

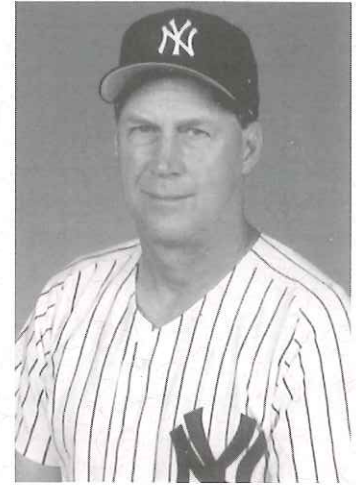
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

A living baseball legend, *Mel Stottlemyre* was born in Hazelton, Missouri, and grew up in the small community of Mabton, Washington. After graduation from Mabton High School in 1959, Mr. Stottlemyre enrolled in Yakima Valley Community College, where he pitched on the 1960 and 1961 state championship teams. Both years, YVCC was undefeated in league play, and Mr. Stottlemyre pitched a one-hit shutout in the 1961 series. Mr. Stottlemyre signed a professional contract with the New York Yankees following the final game of the YVCC season in 1961 and advanced to the Yankees in mid-season in 1964.

Mr. Stottlemyre skyrocketed into the major leagues when he started three games for the New York Yankees in the 1964 World Series. He went on to gain national acclaim during an eleven-year career with the Yankees. During that time, he appeared in five all-star games as a pitcher during 10-plus seasons with the Yankees, had three twenty-game-winning seasons, threw forty shutouts, and led the American League in complete games in 1965 and 1969. He compiled a 164-139 career record with a 2.97 earned run average during his career with the Yankees.

Following his retirement as a player in 1975, he served as organizational pitching coach for the Seattle Mariners until 1982. That same year, Mr. Stottlemyre started a summer baseball school in the Yakima Valley, drawing young players from all over the country. He is a frequently-invited and willing participant in local baseball clinics for players and coaches, and in 1983 assisted YVCC as pitching coach. Throughout his successful career, Mr. Stottlemyre has been a strong supporter of YVCC athletics.

From 1984 until 1993, Mr. Stottlemyre served as pitching coach for the New York Mets. He joined the Houston Astros as pitching coach during 1994 and 1995 and has been with the New York Yankees for five seasons. Today, Mr. Stottlemyre is known by many as the best pitching coach in the major leagues.



Chuck "Bobo" Brayton, legendary Washington State University and YVCC baseball coach, watched Stottlemyre blossom as a pitcher. "Back when I coached Mel, one of the things he reminded me of was that talent doesn't necessarily make a ball player. It's how you approach it and use it. Mel had an incredible amount of self-control and did the most with what he had."

Brayton recalled one morning years ago when he and Stottlemyre, leading a youth training camp of 150 kids, stepped onto a flooded field where they intended to play. He calmly looked at Brayton and said, "Well, coach, I guess we'll go to plan B." This level-headedness, Brayton claims, has gotten Mr. Stottlemyre through life on and off the field. "Mel's tremendous personality is the best thing about him. As a player, he would come back to the Yakima Valley in the off-season and just be himself. There aren't a lot of guys like Mel Stottlemyre."

Mel and his wife, Jean, live in Issaquah, Washington. They have two sons: Mel Jr., who was a former number-one pick for the Houston Astros and played in the major leagues in 1990, and Todd, who also attended YVCC and was acquired as a free agent by the Arizona Diamondbacks in 1999.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI OF PREVIOUS YEARS

1982	Catherine May Bedell	1988	Bill Barnett	1994	David Shinn
1983	J. Alex (Lex) Maxwell	1989	Bill Lee	1995	Mike Bernazzani
1984	Sid Morrison	1990	Gene Shields	1996	Erasmio Gamboa
1985	James R. Sorenson	1991	Mel Lewis	1997	Elaine Ostrander
1986	Robert Brachtenbach	1992	Penny Hitchcock	1998	Tom J. Chambers
1987	E. Frederick Velikanje	1993	Pete Rademacher	1999	Richard E. Weller