

HOME BASE



IN THIS EDITION



Team Trivia.....	4
Player Catch-Up: Scott Kapers.....	5
Spot the Difference.....	8
Community Corner.....	9
Q&A w/ Ed Yong.....	13
Remembering Bob Robertson.....	18
Hometown Hero - Kim Elkins.....	27

Photos courtesy of
Janna Juday and James Snook

SPOKANEINDIANS.com



**Register now @
justaddmonsters.com**



**eSports Tournament
September 26th**

Over \$6000 in cash and prizes

TEAM TRIVIA

- 1 This Indians alum won the first ever Cy Young Award:**
 - a) Don Sutton
 - b) Don Newcombe
 - c) Hoyt Wilhelm
 - d) Doyle Alexander
- 2 Which member of the 1970 Spokane Indians helped lead the USC football team to a national championship in 1967?**
 - a) Steve Sogge
 - b) Tom Hutton
 - c) Steve Garvey
 - d) Sandy Vance
- 3 Before becoming Avista Stadium, the Spokane Indians played their home games at:**
 - a) Key Bank Park
 - b) Sterling Saving Stadium
 - c) Seafirst Stadium
 - d) Wells Fargo Field
- 4 Which son of a former MLB player did NOT play for the Indians?**
 - a) Gary Matthews Jr.
 - b) John Mayberry Jr.
 - c) Ruben Sierra Jr.
 - d) Jerry Hairston Jr.
- 5 The last Indians alum to win Rookie of the Year:**
 - a) Neftali Feliz
 - b) Derek Holland
 - c) Chris Davis
 - d) Jurickson Profar
- 6 How many former Spokane Indians players opened this year on MLB rosters?**
 - a) 17
 - b) 24
 - c) 27
 - d) 19
- 7 Before this summer, the last year without Indians baseball in Spokane was:**
 - a) 1967
 - b) 1951
 - c) 1978
 - d) 1957
- 8 Which former Spokane Indians player was drafted by the Houston Texans in 2018?**
 - a) Jake Skole
 - b) Jamie Jarmon
 - c) Braxton Lane
 - d) Jordan Akins
- 9 Which Indians alum has the most career MLB home runs?**
 - a) Carlos Beltran
 - b) Duke Snider
 - c) Frank Howard
 - d) Steve Garvey
- 10 MLB HOFer Ryne Sandberg attended which high school in Spokane?**
 - a) Lewis & Clark
 - b) Shadle Park
 - c) North Central
 - d) Ferris

PLAYER CATCH-UP: SCOTT KAPERS



TEXAS RANGERS FARMHAND SCOTT KAPERS STAYS SHARP IN USPBL

**Courtesy of Brandon Vickrey/
Valparaiso Athletics**

Like everything else for everyone in the country and across the world, baseball looks a little different this year for former Valparaiso University standout Scott Kapers.

The Texas Rangers minor league catcher was unable to compete in a third season of affiliated professional baseball in 2020 since the minor league campaign was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, Kapers has found ways to continue his development and is currently competing for the Westside Woolly Mammoths of the United Shore Professional Baseball League.

“I arrived in Arizona on Feb. 7, and was there until March 16,” Kapers said. “After COVID shut spring training down, I went straight home and spent several months doing my best to stay active. It was challenging to stay on a diet and find fields to practice. I was fortunate to have my brother (current Valpo junior) Jake to throw to and work out with throughout the whole process.”

Kapers eventually latched on with the semipro Mishawaka Brewers to stay sharp before recently making his way to Utica, Mich. to play in the USPBL. All four teams competing in the league this season play their games at one site, Jimmy John’s Field. Kapers is living with fellow Rangers

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



minor leaguer Jake Hoover, who is also playing in the USPBL.

“The Rangers organization has been unbelievable, paying us through all this and doing everything they can to help their minor league players,” Kapers said. “It’s been great to be here in Michigan and have the opportunity to log some innings behind the plate while facing quality pitching. This league does a great job with data collection, so I’ve been learning more of the statistic side and educating myself on what each pitcher throws for strikes and other information.”

The stop in Michigan is the latest chapter in a professional career that began when Kapers was selected in the 17th round of the 2018 draft by the Rangers following his junior year at Valpo. He played in 54 games over the last two seasons, with the majority of those coming for the Spokane Indians of the Class-A Northwest League. The Schererville, Ind. native

and Mount Carmel High School product had the opportunity to play one game with the Nashville Sounds of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League last season.

