



## Dean Andoe Class of 2011

Dean Andoe was born April 1, 1939, and lived on Oroville's Southside until he was eighteen. He attended Burbank Elementary School through 5th grade, went to Central School for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and to Bird Street School for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

His athletic experience began on the red dirt field across from Burbank School. His first experience with organized sports started when Oroville Little League began in 1951.

Dean entered Oroville High School (OHS) in 1953 and while there played three years of football, four years basketball and four years baseball. While practicing on the OHS baseball field, he would sometimes change shoes and go over to Bechtel Field and run in track meets and then return to practice. During his high school days, he played on seven championship teams and won eleven varsity letters. He was named the outstanding athlete at OHS during his senior year when he led the baseball team in hitting with a .457 average.

Following graduation from high school in 1957, Dean went to Sacramento State College (SSC) where he received both his bachelors and masters degrees. At SSC he played four years of baseball, while also playing on semi-pro teams during the summer, winter, and on weekends. Occasionally, he was on the roster of two teams at the same time and played for both in different leagues. He loved playing baseball!

Dean played on a championship baseball team in each of his four years of college, and in 1961 his SSC team was the first in any school sport to compete for a national championship. That same year, Dean was named to the NAIA All-America baseball team and was the first catcher in the history of the school to sign a professional contract. He was signed to a bonus contract by the Chicago White Sox which fulfilled his childhood dream that was established on that red dirt softball field.

Dean played in the White Sox organization from 1961-1963 and was called up by the big team during spring training in 1962. He spent ten days as a non-roster player, travelling with the big club and was with the team at old Comiskey Park on Opening Day of the 1962 season. The next day, he was sent back to the White Sox minor league team, and his professional career ended when he was asked to manage in the White Sox organization. He decided against managing and opted for a career in education. He said he never regretted that decision.

Dean started teaching in 1963 in the San Juan School District and then, upon the request of OHS baseball coach, Johnny Johnson, returned to Oroville in 1965 to coach OHS pitching sensation, Gary Nolan, who went on to play in the majors and cash a World Series check. Dean taught and coached at OHS for two years but decided to return to the Sacramento area where he felt there were more career opportunities available.

While at Woodland High School (WHS), he coached baseball for eight years where he was coach of the year several times and compiled a record of 104 wins and 69 losses. Five of his WHS players signed professional contracts, and two of those made it to the majors, one with the Cincinnati Reds and the other with the New York Yankees.

During his Woodland High School years, Dean was also a highly successful athletic director for nine years, Delta League Commissioner for seventeen years, and was on the initial committee that established the beginning of football playoffs for the San Joaquin Section.

His career in public education spanned thirty-six years during which he was a teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal, principal, and director of alternative education. He retired in 1999.

Dean has been inducted into the Sacramento State University Baseball Hall of Fame, the Woodland Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Northern California Sports Association Hall of Fame.