

Curtain Call

THE OFFICIAL INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS MAGAZINE



A BASEBALL WARRIOR



Pg. 26



SCOTT ROLEN

PLUS
TOMMY
JOHN, THE
MAN BEHIND
THE NAME
Pg. 41



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THE OFFICIAL INDIANAPOLIS INDIANS MAGAZINE

MAY 2020 | ISSUE 2

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IN LOVING MEMORY

BRAD MORRIS

— 1967 - 2020 —

Brad was a gentle soul. His smile would light up the room. His calm demeanor around family and friends near and far, coworkers and fans in and around the ballpark, and all those who were graced with meeting him, was warm and welcoming.

Brad spent over half of his life in the Hoosier state, but he was a Nittany Lion through and through. After graduating from Lewisburg High School in 1985, Brad's westward travels began with him moving to nearby State College, Pa., where he attended Penn State University and graduated in 1989. From there, Brad's college endeavors took him to Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he earned his master's degree in sports management in 1992.

He first joined the Triple-A Indianapolis Indians as an intern in '93 and never looked back, ascending to his latest role as Senior Director of Business Operations. Brad was loyal and a hard worker, best displayed by him working 1,500 consecutive Indians home games from 1993-2013. Indiana became his home away from home, and the Indians, his family.

Brad's first 3½ years with the team were spent at Bush Stadium, and after the club moved to Victory Field in July 1996, he was one of a few remaining front office members to have worked in both ballparks. He would share stories of his favorite memories in baseball and look back on them fondly - the Kirk Gibson home run and LA Dodgers World Series title from '88; the late nights alongside Randy Lewandowski, Cal Burleson and the Schumacher family, among others, at Bush Stadium in the mid-90s; the mayhem of the Indians' transition to Victory Field in '96, to name a few. Brad loved the game of baseball, and the game of baseball loved him.

On the field, Brad was most passionate about his Nittany Lions. He loved the Dodgers and Miami Dolphins, too, but no team more than his alma mater. In one of his last meetings with Indians staff on what was deemed a hat day, Brad's hat of choice was a Penn State football helmet. Off the field, no cat was a stray to Brad, and he was caring and compassionate to the many cats he owned over the years.

Brad immersed himself in many things Indianapolis had to offer. But if you stopped by a local bowling alley on a random weeknight, there was a good chance Brad would be there knocking pins down. His life away from the ballpark was often spent running point on the lanes, which eventually led to annual cross-country trips to compete in national tournaments. He could bowl with the best of 'em and owned six perfect 300 scores in his career. He went about his business on the lanes like he did at home or in the workplace - efficient and effective, no glitz or glamour. And while he left the world unexpectedly, he left on his terms; a quiet strike with the pins falling peacefully into place. ▼



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ALL-TIME CAREER PITCHING LEADERS

WINS

William Burwell	175
Robert Logan	157
Carmen Hill	95
Tillar Cavet	90
Jesse Petty	88

LOSSES

William Burwell	143
Robert Logan	126
Clinton Rogge	84
Otto Merz	79
Carmen Hill	78

GAMES

Robert Logan	421
William Burwell	395
Tillar Cavet	252
Warren Hacker	245
Dave Tomlin	229

SAVES*

Scott Service	65
Todd Williams	52
Randy St. Claire	49
Tim Wood	44
Rich Sauveur	39

**Saves were not recorded prior to 1969*

INNINGS PITCHED

William Burwell	2,746.0
Robert Logan	2,474.0
Tillar Cavet	1,497.0
Clinton Rogge	1,411.0
Jesse Petty	1,347.0

STRIKEOUTS

Robert Logan	1,019
William Burwell	635
Stewart Bolen	587
Jesse Petty	565
Herb Score	530



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BOB LOGAN | P

BATS: Right **THROWS:** Left
HEIGHT: 5'10" **WEIGHT:** 170 lbs
BORN: 2/10/1910 in Thompson, NE
DIED: 5/20/1978 in Indianapolis, IN

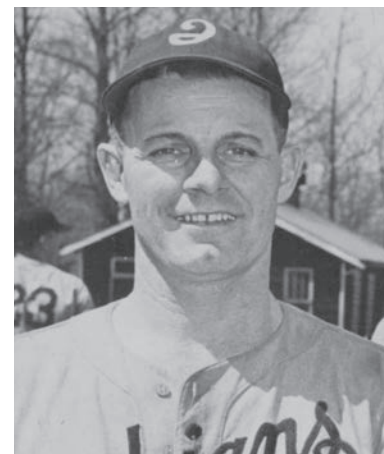
	W-L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	WHIP
MLB TOTALS	7-15	3.15	57	25	5	1	222.2	245	100	78	81	67	1.46
IND TOTALS	157-126	3.885**	421	234**	54**	6**	2474.0	2671	1156**	974**	636	1019**	1.34

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CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Atop many Indianapolis Indians franchise records is left-handed pitcher Bob Logan. The Nebraska southpaw started his 16-year career with the Indians in 1931 at 21 years old, and during his tenure he settled into first place in games (421), games started (234), walks (636) and strikeouts (1,019).