“I woke up one day and they said, ‘You’re going to Triple-A,’” Kapers said. “We had a Triple-A catcher get injured and I was available at extended spring training. I was catching bullpens and doing my job while getting work in. The night before my last day with Nashville, they let me know I was playing the next day. I actually slept pretty well and got to the field and played; I treated it just like any other baseball game.”

Numerous coaches have influenced Kapers in the professional ranks, including his first manager Kenny Holmberg, former big-league catcher Carlos Maldonado and most recently Kenny Hook.

In his final season at Valpo in the spring of 2018, Kapers



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



threw out 37.5 percent of would-be base stealers (21 caught stealing) and picked off six runners. He garnered Missouri Valley Conference All-Defensive Team and All-Tournament Team accolades while learning from head coach Brian Schmack and his staff.

“Coach Schmack knew what it took since he played in the big leagues,” Kapers said. “He helped me straighten out my mindset and focus on what I wanted to be as a player. The team camaraderie at Valpo stands out. Learning how to be a good teammate in college has helped me in my professional career.”

Valpo is a family affair for Kapers, as his sister Madison recently graduated from the University and is now in dental school in Arizona, while his aforementioned brother Jake is entering his third season as a catcher for the Valpo baseball team.

“Everyone at Valpo has treated our family extremely well,” Kapers said. “The community is enjoyable and it’s a nice town. The academics are elite and walking away with a Valparaiso education is very beneficial. My parents recognized that value and were supportive of us in our decisions to attend the University.”



**FIND & FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**



#GoSpo



Proud Sponsor of the SPOKANE INDIANS



FIND YOUR NEAREST LOCATION!

619 S Fir Ave, Deer Park, WA 99006
(509) 276-3000

123 S Broad St, Medical Lake, WA 99022
(509) 299-9100

5978 WA-291, Suite 10 Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026
(509) 464-3994

503 W Appleway Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 765-3434

126 W Main St, Grangeville, ID 83530
(208) 983-5555

814 US-12, Kamiah, ID 83536
(208) 935-2134

307 Michigan Ave, Orofino, ID 83544
(208) 476-5519

6637 Fry St, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-7771

910 Main St, St Maries, ID 83861
(208) 245-5515

612 Bank St, Wallace, ID 83873
(208) 753-9003

**CURBSIDE PICK-UP & CONTACT-FREE
DELIVERY AVAILABLE**

STILL
WINNIN'
...Safely.



37914 SOUTH NUKWALQW
WORLEY, IDAHO 83876

1 800-523-2464 • CDACASINO.COM



COEUR D'ALENE
CASINO
RESORT • HOTEL®

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 10 differences between these two photos?



COMMUNITY CORNER

PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF OUR WATERWAYS



Courtesy of Avista

The Spokane River provides us all with clean and affordable electricity, and much more, including a home for fish, habitat for wildlife and opportunities for recreation. We are committed to helping protect and enhance the health of the river. One way we work toward that end is in our fishery efforts in the river and nearby lakes.

Avista's Long Lake Dam creates the reservoir known as Lake Spokane, a great place to swim, boat, fish and live. As part of our operations on Lake Spokane, we monitor the water, particularly the fluctuation of oxygen and temperature. This

helps us better understand conditions important to the fish who live in the lake.

Lake Spokane is managed to promote both warm water and cold-water fish, and to support sports fishing and native fish restoration. "Cold water fish, such as trout, are looking for water with cooler temperatures and high oxygen levels. That's the sweet spot," said Monica Ott, environmental scientist with Avista. "To better understand their preferred areas we are exploring temperature and oxygen levels available in the shallower areas of the lake."

Avista has monitored Lake Spokane for more than 10 years, in partnership with the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE 9

Washington Department of Ecology. This year we implemented a new technique using automated recorders affixed to buoys at three different locations on the lake. This allows us to get readings of temperature and oxygen every 15 minutes, at varying depths.

Staff visit each buoy every other week throughout the summer and download the data, which we share with the Department of Ecology. Additionally, staff visit other baseline locations on the lake, from which we have recorded data for the past decade and capture manual readings. At those sites, Monica measures temperature, pH, conductivity and oxygen from the bottom of the lake to the surface.

“It gives us a vertical profile of the water column and allows us to compare data so that its relevant to our past data.”

