



Ken Papini

2011 Inductee



Ken was raised in Humboldt County, where he played youth baseball and later starred as a centerfielder at Humboldt State University where he was a two-time All-Far Western Conference Outfielder. He founded the Humboldt Crabs (Eureka Collegians), played for them for many years, and as a local beer distributor, helped support the team. He was known for his extraordinary play in the outfield and best remembered for his left-handed “canon arm”. Noticed by Ron Brand at the Batting Cages Complex, Ken joined the Blue Jays in the SMSBL in 1990. Shortly thereafter, he joined the local A’s team and excelled as a pitcher, 1st baseman, and outfielder. He became one of the best pitchers on the A’s title teams. Ken starred for the Sacramento Majic in the Phoenix World Series and helped lead them to three championships. On his many trips with the California Gold to the Fall Classic, in 2000 he helped them secure the championship by holding a runner at third base on a throw from centerfield, and they won the title game by that one run. Diagnosed with cancer and only given a few weeks to live, Ken fought a hard battle and continued to play baseball for another 4-5 years. He will be remembered for his smile, great winning attitude, and being one of the best teammates the A’s and Majic ever had.