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IN THIS EDITION



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SPOKANEINDIANS.COM

A photograph of a baseball player in a red uniform and helmet, seen from behind, holding a bat over his shoulder and raising his right arm in a celebratory gesture. The scene is set in a stadium at night with bright lights.

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2	BLOMGREN, JACK	INF	MILTON, WI	R/R
29	BUSH, NICK	LHP	LEESBURG, GA	L/L
12	CEJA, MOISES	RHP	ARLETA, CA	R/R
43	COPE, DANIEL	C	SAN DIEGO, CA	R/R
10	CRESTO, JOHN	INF	SAN DIEGO, CA	R/R
3	DATRES, KYLE	INF	WILLIAMSPORT, PA	R/R
15	DECOLATI, NIKO	OF	LAS VEGAS, NV	R/R
7	DIAZ, EDDY	INF	MATANZAS, CUBA	R/R
28	DOYLE, BRENTON	OF	WARRENTON, VA	R/R
14	FELTNER, RYAN	RHP	HUDSON, OH	R/R
25	FENNELL, TRENT	RHP	DUNN, NC	R/R
8	HARRIS, CADE	OF	LEONA, TX	L/R
11	HATCH, LJ	INF	SHAWNEE, KS	R/R
21	HILL, DAVID	RHP	ORANGE, CA	R/R
26	JOHNSON, BOBY	RHP	MILLER, MO	R/R
23	KAUFFMANN, KARL	RHP	BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI	R/R
16	LACKEY, SHELBY	RHP	LINDEN, CA	R/R
4	LEWIS, AJ	C	CHICAGO, IL	R/R
20	MACIVER, WILLIE	C	PLEASANT HILL, CA	R/R
40	MCMAHON, CHRIS	RHP	WEST CHESTER, PA	R/R
27	OLIVAREZ, HELCRIS	LHP	SAN FRANCISCO DE MACORIS, DR	L/L
34	PINT, RILEY	RHP	LENEXA, KS	R/R
19	POULIN, PJ	LHP	MARION, MA	R/L
24	ROSA, RAYMELLS	RHP	SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS, DR	R/R
22	SCHUNK, AARON	INF	ATLANTA, GA	R/R
1	STOVALL, HUNTER	INF	PELHAM, AL	R/R
30	TOGLIA, MICHAEL	INF	GIG HARBOR, WA	S/L
6	WATSON, DERRIK	RHP	ST. LOUIS, MO	R/R

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CATCHING UP WITH ED YONG



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 12 YEARS, AVISTA STADIUM WILL BE MISSING THE FRIENDLY FACE OF ED YONG

Ed completed 11 seasons as the Spokane Indians Strength and Conditioning Coach. During his time with the Indians, Yong was named Northwest League Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year six times by the Professional Baseball Strength and Conditioning Coaches Society (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2019).

Prior to working with the Texas Rangers organization, Yong worked for the Arizona Diamondbacks from 2004 to 2007. He served as a minor league strength and conditioning coach, serving in A, AA, and AAA levels.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The Spokane Indians caught up with Yong to talk about his time in Spokane, career, and what he's been up to.

We miss seeing you around the ballpark this summer. What have you been up to since the end of the 2019 Season?

Where do I start? Well, we were all sent home from spring training on March 13th, 2020. When this happened, we didn't know what to expect, so I just patiently waited with my family to see when we would start baseball again. Days turned into weeks and we were told it was going to be much longer than expected.

I did some small day trips with the family, but when we got word of the season being canceled, we were able to take longer road trips (spent time in Yosemite and Lake Tahoe back in late-May and Newport Beach last July).

I also spent a lot of time each week on Zoom meetings with players and staff to make sure everyone was still staying productive. I felt some disconnect with human interaction, so I started recording some short yoga and meditation videos to help others cope with quarantine. When a lot of things were shut down and everyday seemed like Groundhog Day, it was very important to keep my mind and body moving.



You spent 11 seasons as the strength and conditioning coach for the Indians. What were some of your favorite things about summers in Spokane?

Everything! Very hard to narrow it down, but I will! Weather, baseball, people. Amazing mornings, mostly mild afternoons and comfortable evenings made summers in Spokane enjoyable. There were moments I would go for runs at night after the games and the weather was always perfect for that.