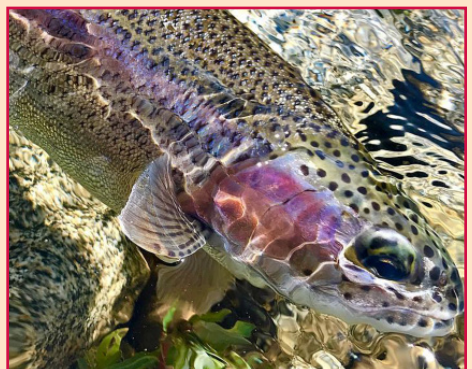
In 2012, Avista initiated a 10-year plan to improve total dissolved oxygen in Lake Spokane. The data Monica collects helps us better understand the number of factors that contribute to the lake’s health.

One effort Avista has undertaken with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve the lakes health is carp

removal. Carp, an invasive species, often uproot and disturb vegetation, ultimately reducing oxygen levels in the lake. By removing carp, there are fewer invasive species competing with native species for the same habitat. In addition, excess phosphorus is removed from the watershed, which improve oxygen levels.

Another mitigation effort is a bulkhead removal program. Avista works with agency stakeholders and landowners to restore lakefront property to a more natural shoreline, to reduce erosion, add shoreline habitat and improve water quality on the lake.

Education is also key. “We want to let people know what water quality means, how dissolved oxygen gets improved and what they can do to make a difference,” said Monica. Partnering with state agencies and local homeowners, Avista is one of many stakeholders who have an impact on the lake. “We’re



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

all in this together,” she said.

..

Explore more Avista
Connections at [https://www.
myavista.com/connect](https://www.myavista.com/connect)

The Spokane Indians are
all about the river! To learn
more about the team’s
Redband Rally Campaign and
involvement, visit [https://
www.milb.com/spokane/
community/redbandrally](https://www.milb.com/spokane/community/redbandrally)



**Keep staying
safe at home.**



Call 811 at least two business days before you dig to
avoid costly and dangerous utility line damage.

[myavista.com/safety](https://www.myavista.com/safety)





All in for community.



All in, for you.™



Windermere

REAL
ESTATE

SPOKANE



Inspiring Next-Gen Innovation

At Itron, we believe the way we manage energy and water will define this century. That's why we are partnering with Discovery Education to create an educational program that improves energy-water literacy, inspires conservation and keeps students connected through virtual learning experiences. Together, we can create a more **resourceful world**.

To learn more, visit learntoconserve.com

©Copyright 2020 Itron. All rights reserved. Itron and the Itron logo are registered trademarks of Itron, Inc.



Q&A WITH ED YONG

SPOKANE INDIANS STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH

Ed Yong has completed 11 seasons as the Spokane Indians Strength and Conditioning Coach. During his time with the Indians, Yong has been named Northwest League Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year six times by the Professional Baseball Strength and Conditioning Coaches Society (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2019). Prior to working with the Texas Rangers organization, Yong worked for the Arizona Diamondbacks from 2004 to 2007. He served as a minor league strength and conditioning coach, serving in the A, AA, and AAA levels.

The Spokane Indians caught up with Yong to talk about his time in Spokane, career, and what he's been up to during his summer off.

We've missed seeing you around the ballpark this summer. What have you been up to during this time?

Where do I start? Well, we were all sent home from spring training on March 13th. When this happened, we didn't



know what to expect, so I just patiently waited with my family to see when we would start baseball again. Days turned into weeks and we were told it was going to be much longer than expected. I did some small day trips with the family, but when we got word of the season being canceled, we were able to take longer road trips (spent time in Yosemite and Lake Tahoe back in late-May and Newport Beach in July). I also spent a lot of time each week on Zoom meetings with players and staff to make sure everyone was still staying productive. I felt some disconnect with human interaction, so I started recording some short yoga and meditation videos to help others cope with quarantine. When a lot of things were shut down and everyday seemed like Groundhog Day, it was very

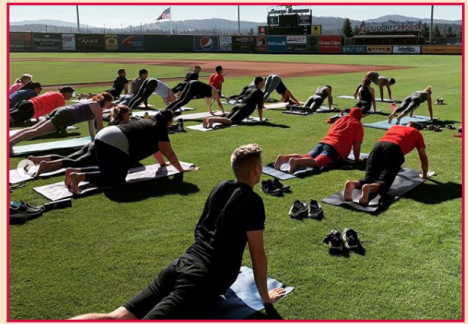
important to keep my mind and body moving.