Logan won three games during his first year with Indy. By averaging over 10 wins per season for the next 15 years with the Tribe, the lefty recorded the second-most wins in franchise history with 157. Before joining Indianapolis for the tail end of the 1931 season, Logan pitched for Oklahoma City in the Single-A Western League, where he owned an 11-10 record and 3.99 ERA (83er/187.0ip) in 34 games. His success on the mound translated well in Double-A, where he led the American Association in wins (18) in 1940. He reached double-digit wins nine times in a Tribe uniform and had the lowest ERA on the team in five total seasons, three consecutive from 1934-36. Logan was an innings machine with seven 200.0-plus inning seasons and 54 complete games.



In 1934, Logan recorded a 20-win season in 45 games for the Indians with a 3.66 ERA (104er/256.0ip). The following year, the Brooklyn Dodgers promoted Logan for his major league debut. He appeared in two major league games and allowed one run in 2.2 innings as a reliever but didn't return to the big-league level for another two years. Logan's biggest major league impact was in 1945 with the Boston Braves, as he pitched five complete games with a 3.18 ERA (66er/187.0ip).

Logan remained with Indianapolis in between his major league stints until he retired in 1946. His career ended with the Tribe that summer as he went 3-1 with a 6.38 ERA (17er/24.0ip) in 15 games, writing the final chapter to his career as the longest-tenured Indianapolis Indian.

Remembering

MORDECAI “THREE FINGER” BROWN



BROWN, A TWO-TIME WORLD SERIES CHAMPION WITH THE CHICAGO CUBS, PITCHED FOR THE INDIANS IN 1919

by CHEYNE REITER

Let your mind leave Victory Field westbound on Washington Street. You have passed the Indianapolis Zoo. The street quickly changes to Rockville Road and eventually becomes Highway 36 at the I-465 ramp. Continue your imaginary trek into the Indianapolis metro. You cruise through Avon and farmland soon swallows your journey. Danville. Bainbridge. Morton. Bellmore. Four small towns and an hour later, you run into Nyesville, Indiana. Don't blink, you might miss it.

Sixty miles west of Indianapolis lies the hometown – a small Amish community that hasn't participated in census population reports because *it's that small* – of a two-time World Series champion, the first Indiana native inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and a former Indianapolis Indians hurler, no less. Mordecai “Three Finger” Brown. It was Nyesville where Brown was born and raised, a childhood that included a corn grinder (a machine designed to separate corn kernels from stalks and husks) and two lost fingers in a farming accident. An incident that led him to the top of the baseball mountain in Cooperstown, N.Y. Brown's baseball career began as a third baseman for a semi-pro team in Coxville, Ind., but his first impression on the mound led to a permanent change. Seven no-hit innings. A third baseman no more.

His first taste of professional baseball came in the Illinois-Indiana-Iowa League, also known as the Three-I League, with the Terre Haute Hottentots. According to *Baseball Reference*, the right-hander went 25-8 with a 2.79 ERA in 37 games that summer. He ascended to the Omaha Indians of the Western League the following year and registered a 27-15 record and 2.22 ERA in 43 games. He was 25 years old at the time. He didn't make another appearance in the minor leagues until his age-40 season.

Brown broke into the major leagues in 1903 with the St. Louis Cardinals and led the team in ERA (2.60), strikeouts (83) and wins (T-1st, 9). But harnessing the movement on his pitches was a struggle early on. The Chicago Cubs acquired Brown that offseason and the struggles disappeared; 15 wins and a 1.86 ERA in 1904, 18 triumphs and a 2.17 ERA the next year. In 1906, his league-best 1.04 ERA and astounding 26-6 record propelled the Cubs to a record 116 wins and World Series appearance. Brown's ERA from that '06 campaign remains the lowest among National League qualifiers in the modern era.

He continued as the anchor of the Cubs pitching staff during the organization's first two World Series titles in 1907 and 1908, going a combined 49-15 with a 1.44 ERA in 78 games (58 starts). At one point during the '08 season, he became the first pitcher in MLB history to toss four consecutive shutouts. Another World Series appearance came in 1910 before his Cubs tenure ended in 1912. He then endured a one-year stint with the Cincinnati Reds before jumping to the Federal League in 1914 and '15, pitching for the St. Louis Terriers, Brooklyn Tip-Tops and Chicago Whales. He returned to the Cubs in 1916 for one final major league hurrah at age 39.

Add it all up and Brown had a remarkable 14-year major league career. He won 239 games and eclipsed 25 wins in a single season four times, including a career-best 29 victories in 1908 and 27 the following year to lead the National League. He owned a lifetime 2.06 ERA, the sixth-lowest career mark all-time, and had six individual seasons with a sub-2.00 ERA. He fired 271 complete games, 55 of them shutouts.

But just how much of an impact did Brown's farming accident play on his baseball career?

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OF HIS. I CAN'T TALK ABOUT
ALL OF BASEBALL, BUT I
CAN SAY THIS: IT WAS THE
MOST DECEIVING, THE
MOST DEVASTATING PITCH
I EVER FACED."**

TY COBB, HOF CLASS OF 1936



To Brown, the answer was simple in his Hall of Fame bio: "I always felt if I had a normal hand, I would have been a greater pitcher." Three Finger Brown was elite. How good would a five-fingered Brown have been?

Fellow Hall of Famer Ty Cobb tabbed Brown as one of the nastiest pitchers he ever faced. Cobb, the owner of the highest career batting average (.366) in Major League Baseball history, was quoted as such in Brown's Hall of Fame bio about his tremendous curveball: "It was a great ball, that downward curve of his. I can't talk about all of baseball, but I can say this: It was the most deceiving, the most devastating pitch I ever faced."

