



# THE HIGH HOPES NEWS

[www.parkeryouthfoundation.com](http://www.parkeryouthfoundation.com)

## Get Into The Swing Of Our Fourteenth Annual High Hopes Golf Tournament

All are invited to join in the fun of the 14th Annual High Hopes Golf Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, June 8, at the Apple Tree Golf Resort! Sponsored by the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, the event will benefit youth athletic organizations, local parks and the Yakima Valley College (YVC).

Phil Hinrichs, honorary golf tournament chair, will tee off the first hole at 8 a.m. Hinrichs, an ace pitcher for the YVC baseball team in 1976-77, also played baseball for Washington State University and minor league ball in the San Francisco Giants organization. In 2003, he was inducted into the Northwest Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. Other sports legends also will be on hand for the tournament! (see related stories)

**Pre-registration is required for this popular annual event. The cost is \$125 per player, with details listed on the registration form inside this newsletter. For more information, visit [www.parkeryouthfoundation.com](http://www.parkeryouthfoundation.com) or call (509) 469-9336.**



The late Mel Stottlemire, Sr., posed with members of a high school golf team

Come and support our Valley's young people and have a great time! Help to carry on the tradition of the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, which was established in 2004 and has already awarded more than \$488,000 to deserving youth and athletic programs. Additional grants will be awarded this spring, with applications available from the Foundation office, (509) 469-9336.

## Valley Sports Legends Highlight Foundation's Golf Tournament Weekend



The 1976 Yakima Valley College Northwest Athletic Conference Championship Team

Come and meet some of the Yakima Valley's all-time sports legends at Parker Youth & Sports Foundation events slated for June 7 and 8!

At the Legends Reunion, scheduled for Friday, June 7 at Howard Johnson Plaza in Yakima, you'll have the chance to greet these local stars. **Phil English**, Eisenhower High School's nationally acclaimed cross-country and track coach; baseball standout **Phil Hinrichs**; and the **1976 Northwest Athletic Conference Championship** baseball team from Yakima Valley College (YVC) all will be there. They will be joined by former Foundation honorees and a representative of the Parker family for whom the Foundation is named. **Bob Romero**, CEO of the Yakima Family YMCA, will be emcee.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the public is invited for a reception, buffet dinner and auction, plus a program honoring the sports dignitaries. The cost is \$30 per person. Reservations are encouraged at (509) 469-9336. Proceeds will benefit youth athletic organizations, local parks and YVC.

Then, on Saturday, June 8, the sports legends will join in on the fourteenth annual High Hopes Golf Tournament. (see above story)

**Mark your calendar for this memorable weekend, dedicated to local sports legends of the past - and the future!**

## 1976 Championship YVC Team Coming To Golf Weekend — By Bill Faller and Jerry Ward

Since the start of baseball at Yakima Valley College in 1947, the college has won the conference championship 21 times. The 1976 championship contingent can arguably claim to be the best of the bunch! Their win/loss percentage of .897 still stands as the school's best, with a 35-4 record, 17-1 in league and a 26-game win streak during the season. We are proud to have the '76 team as our honored guests at the Legends Reunion on June 7!

Seven Indians were Eastern League All-Stars: catcher, Rollie Byrne; pitcher, Keith Gradwohl; first baseman, Kirk Tourtillotte; second baseman, Bruce Chaney; third baseman, Rick Britt; and outfielders, Jim Baba and Dan Hopper. Rick Britt and Rico Barlow were selected to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) All-Tournament team and Keith Gradwohl, Rick Britt and Rollie Byrne were chosen for the '76 NWAACC All-Conference team.

Third baseman, Rick Britt, had 37 rbi's and 10 home runs. Shortstop Rico Barlow was a base stealer and hit for power with a high average. Center fielder, Dan Hopper, was the number



Rico Barlow rounding second base.

one base stealer with 42 in two years and outfielders Jim Baba and Bernie Brand were known for good speed on the bases.