You've spent 11 seasons as the strength and conditioning coach for the Indians. What are some your favorite things about summers in Spokane?

Everything! Very hard to narrow it down, but I will! Weather, baseball, people. Amazing mornings, mostly mild afternoons and comfortable evenings made summers in Spokane enjoyable. There were moments I would go for runs at night after the games and the weather was always perfect for that. Another thing I would do is go on hikes when we arrived back home in the early mornings from an overnight bus ride. The summertime weather in Spokane was amazing! When you ask players in our organization where their favorite place to play was, many will say Spokane because of the fans and the climate.

Do you have a favorite Spokane Indians memory from your time with the team?

Wow! Tough to narrow it down to just one. Post-season/playoff clinching clubhouse celebrations were always fun. We made it to the NWL Championship in 2010 and 2018 and those were memorable teams and moments. We had a number of superstar visits from Wayne Gretzky bringing his son to take BP with us in 2010 (only



to return a couple years later when he was drafted by the Cubs), Roger Clemens, Steve Garvey, George Brett and Tyler Johnson. Watching Ruben Sierra, Jr. hit a walk-off grand slam to win a deserving school teacher and her husband a Ford vehicle from Gus Johnson Ford in 2011 was exciting. Being a part of a combined 11-inning no-hitter in Everett with current Texas Rangers' catcher Jose Trevino behind the plate was unbelievable. Leading a couple of yoga sessions to the hardest working front office and game day staff of the Spokane Indians was incredibly fun. If you really want me to get teary-eyed, it would have to be the between-innings promotion when they invited a mother and her two kids down to the field to play the Spokesman-Review newspaper toss, then having her husband walk out of our dugout and surprise the family with his return home from a military deployment! That moment right there reached far beyond the game and touched everyone's heart that night.



few hours until I told him the truth. Those were definitely highlights of my later-years there and having Matt Melka carry on the tradition in 2019 by doing similar intros on the scoreboard was just as entertaining.

For those who aren't as familiar with everything that goes on behind the scenes, can you tell us a bit about your routine with players before games?

Being a strength and conditioning coach, we usually have the most exposure to the players when compared to other staff members or coaches. I typically meet either the entire team (if it's a team workout day) or just a couple of pitchers at the gym. At home, we used U-District PT as our training facility, but on the road, we would take the team bus to local gyms that I would call and set-up days in advance. After the morning workouts that were usually around 10-11 AM, we would have lunch at the ballpark in Spokane or I would have food delivered to the team hotel on the road. When it came time for actual work on the field, I have two stretches- one for pitchers, who would then get their conditioning and throwing done afterwards, and another stretch for position players before they went into their fielding practice and batting practice. At home, we have access to the field first,

Longtime PA announcer Scott Lewis was famous for introducing you in a unique way each game. Do you have a favorite?

Way too many to remember! There were a couple from the Disney promotion nights that rank up there- "Inspiration for the character of Olaf from Frozen" and "Once played Garçon in an off-Broadway production of Beauty and the Beast" were memorable, as was "So cool he drove to tonight's game with the heater on" and "Trains Labradoodles to sniff out pulled muscles" were great as well, but the one that really got the attention of one of our newly drafted players who was an avid outdoors-man was "2014 Bass Pro Angler of the Year"! I quickly became that player's favorite strength and conditioning coach for those

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

so we get about 2 hours to recover from practice and grab some food, play cards, watch baseball or college football on TV, get a stretch or other treatments such as soft-tissue work, but on the road, we would usually get an hour or so before the game for this.

How do you see strength and conditioning in baseball changing in the future?

This field is ever-changing. “Bigger, faster, stronger” has always been a catch-phrase when it comes to developing athletes in this day and age. We utilize many different tools to achieve this. We have platforms they can stand on to do certain movements and measure their power output or imbalances in their body. We have devices we can attach to a barbell to see how fast and explosive an athlete can move the weight and activity trackers that help monitor their heart rate and workload in a given time frame. We do assessments to measure active range of motion within all of the joints of the body. All of the data collected from these methods help guide us in developing a holistic program that combines strength, mobility and speed/conditioning for that individual athlete. We have a truly dynamic strength and conditioning department with the Texas Rangers Organization and we always do what we feel is in the player’s best interest and will do what

we can to get him to the big leagues.