After the doors closed on Brown's major league career, the minor league doors reopened. And Brown, already with two World Series championships under his belt, left the game on his own terms. He spent the 1917 and '18 seasons with the Columbus Senators in the American Association and opened the '19 season with Indianapolis, recording a 3.48 ERA in six games (three starts). He left the Tribe roster early that summer and returned to Terre Haute where his professional career first began, completing the '19 and '20 seasons closer to home. His second go-around with Terre Haute's Three-I League ballclub featured a new nickname; it was no longer the Hottentots, but instead, fittingly, the Browns. There he won another 20 games in 46 appearances to put the finishing touches on a career that spanned 20 seasons.

Almost 30 years after his career ended, Brown became Indiana's first National Baseball Hall of Famer in 1949 after being elected by the Veterans Committee. Sadly, for Brown, the induction came one year too late; he passed away the year prior at age 72 due to complications with diabetes. Brown was the second former Tribe player to earn Hall of Fame status, following in the footsteps of all-time great Nap Lajoie, who, like Brown, played for the Indians after an illustrious major league career. Since Brown's induction, another 10 former Indians have joined him and Lajoie on the road to Cooperstown.

So, here is one last reminder. If you head westbound from Victory Field on Washington Street, Rockville Road and soon after Highway 36, you will hit the home of a Hoosier baseball legend, Hall of Famer and two-time World Series champion. Nyesville. Don't blink, you might miss it. ♥

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Jake Elmore (13)
Infielder,
Indianapolis
Indians

BEYOND *the* BALLPARK

with Jake Elmore



When he's not acting as the Tribe's MVP on the field, Jake Elmore is spending time with his family or watching Alabama football. We sat down with him to learn more about his childhood, career goals and what could have been if he wasn't a baseball player.

Q: What is your favorite offseason activity?

A: Probably relaxing on the couch and watching football. I'm in like five fantasy leagues so football season is fun for me. I'm a huge Alabama Crimson Tide fan being from Alabama, so I love watching them on Saturday.

Q: What is your favorite golf course that you've ever played?

A: The Innisbrook Resort Copperhead Course, where they play the Valspar Open in Florida, that's a really nice one. Troon North in Arizona is really awesome, that'd probably be my favorite.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do with your kids?

A: Play outside. My son has a little swimming pool with a slide on it, he loves the water more than anything, so we just play around on that and just run around the backyard. Being outside is definitely the most fun.

Q: What was your dream job outside of baseball?

A: Well, when I was like five years old, I used to tell my mom 'I'm either going to play in the big leagues or be a garbage man' because I thought it was so awesome that they would ride on the back of the garbage truck. I just thought it was really awesome that they got to hang off the back of a moving vehicle, so I always wanted to do that. Thankfully, the big leagues panned out and I didn't have to ride on the back of a garbage truck, but I still think it'd be pretty fun.

Q: What are your goals for the rest of your career?

A: I'd like to establish myself as an everyday, reliable big leaguer and get there and stay. And obviously help the team anyway I can, but I guess the goal of mine for my career is fulfill all my potential and establish myself more in the big leagues.

Q: What would 12-year-old you say if he knew you became a professional baseball player?

A: Oh, man. I would have been beside myself. It was always the dream, just like about every other kid that plays baseball. If you had told me 'Fast forward, you're going to make it to the major leagues,' yeah, I would have been beside myself. I don't know if I would have even been able to contain my excitement at that age.

Q: What is your favorite homecooked meal?

A: My mom, growing up she would always do a pork tenderloin with a peach topping. We would always have fresh vegetables growing up, so we would have fresh creamed corn and fresh green beans. My mom's carrot cake is my favorite dessert in the world, so if I could have that for dessert, that would be my dream meal.

Q: Who was your favorite professional baseball player growing up?

A: Chipper Jones, I was a huge Braves fan. I would watch the Braves, and in my childhood, Chipper was young and coming up. As I grew up watching the Braves, he was growing into his potential as a Braves player.

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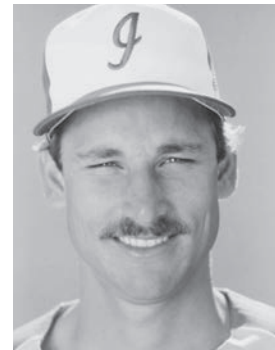
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THIS MONTH IN INDIANS HISTORY

1989
MAY 2



Mark Gardner improved to 5-0 on the season with a complete game shutout vs. Oklahoma City. The 27-year-old fanned 10 batters, issued two walks and allowed four hits as the Tribe offense got an early 3-0 lead. Gardner went on to make his major league debut with Montreal on May 16 vs. San Diego and tossed 2.0 scoreless innings with two strikeouts. In 24 Triple-A games (23 starts) for the year, he went 12-4 with a 2.37 ERA (43er/163.1ip).

2009
MAY 4



The Tribe set a franchise record with nine stolen bases during a 7-5 loss vs. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre at Victory Field. The running game was led by right fielder Jeff Salazar, who swiped two bases in the first inning and one in the third. DH Garrett Jones and first baseman **Steve Pearce** each tacked on a pair of their own, with Jones stealing home to take a 5-4 lead in the fifth inning. Andrew McCutchen and Neil Walker each contributed one stolen base to the nine-swipe effort.