Another thing I would do is go on hikes when we arrived back home in the early mornings from an overnight bus ride. The summertime weather in Spokane was amazing!

When you ask minor league players where their favorite place to play is, many will say Spokane because of the fans and the climate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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Do you have a favorite Spokane Indians memory from your time with the team?

Wow! Tough to narrow it down to just one. Post-season/playoff clinching clubhouse celebrations were always fun. We made it to the NWL Championship in 2010 and 2018 and those were memorable teams and moments.

We had a number of superstar visits from Wayne Gretzky bringing his son to take BP with us in 2010 (only to return a couple years later when he was drafted by the Cubs), Roger Clemens, Steve Garvey, George Brett and Tyler Johnson.

Watching Ruben Sierra, Jr. hit a walk-off grand slam to win a deserving school teacher and her husband a Ford vehicle from Gus Johnson Ford in 2011 was exciting.

Being a part of a combined 11-inning no-hitter in Everett with current Texas Rangers' catcher Jose Trevino behind the plate was unbelievable.

Leading a couple of yoga sessions to the hardest working front office and gameday staff of the Spokane Indians was incredibly fun.

If you really want me to get teary-eyed, it would have to be the between-innings promotion when they invited a mother and her two kids down to the field to play the Spokesman Review newspaper toss, then having her husband



walk out of our dugout and surprise the family with his return home from a military deployment! That moment right there reached far beyond the game and touched everyone's heart that night.

Longtime PA announcer Scott Lewis was famous for introducing you in a unique way each game. Do you have a favorite?

Way too many to remember!

After a few games of him doing this, I actually took notes of some of the ones he and Joseph Wilson creatively devised!

There were a couple from the Disney promotion nights that rank up there- "Inspiration for

the character of Olaf from “Frozen” and “Once played Garçon in an off-Broadway production of Beauty and the Beast” were memorable.

“So cool he drove to tonight’s game with the heater on” and “Trains Labradoodles to sniff out pulled muscles” were great as well, but the one that really got the attention of one of our newly drafted players who was an avid outdoorsman was “2014 Bass Pro Angler of the Year”! I quickly became that player’s favorite strength and conditioning coach for those few hours until I told him the truth.

Those were definitely highlights of my later-years there and

having Matt Melka carry on the tradition in 2019 by doing similar intros on the scoreboard was just as entertaining.

For those who aren’t as familiar with everything that goes on behind the scenes, can you tell us a bit about your routine with players before games?

Being a strength and conditioning coach, we usually had the most exposure to the players when compared to other staff members or coaches. I typically meet either the entire team (if it’s a team workout day) or just a couple of pitchers at the gym.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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At home, we used U-District PT as our training facility, but on the road, we would take the team bus to local gyms that I would call and set-up days in advance. After the morning workouts that were usually around 10-11 AM, we would have lunch at the ballpark in Spokane or I would have food delivered to the team hotel on the road.

When it came time for actual work on the field, I have two stretches—one for pitchers, who would then get their conditioning and throwing done afterwards, and another stretch for position players before they went into their fielding practice and batting practice.

At home, we have access to the field first, so we get about 2 hours to recover from practice and grab some food, play cards, watch baseball or college football on TV, get a stretch or other treatments such as soft-tissue work, but on the road, we would usually get an hour or so before the game for this.

How do you see strength and conditioning in baseball changing in the future?

This field is ever-changing. “Bigger, faster, stronger” has always been a catch-phrase when it comes to developing athletes in this day and age.

We utilize many different tools to achieve this. We have platforms they can stand on to do certain movements and measure their power output or imbalances in their body. We have devices we

can attach to a barbell to see how fast and explosive an athlete can move the weight, and activity trackers that help monitor their heart rate and workload in a given timeframe. We do assessments to measure active range of motion within all of the joints of the body.

All of the data collected from these methods help guide us in developing a holistic program that combines strength, mobility, and speed/conditioning for that individual athlete.

We have a truly dynamic strength and conditioning department with the Texas Rangers Organization and we always do what we feel is in the player’s best interest and will do what we can to get him to the big leagues.

Where should people go to follow along with you?