Where should people go to follow along with you during this time?

I am not a big social media person, but with this being said, I have been spending more time on Instagram these past few months! You can follow me there at: **[edyong_strengthandyoga](https://www.instagram.com/edyong_strengthandyoga)**. I also have a public Vimeo website with some of my yoga and mediation sessions (<https://vimeo.com/showcase/6555526>).

If you weren’t a strength and conditioning coach, what profession could you see yourself doing?

After spending over a decade in the Lilac City, I was ready to give Andy Billig a run for his money! I have been in the fitness industry for 20 years and have been a strength and conditioning coach in pro baseball for 17 seasons. I have always had a passion



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



NW! I would still find time to share my yoga practice and Thai Massage bodywork on the side, of course!

What is your favorite quote:

I have two. One of them from a professional standpoint and one from a personal/spiritual standpoint. The first is from Aristotle- "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit." The other is from author Bill Keane- "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."

for helping others. If I wasn't in the profession I am in now, I would still love work for a professional sports team, but on the side of marketing and building relationships within the community of that team and city. I feel the success of a sports team is strongly based on their ties with the community it serves, which is why the Spokane Indians have such great fans in the Inland



IT'S FOR US, ALL OF US.

WHEN YOU PLAY,
ALL OF
WASHINGTON
WINS.

WALOTTERY.COM/WHOBENEFITS



Statistics and figures are from the 2019 Washington's Lottery Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Results may not equal 100% due to rounding.

REMEMBERING BOB ROBERTSON



‘THE MOST POPULAR COUGAR.’ BOB ROBERTSON, WHO PRESIDED OVER WASHINGTON STATE BROADCASTS FOR 52 YEARS, HAS DIED AT 91

**Courtesy of Theo Lawson/
The Spokesman-Review**

Brian Jeffries estimates he was 13 years old, maybe 14, when he and a childhood friend from Tacoma began gazing into the future, mapping out what they wanted to do and who they wanted to be when they grew up.

Dreaming, fantasizing, imagining, as young kids do.

A sports fanatic and radio nut who'd grown to idolize the man - and voice - behind the broadcasts of the local minor league baseball team, the

Tacoma Rainiers, Jeffries had it on the tip of his tongue.

"I told my friend, 'Gosh I'd love to be a sports announcer like Bob Robertson,' " he recalled.

The friend responded, "Well, he's my next-door neighbor."

"You're kidding me," Jeffries answered.

So, for weeks, Jeffries pedaled a bicycle to his friend's house, always crossing his fingers Robertson would return home at the same time he arrived. Of course, knocking on the front door was too daunting

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

of a proposition for the young boy, given his admiration. But one day, Robertson's car and Jeffries' bike pulled in at the same time, and the opportunity finally lined up.

"From there on, I was just infatuated and he kind of mentored me at that point, encouraged me," said Jeffries, who enters year No. 34 as the radio voice of University of Arizona football, baseball and basketball. "He used to recreate baseball games, the Triple-A team there in Tacoma and he invited me down to the studio one time to watch how he did it. I was a young kid, I was just amazed watching it and he was kind of my young idol and I made up my mind that's exactly what I wanted to do.

"He just always encouraged me."

Robertson, who spent more than half of his life presiding over Washington State football broadcasts, died Sunday at his home in University Place. He was 91 and surrounded by family at the time of his death, according to a school press release.

A specific cause of death is unknown and date hasn't been set for Robertson's memorial service, but The Spokesman-Review learned his family



intends to wait until the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic ends.

For legions of WSU fans, Robertson's name, perhaps more than that of any coach, player, broadcaster or writer, is the one that comes to mind when considering the last half-century of Cougar football. His notorious tagline, "Always be a good sport, be a good sport all ways," may be as synonymous with WSU football as the "Go Cougs" slogan itself.

Robertson's association with the school began in 1964 and culminated 52 years later, in October 2018, when he announced his immediate retirement prior to No. 25 WSU's upset of No. 12 Oregon in a showdown that was featured on ESPN College GameDay.

"He's the most popular Cougar in the state of Washington," former WSU coach Mike Price said Monday over the phone.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



“... I just loved him to death and he was just as great off the field as he was on the air. ... He was the most popular person, the most popular Cougar, that I’ve ever known.”

Over the years, one of Price’s favorite hobbies has been rummaging through boxes that contain cassette tapes of historic WSU football games, and memorable Robertson calls. It’s a way for Price to relive the most successful stint of his career and replay broadcasts he was never able to hear as a coach.