1984
MAY 10



Mike Stenhouse clubbed the Tribe's third three-homer game in franchise history at Bush Stadium vs. Evansville. In a 17-4 win for the Indians, Stenhouse went 3-for-5 with a team-leading eight RBI. Ron Johnson hit a home run of his own, going 4-for-4 with two RBI and five runs scored. Stenhouse spent 27 games with Indianapolis in 1984, hitting .333 (31-for-93) with eight home runs and 27 RBI.

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2005
MAY 15



Ian Snell went 9.0 hitless innings for the Indians' first no-hitter since 1988 and 10th in franchise history. Snell walked one batter and struck out nine as the Tribe offense put up three runs in the second inning and another in the fifth for the 4-0 win over Norfolk. It was his only shutout of the season and his first complete game, the second coming in the opener of a doubleheader on Aug. 31 vs. Toledo. The only no-hitter of his career earned him his second International League Pitcher of the Week award. Snell went 4-0 in six May starts that year with a 2.04 ERA (9er/39.2ip).

1992
MAY 16



The Tribe set a franchise record by scoring 15 runs in the first inning of a doubleheader vs. Seattle en route to an 18-0 win in seven innings. Bruce Howard, Deacon Jones, Jose Valdivielso, Len Johnston and Marv Stachle all hit doubles and drove in a combined eight runs. **Jim Hicks** went 3-for-5 with six runs driven in to lead the team.

1998
MAY 20



The first home run cycle ever recorded in a single inning by a professional baseball team occurred in the top of the fifth, when the Indians put up 10 runs at Pawtucket. **Pete Rose Jr.** hit a solo home run, Jason Williams tacked on a three-run homer, Glenn Murray cleared the bases with a grand slam and Guillermo Garcia finished it off with a two-run shot. Garcia finished the day with two home runs after hitting a solo shot in the ninth inning to give the Tribe an 11-1 win.

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**1974
MAY 24**



Tom Carroll tossed the sixth no-hitter in franchise history on a Friday at Omaha. Both starters went the distance, with Carroll improving to 3-2 on the season after issuing just two walks and striking out five. For Omaha, Dennis Leonard allowed two runs – both driven in by Ed Armbrister – on eight hits and four walks with six strikeouts.

**1970
MAY 29**



The Tribe won a 23-inning game at Oklahoma City that began on Thursday, May 28 and finished on Friday. The score was tied 5-5 through nine innings, and then both teams went scoreless for the next 10 innings before trading runs in the 20th. The Indians broke ahead in the 23rd inning with a four-run spot, and Oklahoma City rallied with one run in the bottom half to finish the game, 10-7. The total game time was 6 hours and 37 minutes.

**2004 1950
2000
1984 1976
2012
2016
MAY 31**



Jacob Stallings set a single-game Victory Field record with seven RBI in the Tribe's 9-3 win vs. Rochester. The catcher went 4-for-4 with a solo home run, three-run double, RBI triple and another home run to drive in two. Stallings had his contract selected by Pittsburgh just a few weeks later and made his major league debut on June 19.

by ANNA KAYSER

On Oct. 21, 2004, nestled in the heart of the Gateway City for Game 7 of the National League Championship Series vs. Houston, Scott Rolen found himself in a mindset that only manifested itself two or three times in his entire career.

An Indiana native, he built the foundation of what would be a 17-year, Hall of Fame-worthy Major League Baseball career on hard work and a love for the game. Sure, he had talent and was inherently good – he hit .314 that season and finished fourth in MVP voting – but what got him there was a dedication to outworking anyone else on the field.

As his team trailed 2-1 with two outs in the bottom of the sixth against soon-to-be seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens, something shifted. With Rolen on deck, one runner on base and a relief arm warming in the bullpen, the Astros met with their starter on the mound.

“If you leave him in, you lose,” Rolen thought to himself. Astros manager Phil Garner stuck with his ace.

Albert Pujols tied the game with a double, and in stepped Rolen. Clemens hurled the right-handed batting Rolen a fastball, middle-in and level with the red 27 on his Cardinal uniform. Rolen turned on it and parked the baseball just inside the left-field foul pole to give his team a 4-2 lead.

“The thing about Scott is that his game was at such a high level every day that he played,” former Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. “It wasn’t like he had to go to another gear in the postseason, the stances he had was so glaring and the thing about him was he was always a tougher out the more important the situation.”

Rolen’s absolute favorite memory from his entire major league career came eight years earlier on Aug. 1, 1996, before he had established himself as a great bat and an even greater third baseman. But first he had to get there, and that journey began in Jasper, Ind.

Rolen was a well-rounded athlete, and that only made him a better baseball player. He wrestled, ran track and field and played soccer growing up. He could throw a football 60 yards downfield into a receiver’s arms as a freshman quarterback. He took up tennis when his football days were over. He went from the tennis court to the basketball court, and the basketball court to the baseball field. For four years at Jasper High School, he stood out.

