

2000 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

Rick Gossage

During a decorated, 22-year career in Major League Baseball, Rick "Goose" Gossage helped redefine the role of the relief pitcher by recording 310 career saves and 1,502 strikeouts. A 1970 graduate of Colorado Springs' Wasson High School, Gossage made his major league debut in 1972 with the Chicago White Sox, but it was as a member of the New York Yankees from 1978-83 that he earned his Hall of Fame credentials. By combining an overpowering fastball with his trademark intensity, Gossage recorded 27 saves for the Yankees in 1978 and pitched the final out of the World Series as New York defeated Los Angeles to claim its second consecutive world championship. In 1980, the hard-throwing right-hander registered a career-high 33 saves for the Yankees.

Gossage would make two more appearances in the World Series - in 1981 with the Yankees and 1984 with the San Diego Padres - before retiring at the conclusion of the 1994 season. Gossage played for nine teams during his major league career, and became the first pitcher to record more than 100 saves in both the American and National Leagues.

Shortly after his retirement from professional baseball, Gossage returned to Colorado Springs, where he has taken an active role in the development of youth baseball programs. In 1995, the City of Colorado Springs dedicated the Rick "Goose" Gossage Youth Sports Complex, which features five fields for youth baseball and softball competition.