“I do a lot of fishing up here in Coeur d’Alene on my boat and I’ve got my stereo and I’ve got a bunch of old cassette tapes that I listen to some of the old games he did,” Price said. “Just for the voice and the expressions and everything.”

From his own home in Coeur d’Alene, another ex-WSU coach, Jim Walden, spent time Monday reflecting on his relationship with Robertson – something that manifested from a piece of advice given

to him by a former coach, Wyoming’s Bob Devaney.

“(Devaney) told me, in uncertain terms, ‘One of the most important people you’ll ever have on your side is your radio play-by-play person,’” Walden said. “He said, ‘Because, it doesn’t matter how many people come to the games. You may get 50,000 people in the stands, and they’re not listening to the radio, but you can have a million people over a three-hour broadcast that he can have some influence over the job you’re doing.’

“So, when I got my first job here at Washington State,” Walden said, “I made sure Jim Walden and Bob Robertson were always going to be good friends.”

Mississippi State’s Mike Leach, at the helm of the WSU football program for the last seven years of Robertson’s famed career, said Monday in a text message, “Bob Rob was maybe the most prolific broadcaster for any school, the most respected, and the most loved. He has had a huge impact on WSU. I cherish the fact that I had the honor to know him.”

For more than five decades, Robertson’s voice and WSU football games were one in the

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

same. For the vast majority of those years, he was in a play-by-play role – Robertson only moving to the analyst seat for the final eight years of his career. From 1964-2016, he called 589 consecutive games. There was one absence, however, at the 1981 Holiday Bowl, but only because local radio was not permitted to broadcast. Robertson also called Cougar basketball games for two decades.

In the mid-1990s, Jerry Kylo began working on WSU's football broadcasts as an engineer/producer. In some ways, you can think of him as Robertson's offensive coordinator – “basically you're running the show,” Kylo explained. Among other things, Kylo set up the clunky equipment, communicated commercial breaks and timeouts to his play-by-play announcer and flipped through a book of verbal cues, shoving different reads into Robertson's face at various stages of the game.

The first time Kylo shared the booth with Robertson came in the 1994 season opener against Illinois at Chicago's Soldier Field – a narrow 10-9 WSU win. His favorite Robertson tale, though, came two years later, when the Cougars traveled to Philadelphia to play Temple.

The broadcast booth, Kylo describes, “was basically a 4x8 sheet of plywood hung from the roof of old Soldier Field.”

Not much space to broadcast a college football game, let alone stand.

Robertson was mid-broadcast when a member of the station's sales team walked into the booth, unaware of the beam hanging from the roof, and met a cruel reality.

“Walked into that thing and laid him out flat,” Kylo said. “Bob looked down and just kept on announcing. We're all trying to revive him and he's got a big old knot on his head.”

Robertson's life took a tragic turn when Joanne, his wife of 59 years, died in 2011 – the same year Robertson traded his play-by-role to become an analyst.

“She was a really kind lady,” Kylo said, “and our daughter just fell in love with Joanne.”

Up until Robertson gave up his headset for good, he was



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

a pseudo celebrity in the press box, drawing visits from opposing announcers, team officials and writers who all made it a priority to pop in and greet the broadcasting giant before kickoff.

“He was one of these guys you’d probably put up on a pedestal,” Kylo said, “but once I got to know him, he was just another friendly person. ... He loved the Cougs, he loved being with people, he loved talking to them and greeting people. He would’ve been the best greeter of Walmart of anybody.”

It was the familiarity of Robertson’s voice on a WSU football broadcast that made him such a revered figure among Cougars fans, but those who shared his line of work could also identify the subtle traits that made him a unique talent.

“There are objective fundamentals to doing this. There are things that are required,” said Matt Chazanow, the Voice of the Cougars since 2015. “There are pieces of data that are nonnegotiable, and then there are ways to present those things. So for instance, there’s down and distance, time and score. If you’re doing 70 on the highway, the simple fact that, can you understand



what the hell is going on? Because you can’t see it.

“So, one of the things Bob did that’s so hard, that’s so elite, is he did something called being on the play. And that is to say, his timing was just amazing. He was always on the play. He told me, we would talk about how he did it and he attacked it. What that means is, when you do that appropriately, when you do that right, the crowd rises underneath you at a point in time that makes a listener – whether they realize it or not, it brings them into it.”

