

3 chosen for C.R. Hall of Fame

Written by Metro Sports Report
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Dale Brodt, Tom Lawless and Reggie Sanders have been selected for induction into the Cedar Rapids Baseball Hall of Fame in 2016, the Kernels announced Tuesday.

Brodt began as the public address announcer at the old Veterans Memorial Stadium and announced more than 1,700 minor league baseball games. He was in broadcasting for more than 30 years, starting in his home town of Mason City in 1957.

Brodt worked at radio stations in Cherokee and Oelwein before moving to Cedar Rapids, where he was a news reporter for 20 years at KLWW and KCRG. After his broadcasting career, Brodt went to work for the City of Cedar Rapids, where he retired as the chief zoning inspector in 2003.

He and his wife, Rena, have been married 56 years and have four children, six grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Lawless managed the Cedar Rapids Kernels for three seasons (1994-96), posting a 216-196 record and winning the Midwest League Championship in 1994. He played eight seasons in the Majors after being selected in the 17th round of the 1978 draft from Penn State.

Lawless is best remembered for being the only player ever traded for Pete Rose and for his game-winning home run in Game 4 of the 1987 World Series. In 343 MLB games, he hit .207 with two homers and 24 RBIs with the Reds, Expos, Cardinals and Blue Jays.

Lawless managed 11 seasons after his playing career, serving as the Astros interim manager in 2014 for 24 games. His most recent coaching assignment was for the Corpus Christi Hooks in the Texas League as their infield coach during the 2015 season.

Sanders retired from baseball in 2007 after a 17-year career in the Major Leagues. During his Major League career, Sanders played on eight different teams, was elected to play in one All-Star Game and won the World Series in 2001 with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

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He played in five different National League Championship Series and three different World Series. The Cincinnati Reds drafted Sanders in the seventh round in 1987. He played for the Cedar Rapids Reds in 1990, batting .285 with 17 homers, 63 RBIs and 40 stolen bases in 127 games.

Sanders made his MLB debut on Aug. 22, 1991 against the Atlanta Braves. During his Major League career, Sanders played in 1,777 games, which included more than 6,200 plate appearances, more than 3,000 total bases, 983 runs batted in, 304 stolen bases, 305 home runs and a lifetime .267 batting average.

He has the distinction of being one of only eight players in the history of Major League Baseball to hit 300 home runs and steal 300 bases. Sanders lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. with his wife, Wyndee, and their four daughters.

The Class of 2016 Hall of Fame will be honored at the Hot Stove Banquet on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Cedar Rapids.