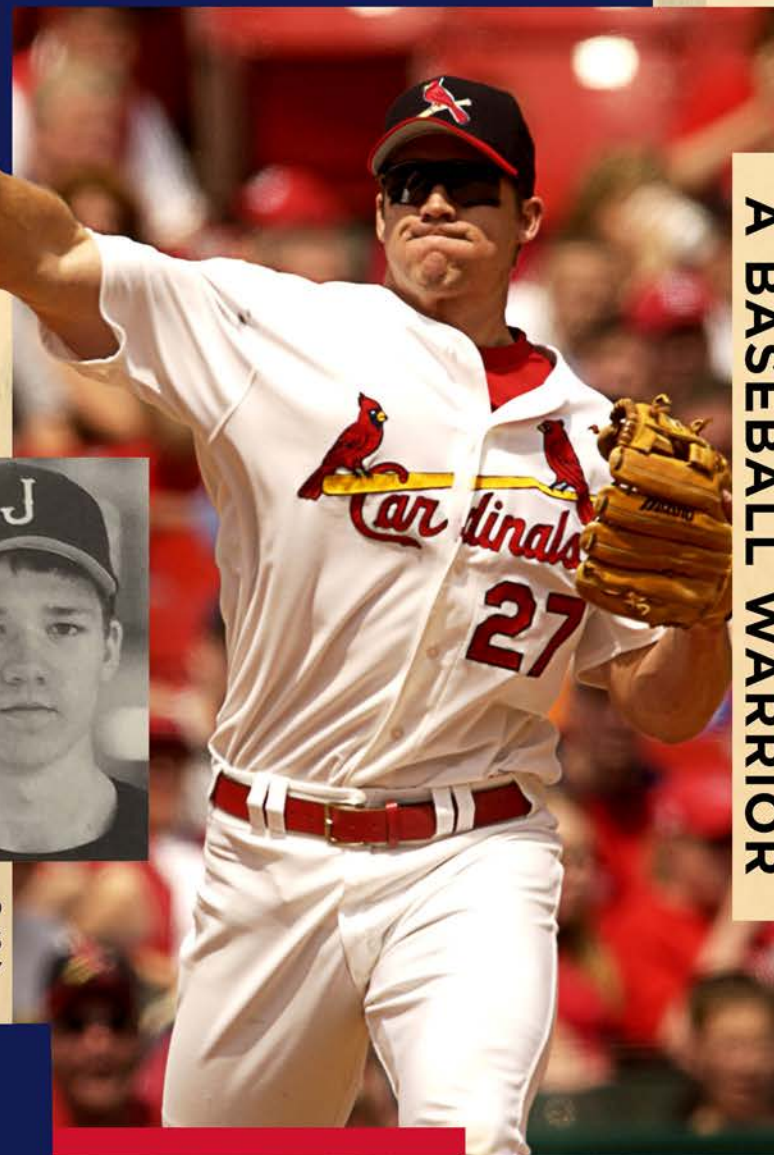
“The difference with Scott is he truly loved baseball,” Jasper head baseball coach Terry Gobert said. “That was his number one sport. He played tennis the rest of the way, and basketball and baseball. But baseball was just his number one love I think always growing up, and you don’t get that a lot in Indiana.”



A BASEBALL WARRIOR

SCOTT ROLEN

Rolen’s work ethic made him one of Indiana’s finest ballplayers and a potential Hall of Famer



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"The thing about Scott, you know, Scott's really a big player, like a Cal Ripken as far as height and strength, but he had amazing agility. His first two, three steps on the defensive side were as quick as a shortstop that was 100 pounds less."

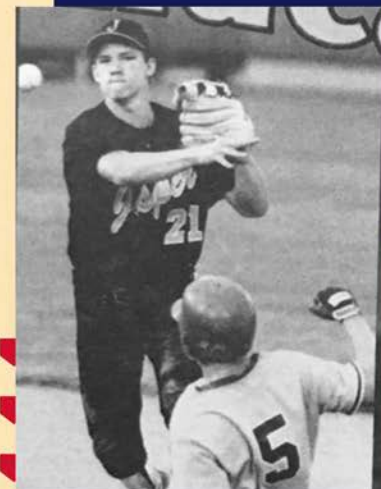
- Tony La Russa

Those skills he learned from other sports stuck with him, and those who taught him later in his career noticed. He had something that other tall and strong power hitters don't have, not even today. He was quick.

As he continued to grow through his major league career, this time putting on weight through muscle instead of height, the focus on agility and footwork from his days on the tennis and basketball courts led him to become an eight-time Rawlings Gold Glove award winner.

"You become more skillful in what your primary sport is if you can also play the other ones," La Russa said. "The thing about Scott, you know, Scott's really a big player, like a Cal Ripken as far as height and strength, but he had amazing agility. His first two, three steps on the defensive side were as quick as a shortstop that was 100 pounds less."

When Rolen stepped up to the plate, however, his baseball instincts and love for the game kicked into action. He grew up tossing the ball up to himself, hitting it, and running around his backyard in imaginary Dodgers vs. Cardinals games.



He never had a specified hitting coach. What he did – the work he put in – was all for the love of the game. With that, he just got better.

Rolen hit, by his own standards, a measly .351 as a sophomore, but just one year later he broke the school single-season record with a .500 batting average on 56 hits. His 18 doubles that year broke another record, which he alone owned until the feat was tied in 2006. He tacked on with a career-best season of two triples, nine home runs (to tie his sophomore total) and 58 RBI.