Robertson was deep into the home stretch of his career, a WSU and College Football Hall of Famer, a 12-time Washington Broadcaster of the Year and in just about every respect, a living legend, when Chazanow arrived in Pullman five years ago. So, the 30-year-old play-by-play announcer was admittedly thrown for a loop when Robertson arrived in the booth and asked Chazanow where he preferred

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

to sit. This, mind you, in a booth that's held Robertson's namesake since 2009.

"I was like, 'Bob, it's literally your booth. I'll sit on the roof if you want me to, ' " Chazanow said. "I'm forever calling games in the Bob Robertson Suite. Like, 'You tell me where you want to sit. How about that?' But he loved it. He always talked about his wife, too. I always knew I was living in special moments when I was starting this off, by doing it alongside him and in some ways with his legacy in mind."

In 1999, the Tacoma Rainiers chose to separate with Robertson after 14 years. Seeking another opportunity

in minor league baseball, he dialed up the Spokane Indians and managing partner Bobby Brett. Robertson wasn't pushy, but if they had an opening, he'd certainly be grateful. The broadcaster had hardly spoken a word when Brett and Pier assured they'd make room in their booth.

"(Robertson) says, 'Well, how long should this be?,' " recalled Dave Pier, the chief marketing officer for Brett Sports, the organization that runs both of Spokane's minor league franchises. "We said, 'Well, it's a lifetime contract, Bob. You tell us when you don't want to do it anymore.'"

Robertson spent 12 years



Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Happy Hour
Sat. & Sun. Brunch • Eclectic Award Winning Menu
Late Night Dining • Full Menu 'til Close!
Steaks, Chops, Seafood, Salads, Burgers
& 100 other Menu Items!

**"Join Us at Max at Mirabeau
For Some Great Appetizers
and Drink Specials"**

**Brunch on thePatio!!
Saturday & Sunday
9 am - 2 pm
"Bloody Mary Bar"**



with the Indians, calling four Pacific Northwest League championships before stepping away from the club in 2010. Those in the organization still speak to his diligence and work ethic and assure few in his position take the steps to prepare for a game as Robertson did.

But, for all the prep work he did, Robertson wasn't email savvy, so members of Spokane's public relations staff would send information guides and stats via fax to his local FedEx shop in the Tacoma area.

"He'd always call in February or March starting to look for background on who might be in the Rangers farm system because he did such tremendous research," Pier said.

On that same front, Brett, the club's managing partner for more than 20 years, added "when Bob first showed up, I was absolutely amazed how much homework and

background he did before he even showed up in Spokane on those players. So, we'd get our roster and Bob would come into town a few days before the season started and he had notes after notes after notes on these guys. Then he was looking forward to meeting these players, but he already knew 80% of their backgrounds. Who they dated in high school. It was amazing how much homework he did on a day-to-day basis."

Another unknown gem from Robertson's tenure with the Spokane ball club?

"One of the funny things, when Bob came into the league one of the things he wanted is, not every press box had a bathroom," Pier said. "So, we had to tell him one of the teams that didn't have a bathroom was moved out of the league. He said, 'Well, there's good news and bad news: they're not in the league anymore, but on the other hand, the team that took their place has a bathroom in the press box.' So, he was pretty excited."

Fifty-two years of tales similar to that one came flooding back when news of Robertson's death spread Monday morning.

When Price finished post game interviews with Robertson, the play-by-play announcer usually



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

invited another assistant coach to the press box for a short conversation on the record.

Because the assistants often tried to skirt the interview, Robertson sweetened the pot, offering \$5, \$10 or even \$20 to anyone who'd talk.

"I talked after the Apple Cup when we were ahead and lost in the last seconds of the game with (Jim) Sweeney," said Price, recalling a game in the 1970s when he was an assistant. "I'd have paid twice that much not to have to go up there and talk to him."

Robertson, who served as the voice of Notre Dame football

for two years in the 1950s, dabbled in boxing, hockey, hydroplanes and Major League Soccer.

He was also the longtime voice of Division III Pacific Lutheran basketball.

Robertson is survived by his four children, Hugh, Janna, John and Rebecca, along with his seven grandchildren.

To the day to he died, Robertson spoke with unequivocal adoration for his late wife, Joanne.

"I know Bob really missed her," Pier said. "I'd think we'd all like to think they're back together."