It was a six-team conference tournament in 1976 and the Indians, fortunately, had a first-round bye. The Indians were short on pitching depth, but still had three strong starters, Gordy Johnson, Jim Gallagher and Phil Hinrichs. The team also had a lineup of .300-plus hitters with good speed and solid defense. Ace pitcher, Keith Gradwohl, 9-2 for

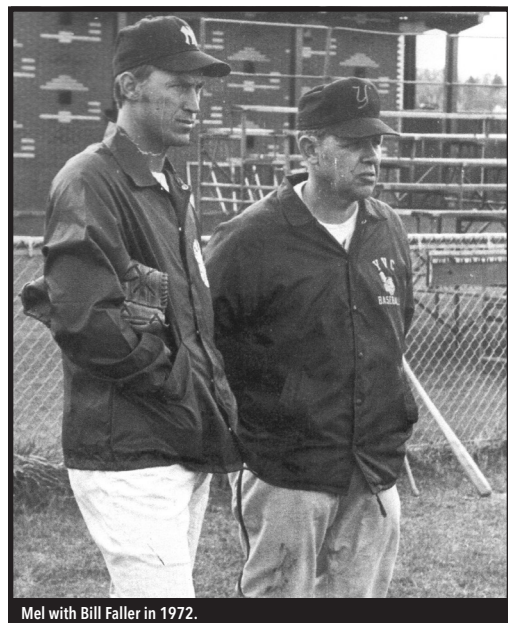
the season and 16-4 in his two years at YVC, injured his arm the previous Saturday and was limited to the first-base coaching box during the tournament. Also, out with injuries were number one reliever, Mark Knight, and outfielder/ designated hitter, Paul Watson.

Gordie Johnson got the Indians off to a good start with a solid pitching performance in the first tournament game. Jim Gallagher needed some help in the second game, and he got it from Danny King with an outstanding performance in relief. Phi Hinrichs was the starter and finisher in the championship game, the winner over future major-league pitcher, Buddy Black from Lower Columbia College.

Seven of these 1976 Indians returned for another championship year and this 1977 team was inducted to the NWAACC Hall of Fame in 2003. The 1976 club is likely to be right there with them, one day soon!

**Join us on June 7 and 8!**

## Mel Stottlemire: The Legacy Lives On (continued from page 6)



Mel with Bill Faller in 1972.

Cone agonized that everything he was throwing was "up." To which Mel advised, "try aiming a little lower." Cone's comments were interspersed with memories of how much Mel and Jean Stottlemire meant to him and the other players on each team. Their house had an open door to friendships and assistance to players dealing with the stress and challenges inherent to major-league competition.

Joe Torre told a story about an episode in the office of George Steinbrenner. Mel was the pitching coach and Don Zimmer a top assistant to Torre. The Yanks had just lost a game to the lowly Mariners and George called all the coaches into his office and started the meeting by saying, "Anyone in here that thinks they are doing a good job can leave right now." Zimmer got up to leave, which didn't seem to bother Torre, but as Mel started to get up, Torre jumped in as somewhat of a mediator to smooth over the insult George had delivered. Torre ended his testimony to Mel by saying, "Many first-time, major-league managers hire friends in hopes they will be good coaches. I hired a good coach and Mel Stottlemire became a great friend."

Mel and wife Jean lived in Yakima for many years after his playing days were over and opened Stottlemire Athletic Supply, which was a downtown fixture. For the most part, Mel, Jr., and Todd grew up in Yakima, graduating from Davis High School. The family lost son, Jason, at age 11 to leukemia. Jason is at rest in Terrace Heights Cemetery.

With Mel's passing, the Stottlemires lost a

husband, father and patriarch of the family. Our Foundation lost an honorary director who was as active in addressing our mission as anyone in the Valley. Yakima Valley College lost one of its most distinguished alumni who delivered the commencement address in 2012 at the baseball field where he played in 1960 and 1961. Major league baseball lost a legend who defined "gentleman sportsman."

To Jean and the family, the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation expresses its gratitude for sharing the life and memories of our own Mabton Mel!



The late Mel Stottlemire, Sr., talked with members of the Parker family.



# FOURTEENTH ANNUAL **HIGH HOPES GOLF SCRAMBLE**

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## Saturday, June 8, 2019 - 8:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

### Apple Tree Golf Resort - 8806 Occidental Road, Yakima, WA

#### Sponsorship Opportunities:

- ◆ **Diamond Sponsor: \$5,000**  
Includes 8 Golfers and Hole
- ◆ **Gold Sponsor: \$2,500**  
Includes 4 Golfers and Hole
- ◆ **Silver Sponsor: \$1,000**  
Includes 4 Golfers and 1/2 Hole
- ◆ **Bronze Sponsor: \$500**  
Includes 1/2 Hole
- **Team Sponsor: \$500**  
Includes 4 Golfers
- **Hole Sponsor: \$250**
- **Green, Tee or Driving Range Sponsor: \$150**

