

October 27, 2016

Nomination committee,

It is my absolute honor to recommend two baseball-playing brothers from the 1960s in Ashland, Kentucky, when the Ashland Tomcat baseball team was the state's most dominant team.

Pitching brothers Billy and Bobby Lynch were the biggest reason why the Tomcat were able to go 107-11 during a five-year span from 1965-1969 that included three consecutive state titles from 1966 to 1968, a runner-up finish in 1969 and a final four spot in 1965.

The three consecutive titles has only been matched one time when Pleasure Ridge Park equaled the feat from 1994-96.

The Lynch brothers are household names in Ashland not just because of their great athletic ability and competitive spirit but because both were and still are high character individuals.

Billy played for the Tomcats from 1964-1966, including the first of the three state championship teams, before being selected by the Cleveland Indians as a "Bonus Baby." The left-handed pitcher had remarkable career statistics that included a 27-2 overall record.

During his senior season he was 11-0 with five one-hitters, an 0.31 earned run average and 150 strikeouts. He gave up only 17 hits all season and struck out an average of 15 batters per game. He had eight complete games in 10 starts and allowed only three runs the entire season.

Billy Lynch's 1966 senior season alone may well be one of the greatest in Kentucky high school baseball history. By the way, he also batted .386 and led the team in several offensive categories. As a junior, he was even more lethal at the plate hitting .649 and had one string of 14 consecutive at-bats with hits.

His brother, Bobby, who was two years younger, also carved out quite a career for the Tomcats with an identical 27-2 record as Billy. He was 5-0 in state

tournament games as part of all three state championship teams for the Tomcats. Even as a cool sophomore, the 16-year-old pitched in the finals against Shelby County for a 2-1 victory.

The victory in the championship game capped off a perfect 25-0 season, one of the few in Kentucky high school history.

Bobby Lynch started in the outfield when he didn't pitch and batted a robust .327 his sophomore year. His only losses on the pitching mound were 1-0 decisions. Bobby was 6-0 as a sophomore, 10-2 as a junior and 11-0 as a senior (just like big brother).

In six appearances over three years in the state tournament his stat line reads: 30 innings pitched, 11 hits allowed, zero earned runs (two total), 42 strikeouts and four walks. He was 5-0 with a 0.00 ERA. I ask you sincerely, who can top that?

As a senior, Bobby Lynch allowed only four earned runs and 16 hits in 65 1/3 innings and walked only 14. His ERA was 0.42. He had two no-hitters, including a perfect game, and a one-hitter.

The accomplishments of Billy and Bobby Lynch on the high school baseball fields of Kentucky are practically unequaled. They deserve to be in your prestigious Hall of Fame and it's my opinion that they deserve to go in together.

Sincerely,



Mark Maynard

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