**PROUD RADIO HOME OF THE
SPOKANE INDIANS**

**103.5 THE
GAME**
SPORTS & HIP-HOP **1510AM**

**LOOKING FORWARD TO BROADCASTING
ANOTHER GREAT SEASON WHEN BASEBALL RESUMES!**



**MISSING BASEBALL
THIS SUMMER?**

**GET YOUR SPOKANE INDIANS
MERCHANDISE AT THE OFFICIAL
ONLINE TEAM STORE**

www.spokaneindians.com

Curbside Pickup Available

Monday - Thursday 9AM - 3PM



HOMETOWN HERO ~ KIM ELKINS



When school districts started to close as a response to the COVID-19 outbreaks in mid-March, many faced the issue of continuing to provide meals for students in need. With the help of her team, Kim Elkins, the Nutrition Director for the Mead School District, made it her mission to provide kids in the district a dish of normalcy by continuing to provide breakfast and lunch. The district, comprised of seven elementary and one middle schools, set out to serve cold meals at 16 different locations that families could take home to heat up for the kids. Between March and August, a total of 238,044 breakfasts and lunches were served to the community.

With help from Assistant Director of Nutrition Services, Mark Oswalt and their team, Kim coordinated with the transportation department to deliver meals from the school's warehouses to the distribution sites. They'd be set up for 30 minute windows so that kids from more rural areas would have access without far drives. Several school bus drivers helped distribute the meals, some even dressing up in themed outfits to bring some fun to the pickup. The kids loved it and some would follow suit and dress up in themes as well.

As the 2020-2021 school year starts, the Spokane Indians

are excited to feature Kim as a Hometown Hero for the impact she has made on our community, especially over the past six months. Kim's efforts helped ensure that kids were still being fed. The Spokane Indians had the chance to chat with Kim to find out more on this important project and the work that went into making it such a success.

How long have you served as the Nutrition Director with the Mead School District? What is your favorite part of the job?

Eight years, the best part is working with a great team that cares immensely about making sure kids are fed well-balanced meals that support learning.

What was your particular role in implementing the meal pickup program?

I coordinated the change from the normal serving model to one we had never implemented before. This included an overhaul of staff responsibilities, procurement of available supplies and food, communication with district and community members, transportation of meals, and implementing staff safety protocols. COVID-19 changed functions of every nutrition program. All school nutrition professionals in the area were happy to accept the challenge to ensure kids were fed during closures.

What were some of the biggest challenges that you faced to successfully

implement this program?

Building the airplane in the air! Different aspects of staffing may have been one of the biggest challenges. We needed to create a new type of work environment that made our available staff feel safe while producing meals for our community with continually evolving health and safety recommendations. With schools across the nation facing similar obstacles, it was a challenge finding food and packaging supplies to keep our program running smoothly.

There was undoubtedly a lot of coordination that made this successful. Who were the key players along the way?

Mark Oswalt, Assistant Director of Nutrition Services; Brian Liberg, Director of Transportation; Jolene Andres, Executive Assistant for the Superintendent Communication Expert; and our nutrition and transportation team members. It was inspiring to see people from other school departments pitch in to feed kids.

238,044 meals served for breakfast and lunch is an incredible amount, how does that compare to typical numbers for the school district?

Typically, we serve 6,000 meals per day that is spread across 13 buildings with 45 staff. With the meal pickup program, we were producing meals out of 2 kitchens with 16

staff who assembled and then helped hand out meals with our bus drivers.

Now that the 2020-2021 school year has begun, what plans does your team have in place moving forward?

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the extension of free summer meals through December 31st. We are excited to offer free breakfast and lunch to our students attending school in person starting September 14th. We are also offering free weekly meal kits for families whose children are choosing full online learning and hybrid learners for non-in person school days. It is a big challenge to operate our meal programs in the

schools in addition to a “to go” meal program. But again, our team has stepped up and are working to make sure it happens knowing how important food is for student learning.

Outside of your work with the school district, what hobbies do you have?

I ride my three horses in endurance races and on local trails, garden, and cook.

What is your favorite quote?

“Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's a day you've had everything to do and you've done it.” – Margaret Thatcher



Healthcare to meet your family's needs.

We're here for you.

From essential care to immunizations and routine follow-ups, our primary care providers offer virtual visits and in-clinic care focused on your health and safety.

To schedule: **509-233-5102**

MultiCare 
Rockwood Clinic