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Capt. Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Polo Size Quantities (Hanes Brand):

Mens: \_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_ 2XL \_\_\_\_ 3XL

Ladies: \_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_ 2XL

Golfers' Names

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Level \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number # \_\_\_\_\_ Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type: VISA ☐ Master Card ☐**Team Registration: \$500 • Individual Registration: \$125**

Add'l Luncheon Ticket: \$15 • Add'l Luncheon Child (15 and under) Ticket: \$5

**Please complete and return this form ASAP to PYSF, P.O. Box 1311, Yakima, WA 98907. For more information, call (509) 469-9336**

## WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PARKER YOUTH & SPORTS FOUNDATION ARE LISTED BELOW

#### Parker Partner Membership:

- ☐ \$30 Individual
- ☐ \$50 Joint
- ☐ \$100 Corporate

#### I wish to contribute:

- ☐ General Foundation
- ☐ The Joe Donahue Memorial Scholarship Fund
- ☐ Faller/Brayton Endowment
- ☐ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Please send information/entry form for High Hopes Tournament

#### Payment Method: Check enclosed or bill my credit card: We accept: Visa or Master Card

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type: VISA ☐ Master Card ☐ Card Code \_\_\_\_\_

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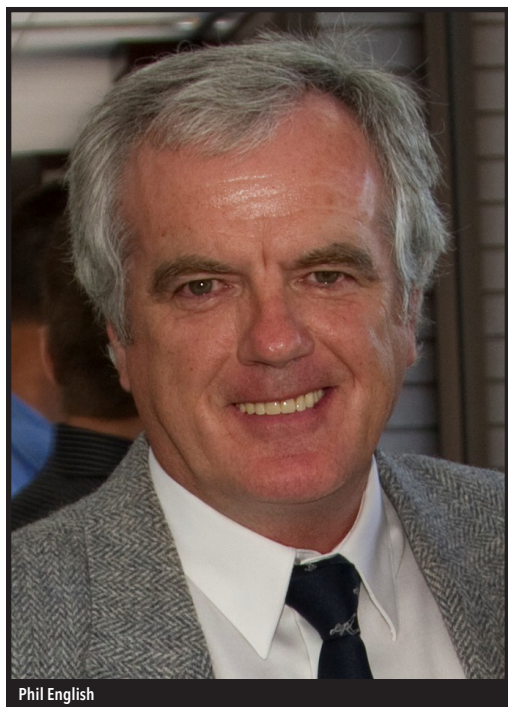
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*The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) Foundation*

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Phone:** (509) 469-9336 • **Email:** info@parkeryouthfoundation.com • **Website:** parkeryouthfoundation.com

## Golf Tournament Weekend to Welcome Nationally Acclaimed Local Coach



Phil English

**P**hil English, a nationally acclaimed cross country and track coach, will be our honored guest for the June 7 Parker Foundation Legends Reunion.

Growing up outside a small village in Cullen, County Tipperary, Ireland, English began running track in his early teens. He went on to represent Ireland in international competitions in both track and cross country. Later, he would be part of top-four NCAA cross country and track teams for the Washington State University (WSU) Cougars.

After earning Bachelor and Master's of Science degrees from WSU in the late 1970s, English taught and coached track & field and cross country teams at Carroll High School in Yakima. He simultaneously trained for the 1980 Irish Olympic Trials in the marathon. Currently, he teaches and coaches cross country and track & field at Eisenhower High School in Yakima, in addition to teaching Honors Biology, Anatomy and Physiology.

Through the years, English has led his teams to an incredible number of distinctions, including 22 girls' and 21 boys' league titles; 32 girls' and 21 boys' state appearances; 13 girls' and

12 boys' state trophies; and eight girls' and three boys' state titles. Among many honors, he was named Washington State Girls "Coach of the Year" in 1994 and 2001; NFHS National Girls "Coach of the Year" in 2001; and NFHS Northwest Sectional Boys' "Coach of the Year" in 2011. He also received numerous CBBN "Coach of the Year" titles in track and cross country. In 2018, English was inducted into the Washington Cross Country Hall of Fame.

In addition to teaching responsibilities at Eisenhower High School, English currently serves as Camp Director for the Clear Lake/White Pass Cross Country Camp; Vice President of the Washington Cross Country Coaches Association; President of the Yakima Coaches and Activities Association; and Meet Director of the Sunfair Cross Country Invitational.