He broke the batting average record again when he hit .546 as a senior, a record that still stands.

Previous career records were demolished with Rolen's swing when the season came to a close in 1993, his three varsity years totaling to a record-setting .424 batting average, 137 hits, 39 doubles, 26 home runs, 125 RBI, 123 runs scored and 266 total bases, the last of which still stands.

Those numbers – as well as his time with the inaugural Indiana Bulls travel team – attracted attention to the small Indiana town by way of major league scouts, but that didn't change the way Rolen viewed or played the game.

"I just wanted to play baseball, be with my friends and my teammates," Rolan said. "I didn't worry a whole lot about it. I think it was probably more of a hassle, I didn't beat my chest a lot and think that I was pretty cool, I really just wanted to play.

"If they wanted me to do something, I would stay a little bit afterwards and hit with a wooden bat... it was more baseball for me in my mind. It wasn't [me] trying to show off or put on a show to get drafted, I really didn't even know anything about a draft. That they wanted me to hit after practice just meant that I got to hit with a wooden bat, which was cool."

Rolan attributes that worry-free mindset to him being young, immature and naïve at the time, which made him stand out even more to those who watched him. He didn't do things on the field because he felt like he was supposed to, he played hard because that's all he had ever done.

"I remember a game, we were playing a small school down here, and he hit a ball between third and shortstop in the hole, routine single, and he gets to second," Gobert recalled. "There were scouts there and I was talking to one of them after the game, he goes '[Rolan] just made 100 grand tonight, even more.'

"He didn't do that because scouts were there, that's the one thing I'm proud about him his whole career. He did that to the very end, he played hard."

Despite being named Indiana's Mr. Baseball and the state's Gatorade Player of the Year after his senior season, as well as being selected by Philadelphia in the second round of the 1993 First-Year Player Draft in early June, his focus shifted back to basketball when baseball ended.

As he grew through high school, shooting up from 6-foot-1 to 6-foot-4, the natural path formed by the state of Indiana led towards basketball. He was runner-up to Indiana's Mr. Basketball in 1993, had committed to

the University of Georgia earlier that year on a basketball scholarship to play both sports and would face Kentucky in late-June as part of the Indiana All-Star team.

Basketball just wasn't quite done teaching him yet.

Rolan found himself two months removed from the basketball court and out of the shape he needed to be in. He was teammates with athletes who played basketball year-round, and he could feel himself falling behind.

After the first practice during a camp in Lafayette, Ind., Rolan called his dad and told him he couldn't keep up. His dad asked plainly, "Well, what are you going to do?"



The only thing Rolan could do was work harder than anyone else on the court.

"I was just driven to outwork everybody in that practice and on that floor, whether it was diving for balls on the floor playing defense, taking charges, whatever it was," Rolan said. "What got me there was I was the player that was scoring and making baskets and doing a lot of stuff, and now that left me for a little while and I was getting beat up, I just had to do something different."

12 OUNCES OF *Chill*



In July, following the All-Star game, Rolen returned to his talks with the Phillies and signed to continue his future in professional baseball. What he had learned from his previous weeks in basketball was fresh in his mind, and ultimately shaped the way he worked in the minors.

“When I got to the minor leagues, guys were throwing harder than I had ever seen and things were different, things changed, so it was just this conscious effort,” Rolen said. “I just physically worked, and I worked, and I worked.”

Rolen rose quickly through the minor league ranks and on Aug. 1, 1996, just a

little over three years after he was drafted and signed by the Phillies, took the field for his major league debut.

He knocked a double in his second at-bat for his first major league hit, but that’s not what he remembers about that game. His parents traveled from Florida to Philadelphia as the Phillies were set to play a doubleheader vs. the Cardinals.

“Out of everything in my career, my favorite moment was in the sixth inning of game one, my parents made it to the ballpark and walked out to their seats,” Rolen said. “I was out on the field and I watched them walk out to their seats in my first game, and the looks on their faces – nothing, nothing will pass that for me.

“That was the first thing that happened and the best thing that happened for me in my career.”

Rolen spent part of seven seasons with Philadelphia before being traded to St. Louis in the summer of 2002, and in La Russa’s mind that instantly made the Cardinals as good – if not better – than anyone else in the league.

The team that won 97 games, the NL Central division title and swept the Diamondbacks in the NLDS that year featured a glaring loss, a chip in Rolen’s seamless career.

A collision between second and third base as Rolen went to field a ground ball in Game 2

vs. the Diamondbacks resulted in a moderate left shoulder strain in the main left socket. Another collision to the same shoulder in 2005 prompted him to end his season early after his second surgery that year.

The injury bothered him well into 2006, but as the year went on the Cardinals raced towards the pennant and Rolen felt like he had a job to do. He had grown up an everyday player and had the mentality that if he wasn’t injured, he was going to take the field for his team.

“I wasn’t going to take a day off,” Rolen said. “I was going to stay on the field, and I was going to hand the pitcher the ball at the beginning of every game.”



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Exactly two years to the date of his go-ahead home run off Clemens, rookie Justin Verlander hung a 79-mph changeup down central on the biggest stage in baseball. He sent the baseball over the left-field wall like it was batting practice.

A lifetime .189 postseason batting average up to that point, Rolen's first – and only – World Series home run in two Fall Classic appearances tied Game 1. It sparked his own offense through the five-game set. The then-31-year-old went on to hit .421 (8-for-19) with four extra-base hits and five runs scored as St. Louis took the series from Detroit, 4-1.