I am not a big social media person, but with this being said, I have been spending more time on Instagram lately! You can follow me there at: [edyong_strengthandyoga](https://www.instagram.com/edyong_strengthandyoga). I also have a public Vimeo website with some of my yoga and mediation sessions (vimeo.com/showcase/6555526).

If you weren’t a strength and conditioning coach, what profession could you see yourself doing?

After spending over a decade in the Lilac City, I was ready to give Andy Billing a run for his money! LOL. I have been in the fitness industry for 20 years and have been a strength

and conditioning coach in pro baseball for 17 seasons.

I have always had a passion for helping others. If I wasn't in the profession I am in now, I would still love to work for a professional sports team, but on the side of marketing and building relationships within the community of that team and city.

I feel the success of a sports team is strongly based on their ties with the community it serves, which is why the Spokane Indians have such great fans in the Inland NW! I would still find time to share my yoga practice and Thai Massage bodywork on the side, of course!

Favorite Quote:

I have two. One of them from a professional standpoint and one from a personal/spiritual standpoint. The first is from Aristotle—"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit." The other is from author Bill Keane—"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."



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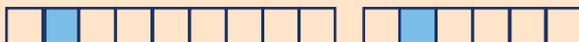
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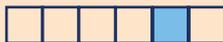
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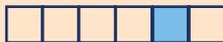
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REMEMBERING BOB ROB



By Theo Lawson The Spokesman Review

Brian Jeffries estimates he was 13 years old, maybe 14, when he and a childhood friend from Tacoma began gazing into the future, mapping out what they wanted to do and who they wanted to be when they grew up.

Dreaming, fantasizing, imagining, as young kids do.

A sports fanatic and radio nut who'd grown to idolize the man – and voice – behind the broadcasts of the local minor league baseball team, the Tacoma Rainiers, Jeffries had it on the tip of his tongue.

“I told my friend, ‘Gosh I’d love to be a sports announcer like Bob Robertson,’ ” he recalled.

The friend responded, “Well, he’s my next-door neighbor.”

“You’re kidding me,” Jeffries answered.

So, for weeks, Jeffries pedaled a bicycle to his friend’s house, always crossing his fingers Robertson would return home at the same time he arrived. Of course, knocking on the front door was too daunting of a proposition for the young boy, given his admiration. But one day, Robertson’s car and Jeffries’ bike pulled in at the same time, and

the opportunity finally lined up.

“From there on, I was just infatuated and he kind of mentored me at that point, encouraged me,” said Jeffries, who enters year No. 34 as the radio voice of University of Arizona football, baseball and basketball. “He used to recreate baseball games, the Triple-A team there in Tacoma and he invited me down to the studio one time to watch how he did it. I was a young kid, I was just amazed watching it and he was kind of my young idol and I made up my mind that’s exactly what I wanted to do.

“He just always encouraged me.”

Robertson, who spent more than half of his life presiding over Washington State football broadcasts, died Sunday at his home in University Place. He was 91 and surrounded by family at the time of his death, according to a school press release.

A specific cause of death is unknown and date hasn’t been set for Robertson’s memorial service, but The Spokesman-Review learned his family intends to wait until the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic ends.

For legions of WSU fans, Robertson’s name, perhaps more than that of any coach, player, broadcaster or writer, is the one that comes to mind when considering the last half-century of Cougar football. His notorious tagline, “Always be a good sport, be a good sport all ways,” may be



as synonymous with WSU football as the “Go Cougs” slogan itself.

Robertson’s association with the school began in 1964 and culminated 52 years later, in October 2018, when he announced his immediate retirement prior to No. 25 WSU’s upset of No. 12 Oregon in a showdown that was featured on ESPN College GameDay.

“He’s the most popular Cougar in the state of Washington,” former WSU coach Mike Price said Monday over the phone. “... I just loved him to death and he was just as great off the field as he was on the air. ... He was the most popular person, the most popular Cougar, that I’ve ever known.”

Over the years, one of Price’s favorite hobbies has been rummaging through boxes that contain cassette tapes of historic WSU football games, and memorable Robertson calls. It’s a way for Price to relive the most

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successful stint of his career and replay broadcasts he was never able to hear as a coach.

