



Van Mattison

2014 Inductee



Van began playing organized baseball in 1961 at Lemon Hill Little League. He then moved to Willow Rancho Little League and continued to develop his skills at Southgate Babe Ruth. Van played High School Baseball at John F. Kennedy High School (Sacramento) playing only his senior year. As a pitcher/outfielder Van was a key contributor to the Cougars 1970 Metro League championship batting .365 with 5 home runs, and compiled a 5-0 win/loss record as a pitcher. After a brief stint with Southside American Legion Post 661, the Los Angeles Dodgers selected Van as a left hand pitcher in the 1970 free agent draft. In 1973 Van received an invitation to play baseball in the Arizona Fall League and in 1974 and 1975 received invitations to the Dodgers major league spring training camp. In 1974, Van was selected to join the Dodgers as a batting practice pitcher when the Dodgers faced the Oakland Athletics in the 1974 World Series. Van was a member of the Dodger organization for six years before an arm injury abruptly ended his career. After his professional career with the Dodgers, Van continued to play baseball in the Sacramento Night League as a first baseman for Ellis Restaurant. In 1976 Van was named Ellis' Offensive Player of the year and Co-MVP. Van began his MSBL career in 1995 with the Padres playing for several different teams including seven years with the Sacramento Giants. Van has participated in 15 MSBL World Series. During the 2004 MSBL World Series, Van was named team MVP after completing a nine inning five hit shutout as the winning pitcher in the championship game. Van has acquired 9 World Championship rings during his MSBL career, all with the Tribe.