU in 1988 with a degree in Spanish, she enrolled at Washington State University to work on a degree in Agriculture.

Since, June 1993, she has worked for the Wenatchee Farm Service Agency.

VanderSchaaf led the Wildcats to four NAIA national basketball tournament appearances (1984-87), including semifinal berths in 1985 and 1987.

A native of The Netherlands, he was the 161st player selected overall by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1987 NBA draft. He is the last Central player to be selected in the NBA draft.

He was named to the NAIA All-American second team his senior season (1987) and was an honorable mention selection in his junior season (1986).

In addition, he earned first team all-district honors in both his junior and senior seasons.

VanderSchaaf dots nearly every major statistical category in the Central record book. He ranks fourth in scoring (1693); second in rebounding (918); third in blocks (126), first in games played (140) and seventh in field goal percentage (54.6%).

He twice was voted the team captain (1986-87) and the Most Inspirational award winner (1986-87) in leading the Wildcats to 107 victories in his four seasons, including a school record 32 wins in 1987.

"Ron improved as much as any player I ever had," said CWU's all-time winningest (609 wins) basketball coach Dean Nicholson. "And for a big man he was a great shooter from the outside."

Strange, a life-long Ellensburg native, is one of the most supportive and involved Central Wildcats of all-time.

In 1950, he and Bonjorni started the Merchant Patrol. The Merchant Patrol employed Central athletes to patrol the business community of Ellensburg.

With Strange's help, the program lasted for twenty-five years and provided approximately \$150,000 of assistant to Central athletes.

Although the Merchant Patrol may have been his most distinguished contribution to the university, it was by no means his only.

He sponsored the men's basketball "Hustle Award" from 1940-76 and often employed athletes at his local sporting goods store. Not seeking notoriety for his contributions, he has served the university quietly and consistently.

Before his graduation from Central in 1939, he played football for two seasons and was President of the "W" Club (1937).

Bonjorni, also an Ellensburg native, was instrumental in creating the Merchant Patrol with Strange. Working for the police department at the time, he oversaw the everyday operations of the

program.

Bonjorni was a four-year letter winner in football (1946-49) and also lettered in track. From his defensive tackle slot, he helped anchor down – along with fellow Hall-of-Famers Bob Osgood, Bud Hake and Jim Satterlee – one of the best small-college defenses in the country.

“I was always too busy on the farm growing up to play sports,” said Bonjorni who is retired with his wife of 33 years in Mt. Vernon. “So I learned a lot from those guys and I couldn’t have accomplished what I did without them.”

After his graduation from Central in 1950, Bonjorni was a successful mortgage banker and top ranked football and basketball official. He officiated football and basketball at the high school and college levels for 26 years. He was a regular official in the high school state basketball tournament and NAIA playoffs.

CWU’s 1968 baseball team, which was coached by Frederick, is the most successful team in school history, winning two games and placing third in the NAIA World Series in St. Joseph, Mo.

The team, which included future major league all-star Billy North, finished with a record of 24-11. North, who earned first team All-American outfielder honors in 1969, batted .322 and led the team in home runs (4) and stolen bases (17).

Second baseman Harvey Klep (Bellevue) led the team in batting with a .343 average. First baseman Bill Walker (Bremerton) was the team RBI leader with 29.

The pitching staff was anchored by Butch Hill (Kennewick), who posted a 9-2 record and had a 2.13 earned run average.

Harvey Kochel (Ventura, Calif) had a 7-4 record and a team-leading 1.87 earned run average, while Rob Hippi (Toledo) posted a 5-2 record.

Four individuals – North, Walker, Hill and pitcher-outfielder Dave Benedict (Yakima), have previously been inducted as individuals into CWU’s Hall-of-Fame, though Benedict’s election was mostly due to his basketball exploits.

Other members of the team included Wayne Gibson (Bremerton), Greg Smith (Port Gamble), Bill Fugate (Enumclaw), Larry Kupp (Sunnyside), Warren Craig (White Swan), Doug Nelson (Bremerton), John Craig (Seattle), Chuck Basteys (Enumclaw), Ron Hopkins (Chehalis), Kim Hammons (Snohomish), Marshall Virgil (Bellevue), Jerry Johnson (Bremerton), Lee Day (Naramata, B.C.), Bill Driver (Seattle), Dennis Ward (Puyallup), Brian Groesbeck (Vancouver) and manager Don Fenton (Silverdale).

Hammons and North earned all-tournament honors at the NAIA World Series. Hill was voted the team captain and Gibson was selected the team’s Most Inspirational Player.

Day later served a term as CWU’s head baseball coach (1979-81) and also coached at Kittitas High School.