He was traded to the Blue Jays prior to the 2008 season and spent the final five years of his career between Toronto and Cincinnati, earning the final two of seven career All-Star bids in 2010 and '11 with the Reds. He holds a lifetime .281 batting average with 316 home runs, 517 doubles and 1,287 RBI.

"Without the injury, he's a first ballot Hall of Famer," La Russa said. "And I think, even with the injury, I think he's still a Hall of Famer. It may take him some ballots to get in... but he still had enough success that I'm hoping, and all his teammates are hoping and expect, that he gets [into] Cooperstown." ♥





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MERCH MATCH IGNITES COVID-19 FUNDRAISING

by **CHEYNE REITER**

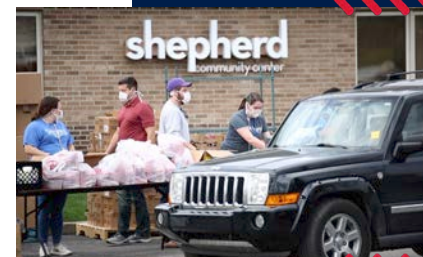
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our everyday lives for the short term, with long term ramifications from the outbreak still unknown. We have been encouraged to wash our hands more frequently and socially distance from others to mitigate the spread of the virus. Countless lives have been lost, millions have been laid off or furloughed by their respective employers, and the things we took for granted, like having food on the table every night, are no longer guaranteed.

During this uncertain time, Indianapolis Indians Charities has stepped up to the plate.

IIC's first fundraising effort ran for 11 days in late March. The Tribe's nonprofit organization promised to match every online merchandise order by fans dollar-for-dollar, with IIC's proceeds going to Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. By the end of the merch match program, over \$18,500 in merchandise had been purchased by Indians fans. IIC rounded that figure up to \$20,000 for Gleaners, equating to a bountiful 80,000 meals for hungry Hoosiers.

And IIC has not stopped there.

The nonprofit recently donated \$10,000 to Shepherd Community Center located on the Near Eastside of downtown Indianapolis. That donation provided meals for over 700 families in the neighborhood, along with Chromebooks and tablets for 160 Shepherd Academy students forced to learn from home after their school doors shuttered. Another \$2,500 donation from IIC went to the American Red Cross of Indiana, thanks to hundreds of photos submitted by fans wearing red or Indians gear as part of the Tribe's #IndiansOpeningStay campaign in early April.




What is next for IIC on the COVID-19 relief front? Through the entire month of May, fans can bid on exclusive auction items, buy Indians game tickets for frontline healthcare professionals and essential workers, and more.

Visit **IndyIndians.com/Relief** for details on how to impact the community today. ♥

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ATE CRACKER JACK	SUNG TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME	OWN A BOBBLE HEAD	WATCHED A BASEBALL GAME ON TV	HIGH FIVED ROWDIE
RAN THE BASES	OWN INDIANS GEAR		TAKEN A PICTURE AT VICTORY FIELD	RECEIVED A FREE PROMO ITEM
ATTENDED A THEME NIGHT	BROUGHT A GLOVE TO A GAME	SAT IN THE LAWN	BEEN A KNOT HOLE KIDS CLUB MEMBER	BEEN TO FRIDAY FIREWORKS
PLAYED CATCH	TOOK A PHOTO WITH ROWDIE	SAW A HOME RUN	HAVE SIGNED INDIANS GEAR	USED #ROLLTRIBE ON A PHOTO

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THE MAN *Behind* THE NAME



**HOW TOMMY JOHN
BECAME ONE OF THE MOST
MEMORABLE HOOSIER
PITCHERS IN BASEBALL**

by MEGAN GARCIA

Some of the most notable names in baseball — whether past, present or future — can be linked by one outstanding attribute. Cy Young Award winners, MVPs, you name it, one player's name can grace the history books and forever be associated with all-time greats. But for some players, their link is one of hardship, pain and a grueling rehab, connected by one name: Tommy John.

Tommy John surgery is a common phrase in the baseball world that is heard every year without fail. The procedure itself is common and straightforward, a reconstructive surgery to repair a ligament in an elbow. But those words hold more weight than just the surgery itself. They speak of a player who will not take part in competitive baseball for a year-and-a-half. They'll endure physical therapy, and possibly never throw the same. But it's not often that Tommy John, the player and Indiana native, and his 26-year career is brought up.

Before his name spoke of hardship, John was a small-town Midwesterner. He grew up in Terre Haute, roughly 80 miles southeast of Indianapolis, where he attended Gerstmeyer High School. He was a standout in multiple sports, to the point that he contemplated a collegiate career in basketball. John averaged 20.3 points per game during the 1960-61 season and helped lead the varsity basketball team to a sectional title. His knack for establishing records came at a young age, as the 6-foot-3 athlete posted 47 points against Bedford High School during his senior year for a single-game Gerstmeyer record.

But as the then-18-year-old weighed his basketball aspirations, Cleveland was knocking on his door with an offer. His off-speed pitches were major-league ready, but his fastball needed work if professional hitters weren't going to get the best of him. His two years in the minor leagues put him on that path.