“I do a lot of fishing up here in Coeur d’Alene on my boat and I’ve got my stereo and I’ve got a bunch of old cassette tapes that I listen to some of the old games he did,” Price said. “Just for the voice and the expressions and everything.”

From his own home in Coeur d’Alene, another ex-WSU coach, Jim Walden, spent time Monday reflecting on his relationship with Robertson – something that manifested from a piece of advice given to him by a former coach, Wyoming’s Bob Devaney.



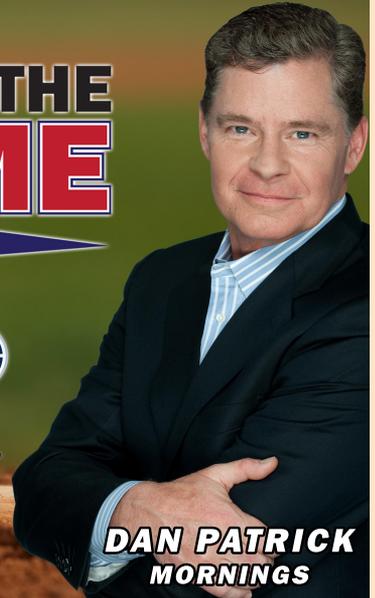
“(Devaney) told me, in uncertain terms, ‘One of the most important people you’ll ever have on your side is your radio play-by-play person,’” Walden said. “He said, ‘Because, it doesn’t matter how many people come to the games. You may get 50,000 people in the stands, and they’re not listening to the radio, but you can have a million people over a

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three-hour broadcast that he can have some influence over the job you're doing.'

"So, when I got my first job here at Washington State," Walden said, "I made sure Jim Walden and Bob Robertson were always going to be good friends."

Mississippi State's Mike Leach, at the helm of the WSU football program for the last seven years of Robertson's famed career, said Monday in a text message, "Bob Rob was maybe the most prolific broadcaster for any school, the most respected, and the most loved. He has had a huge impact on WSU. I cherish the fact that I had the honor to know him."



For more than five decades, Robertson's voice and WSU football games were one in the same. For the vast majority of those years, he was in a play-by-play role – Robertson only moving to the analyst seat for the final eight years of his career. From 1964-2016, he called 589 consecutive games. There was one absence, however, at the 1981 Holiday Bowl, but