We are pleased to honor Phil English for his many accomplishments in youth sports programs!

## 'Ace Pitcher' Hinrichs To Be Honorary Tournament Chair — By Bill Faller and Jerry Ward

**T**o research any "baseball blue blood" of Yakima Valley College (YVC) involves a gene check to see if he played for both Bobo Brayton and Bill Faller, legendary coaches. Our 2019 honorary golf tournament chair certainly "descends" from this noble line in more ways than one.

A three-sport athlete, Phil Hinrichs graduated from Pullman High School in 1975, within the Brayton years when the Cougs were winning Pac 8 championships. Faller had replaced Brayton at YVC in 1961 and being "old" teammates on Cougar teams of the late 1940s, a convenient connection was started between YVC and Washington State University baseball. It was natural that Hinrichs would attend YVC and play on two of Coach Faller's 11 championship teams, 1976 and 1977, before moving on to play for Brayton at WSU, followed by a pro baseball career.

Having pitched and won the 1976 conference championship game for a 7-0 record, Hinrichs was 12-1 in '77 for a 19-1 career YVC and Northwest Athletic Association of Community

Colleges (NWAACC) pitching record. His one loss came in the '77 conference tournament opener. This ace pitcher came back to win the championship game with nine innings of shutout relief. He finished the season with nine school pitching records. In 2003, he was an individual inductee to the NWAACC Hall of Fame along with the 1977 YVC team.

Phil met his wife, Pam, while playing for Fresno in "A" ball. He gave up pro baseball at the AAA level, deciding it was time to start a family life. Phil brought Pam to Pullman to start their new life and the Hinrichs Trading Company. A fourth-generation member of a Palouse farming family, Phil developed a business dealing in the growing and marketing of beans. The company contracts with growers to purchase and then process, distribute and export. The company serves customers worldwide with Phil the "hands-on" CEO/President. Phil and Pam are the proud parents of three children. Phil, Jr., and Kyle work in the family business and Katie is Associate Head Volleyball Coach at Montana State University. Phil is an avid Cougar fan

and supporter, and a faithful supporter of the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation.

The Foundation is honored to have Phil Hinrichs as Honorary Chairman of our High Hopes golf tournament this year!



Phil Hinrichs

## Dear Friends,

We hope that you like the new format for *The High Hopes News*! It seems like the perfect time to roll out a fresh, updated look as we prepare for our major fundraiser of the year, the fourteenth annual High Hopes Golf Tournament weekend, scheduled for June 7 and 8.

We are so grateful to all of you for your ongoing support. You help to make it possible for us to reach out to young athletes and teams across the greater Yakima area, encouraging their "high hopes" for the future. Whether it's helping with uniforms or scholarships or upgrading parks and sports facilities, we're investing in the sports legends – and leaders – of tomorrow.

I'd like to invite you all to attend our Legends Reunion, June 7, at the Howard Johnson Plaza in Yakima, and our High Hopes Golf Tournament, June 8, at the Apple Tree Golf Resort! It's sure to be a fun and memorable weekend. There's a convenient registration form right in this newsletter.

Again, thank you for all you do on behalf of our aspiring athletes and sports venues across the Valley. We appreciate you!

Sincerely,

Daniel Williams  
2019 Board Chair



## Mission Statement

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation is dedicated to the support and preservation of parks, sports facilities and athletic programs in the greater Yakima area.

## 2019 Board of Directors

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Bob Spain  
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Irma Williams

\* signifies charter member

*The High Hopes News* Editor: Christine Conklin

## Faithful Donors Make A Difference for Youth and Sports Programs

Thank you for continuing to support our youth and sports programs, through your generous donations! We would like to recognize the following donors:

### General Donations:

Barbara Amstutz	Bill & Mary Huibregtse	Bob McCulloch
Jim and Karin Avery	James Hutton	Jon Mulvenon
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### Lindquist Donations:

Eileen Brayton  
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### Memorials:

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation Board members in memory of Don Crook  
Bill Faller in memory of Brian Davidson, Don Gregson, George Beetchenow,  
Paul George and Mel Stottlemire, Sr.  
Jerry Ward in memory of Mel Stottlemire, Sr., and Marilyn Pearson  
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Spud & Gay Edmondson in memory of Paul George  
Ray & Lynn Biggs in memory of David Sloan  
Jerry Wilson in memory of Daryl Parker

## News from the Foundation Office — By Darlene Olmstead

We are putting together an updated email list of our partners, so when you are corresponding with us, please include your email address. We also are updating our web site, so be sure to check out [www.parkeryouthfoundation.com](http://www.parkeryouthfoundation.com) for future news.