John's name first graced major league statistical charts on Sept. 6, 1963, when he made his debut with the Cleveland Indians at 20 years old. He showed promise in his short six-game stint, compiling a 2.21 ERA.



He was traded to the Chicago White Sox in 1965 after putting up a 2-9 record with a 3.91 ERA the year prior with Cleveland. But John was quick to turn things around for himself in a new uniform. In seven seasons with Chicago, he tabbed a 2.95 ERA in 1,493.1 innings pitched. The curveball-heavy hurler led Major League Baseball in back-to-back seasons with five shutouts in 1966 and six in '67. He also earned his first career All-Star selection in 1968 and went on to finish the year with a 10-5 record and 1.98 ERA, the lowest of his career.

Yet, it was his time with the Los Angeles Dodgers that changed his career and the future of baseball. Leading up to the 1975 season, John had a 2.89 ERA with 311 strikeouts, 132 walks and 13 complete games in three years with Los Angeles. His numbers were on par compared to other seasons before his 1974 campaign was cut short. John's final appearance that summer came on July 17, when he left the game after facing two batters in the top of the third inning.

A 12-season career was on the line for John when he underwent ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) reconstruction. He was the first person to receive the procedure, hence the moniker it is often referred to, and beat the odds by carrying out a successful career after the fact. The likelihood the then-32-year-old would return to baseball was slim and emulating his prior success was even lower.

Nowadays, players are slowly reintroduced to the game with a low pitch count and innings limit. John was not one of those players. When John returned to baseball 18 months after his Sept. 25, 1974 procedure, he didn't ease into the intensity of the game. He recorded six complete games in his 31 starts in 1976, two of them shutouts. He led the National League with a 0.3 home runs per nine innings ratio.

His namesake surgery gave his career a second life, one that has him tied for second in most seasons played in MLB history at 26. By splitting his career in two parts, before and after his surgery, it's remarkable what he achieved. From 1963 to 1974, John went 124-106 in 355 games (318 starts) with a 2.97 ERA, 71 complete games and 1,273 strikeouts. After his surgery through his final season in 1989, the southpaw had a 164-125 record and 3.66 ERA with 91 complete games and 972 strikeouts.

The second act of his career was nearly as dominant as his first, but nonetheless more impressive.

John's career post-surgery brought recognition to his talent. He was a three-time All-Star, once with Los Angeles and twice with the New York Yankees during the late '70s and garnered Cy Young and MVP support. At the age of 34, John received his first Cy Young nomination with Los Angeles. He ultimately came in second in the voting selection, behind Yankees pitcher Sparky Lyle, but remained in the Cy Young conversation for the next few years.

He eventually retired at 46 with New York to finish his career with an ERA of 3.34, 2,245 strikeouts and 162 complete games. John currently owns the seventh-most wins among left-handed pitchers, with 288 to his name.

Before his professional career required him to play all over the country, John maintained his hometown roots by attending Indiana State University during his off time from baseball. Gerstmeier High no longer has its doors open, but his records are still remembered. Back in 2013, a baseball field in a Terre Haute city park was renamed in his honor.

Like in baseball, John's name will always be a part of Indiana. ♥

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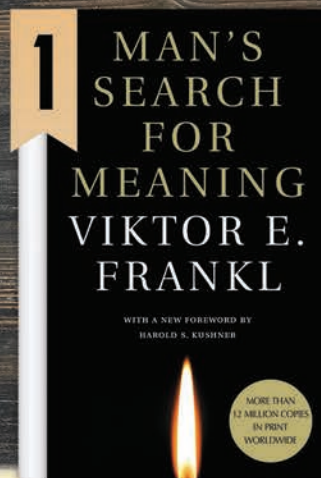
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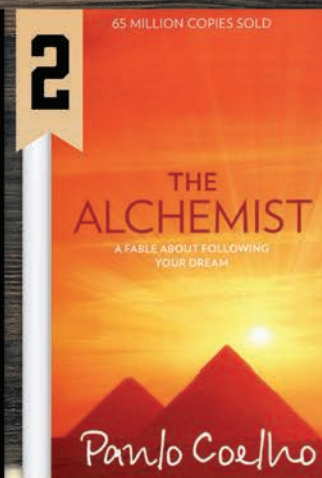


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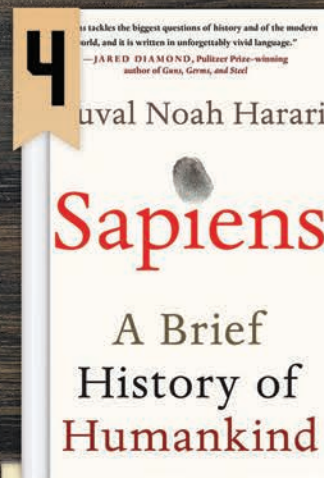
**MAN'S SEARCH
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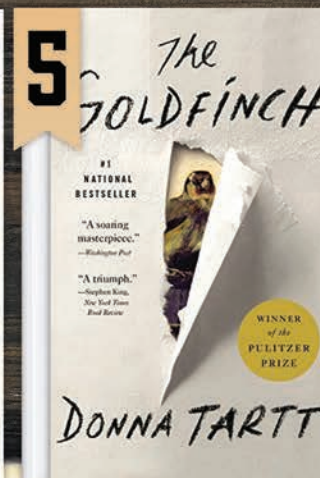
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