

Ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to nominate Jim Cutter for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Jim is a 1978 graduate of Newport High School and was a three-sport athlete for the Wildcats. He is also, without question, the greatest hitter in the history of 9th Region baseball and one of the best who ever played in the state of Kentucky.

As a four-year varsity starter, Jim set virtually every batting record in Newport history. He hit .598 as a junior, and followed that up with an eye-popping .693 average as a senior. Then-head coach Ray Brown called Cutter "the best hitter in school history" as his star rewrote the Newport record book and emerged as the 9th Region's top offensive player.

Among Jim's many accomplishments is an 11-RBI game against Campbell County in 1978. Jim drove in all 11 runs during an 11-0 win that day. He hit a grand slam, three-run homer, two-run homer and two-run double in that win.

Those 11 runs batted in would be tied for the third-most in Kentucky history (13 is the single-game record, shared by two players). His .693 batting average in 1978 would rank as the second-highest in state history, trailing only Maysville St. Patrick's Noah Welte's .737 average in 2000.

According to the KHSAA website, the organization is "continuing its efforts to establish and update its state baseball records." The KHSAA needs only "some form of statistical verification" to include Cutter's record from the 1970s. Newport officials have since been notified of the omission and have said they will do the appropriate verification.

Jim received an offer to sign with the Montreal Expos, but he instead attended college at Northern Kentucky University. He earned a starting position in the outfield as a freshman. All seemed well for him at NKU. Until a practice that spring, when a teammate ran into his leg going for a ball in the outfield, causing massive damage to Jim's knee. He needed surgery to repair the knee, a total reconstruction.

Jim has gone on to become one of the top businessmen in Northern Kentucky as owner of Cutter Construction. He was named "Builder of the Year" in Northern Kentucky twice (2003 and 2015) and then "Builder of the Year" in the state of Kentucky in 2014. He also gives back to the community in many ways through charities and work behind the scenes that enhance local schools and organizations.

From a personal view, Jim is also a gentleman of impeccable character. He is one of the finest people I have ever met and a tribute to everything that a student-athlete should represent. Jim's hard work and talent have made him an icon in Northern Kentucky, both in sports and business. Please accept this nomination, and I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Don Owen

Sports Editor, Northern Kentucky Tribune

cc: Tony Watts, Superintendent of Newport Independent Schools
cc: Robert Haire, Athletic Director, Newport High School