

NJSIAA/BOLLINGER 2016 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

The 21st annual High School Hall of Fame ceremony gives us the opportunity to honor the following individuals – most deserving of our recognition.

ALOIS “AL” LEITER Athlete (Baseball) - Central Regional HS



At Central Regional HS, Al was a standout pitcher, with two consecutive no-hitters and an unheard of 32-strikeout game (game went in to extra innings of course). Al was selected to First Team All-American and the *Star-Ledger* "Baseball Team of the 20th Century." He was drafted by New York Yankees in 1984 as a second round pick and made his major league debut on September 15, 1987. That date marked the beginning of a long and successful 18-year career in the MLB. He pitched two All-Star games, played in three world series championships, pitched a no-hitter on May 11, 1996, and became the first Major League pitcher to defeat all 30 teams. Besides the NY Yankees, Al played for the Toronto Blue Jays, Florida Marlins, and NY Mets.

With the Blue Jays Al appeared in five postseason games, picked up a win in relief in Game One, and hit a double in Game Three of the 1993 World Series, as the Blue Jays went on to win their second consecutive World Championship. Al signed with the Florida Marlins a few years later, and in his first season as a Marlin, he made his first All-Star team, going 16–12 with a 2.93 ERA and 200 strikeouts. It was also with the Marlins that Al pitched his no-hitter (against the Colorado Rockies). This was a first in Marlins history. In 1998, Al was traded to the New York Mets, where he played until 2004. On the Mets, he reached a career high in wins going 17–6 and a career low in ERA finishing with a 2.47 ERA. In 1999, when the Mets were tied with the Cincinnati Reds for the National League Wild Card spot after 162 games, Al was the Mets starting pitcher in the "winner take all" one game playoff. He pitched a two-hit complete game shutout to earn the win in the Mets 5–0 victory. The win put the Mets in the playoffs for the first time in 11 seasons. In 2000, Al made the All-Star team once again going 16–8 with a 3.20 ERA and 200 strikeouts, and the Mets reached the World Series to play the NY Yankees. Al started Game 1 and Game 5 where he achieved a 2.87 ERA and 16 strikeouts in 15 2/3 innings and was presented with the Roberto Clemente Award prior to Game 2 (to the boos of Yankees fans.) Al was the second New York Met to be honored with the award. Al ranked highly on several Mets all-time lists including wins (6th), strikeouts (7th with 1106), innings pitched (7th with 1360.0), and games started (6th with 213).

After short stints with the Marlins and the NY Yankees again, Al traded in his glove for a microphone. He found work in the television broadcast booth for FOX during the playoffs for several seasons, before accepting positions with both the YES Network and MLB Network. Al received many awards for his work in the booth, including four National Sports Emmy Award nominations for Studio Analyst and three Sports Emmy noms for Outstanding Studio Show-Daily MLB Tonight Segment Producer. He has also won nearly every philanthropic award MLB offers, including the Roberto Clemente Award, the Branch Rickey Award, the Bart Giamatti Award and the March of Dimes Sportsman of the Year.