If you're interested in attending a monthly board meeting, the location has been changed to Room 716 in the Larson Building. For more details, you can reach us at (509) 469-9336.

Our office in the Larson Building is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. You are always welcome to stop by and say "hello."

## Thank You, Virginia Hays

The Board of Directors of Parker Youth & Sports Foundation would like to thank Virginia Hays for her years of service as editor of *The High Hopes News*!

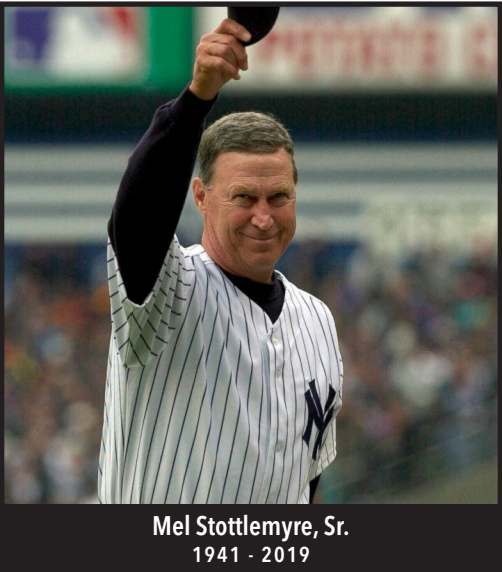
Virginia wrote, edited copy and worked on layout for 39 issues of this publication, prior to her retirement from the post this past winter.

We appreciate her devotion to the Foundation and wish her all the best in the years to come!





# Mel Stottlemyre: The Legacy Lives On — By Jerry Ward



It was a wonderful 90-minute ceremony, listening to speakers at the funeral service for Mel Stottlemyre, Sr., on January 22 in Bellevue, as they traced the footprints of his journey through life.

Mel was born in central Missouri, eventually landing in Mabton by 1950. Mel would have more stops in Yakima, Harlan (Kentucky),

Auburn (New York), Greensboro (North Carolina) and Richmond (Virginia), before settling down in New York City in 1964. As they say, "the rest is history."

If you collected baseball cards as a youngster, you would understand why the tributes to Mel on January 22 were so touching. From hum babe and bubble gum baseball cards in Mabton to the round table in Yankee owner George Steinbrenner's New York office, the life of Mel Stottlemyre was full of family, friends, teammates, coaches and kids. About 250 people in attendance were drawn into the world of baseball during the service, and it was a great feeling to be 10 to 15 years old again, even for just a few minutes. I bought some bubble gum the following day.

The testimonies about Mel included facts and figures of his amazing career as a major league pitcher and coach, and the memorable photo of Mel standing next to his plaque which is mounted in Yankee Stadium's Monument Park. Mel's life, away from the statistics, was shared by former players, colleagues, friends and his doctor. Former Mariner catcher Dan Wilson provided a thoughtful and inspirational invocation to start

the service, which was hosted by Rick Rizzs from the Mariner broadcast team, a close friend of the Stottlemyre family.

Dr. Jan Abkowitz, in attendance along with several nurses who cared for Mel, noted how the cancer which Mel fought for 20 years normally takes the life of a person in five years or less. Andrew Arthur shared his friendship with Mel and the instrumental role Mel had in raising over \$4 million dollars for cancer research. Former Yankee all-star pitcher Ron Guidry told about Mel's appetite for Louisiana frog legs, which Guidry supplied in the team club house on a regular basis, then for years, sent in a box to the Stottlemyre family.

All-star David Cone pitched for Mel during both the Mets and Yankees years and related the low-key, but effective way Mel coached. Several of Mel's coaching axioms were printed on the funeral service program, one of which read, "Keep it simple, stupid. Cone mentioned that when he had trouble throwing strikes at the start of a particular game and Mel came to the mound,

(continued on page 2)

JOIN US!  
Friday, June 7, Legends Reunion  
Saturday, June 8, Golf Tournament  
For Info: (509) 469-9336

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P.O. Box 1311  
Yakima, WA 98907  
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