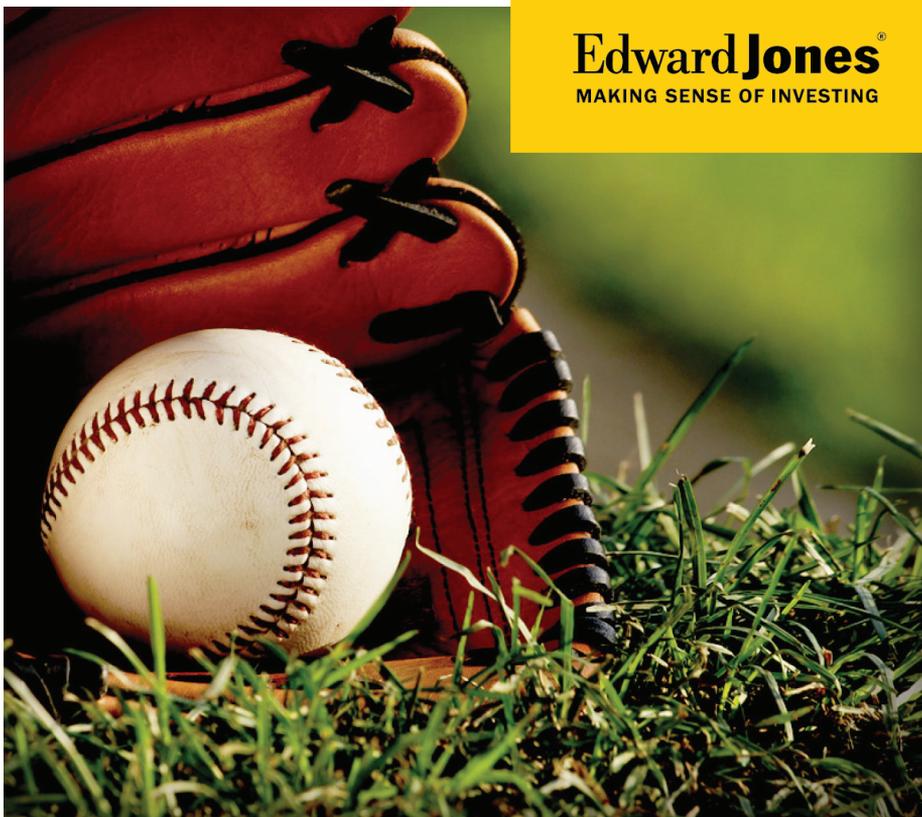


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only because local radio was not permitted to broadcast. Robertson also called Cougar basketball games for two decades.

In the mid-1990s, Jerry Kylo began working on WSU's football broadcasts as an engineer/producer. In some ways, you can think of him as Robertson's offensive coordinator – "basically you're running the show," Kylo explained. Among other things, Kylo set up the clunky equipment, communicated commercial breaks and timeouts to his play-by-play announcer and flipped through a book of verbal cues, shoving different reads into Robertson's face at various stages of the game.

The first time Kylo shared the booth with Robertson came in the 1994 season opener against Illinois at Chicago's Soldier Field – a narrow 10-9 WSU win. His favorite Robertson tale, though, came two years later, when the Cougars

traveled to Philadelphia to play Temple. The broadcast booth, Kylo describes, "was basically a 4x8 sheet of plywood hung from the roof of old Soldier Field."

Not much space to broadcast a college football game, let alone stand.

Robertson was mid-broadcast when a member of the station's sales team walked into the booth, unaware of the beam hanging from the roof, and met a cruel reality.

"Walked into that thing and laid him out flat," Kylo said. "Bob looked down and just kept on announcing. We're all trying to revive him and he's got a big old knot on his head."

Robertson's life took a tragic turn when Joanne, his wife of 59 years, died in 2011 – the same year Robertson traded his play-by-role to become an analyst.

"She was a really kind lady," Kylo said, "and our daughter just fell in love with Joanne."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Up until Robertson gave up his headset for good, he was a pseudo celebrity in the press box, drawing visits from opposing announcers, team officials and writers who all made it a priority to pop in and greet the broadcasting giant before kickoff.

“He was one of these guys you’d probably put up on a pedestal,” Kyлло said, “but once I got to know him, he was just another friendly person. ... He loved the Cougs, he loved being with people, he loved talking to them and greeting people. He would’ve been the best greeter of Walmart of anybody.”

It was the familiarity of Robertson’s voice on a WSU football broadcast that made him such a revered figure among Cougars fans, but those who shared his line of work could also identify the subtle traits that made him a unique talent.

“There are objective fundamentals to doing this. There are things that are required,” said Matt Chazanow, the Voice of the Cougars since 2015. “There are pieces of data that are nonnegotiable, and then there are ways to present those things. So for instance, there’s down and distance, time and score. If you’re doing 70 on the highway, the simple fact that, can you understand what the hell is going on? Because you can’t see it.

“So, one of the things Bob did that’s so hard, that’s so elite, is he did something called being on the play. And that is to say, his timing was just amazing. He was always on the play. He told me, we would talk about how he did it and he attacked it. What that means is, when you do that appropriately, when you do that right, the crowd rises underneath you at a point in time that makes a listener – whether they realize it or not, it brings them into it.”

Robertson was deep into the home stretch of his career, a WSU and College Football Hall of Famer, a 12-time Washington Broadcaster of the Year and in just about every respect, a living legend, when Chazanow arrived in Pullman five years ago. So, the 30-year-old play-by-play announcer was admittedly thrown for a loop when Robertson arrived in the booth and asked Chazanow where he preferred to sit. This, mind you, in a booth that’s held Robertson’s namesake since 2009.

“I was like, ‘Bob, it’s literally your booth. I’ll sit on the roof if you want me to,’ ” Chazanow said. “I’m forever calling games in the Bob Robertson Suite. Like, ‘You tell me where you want to sit. How about that?’ But he loved it. He always talked about his wife, too. I always knew I was living in special moments when I was starting this off, by doing it alongside him and in some ways with his legacy in mind.”

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

In 1999, the Tacoma Rainiers chose to separate with Robertson after 14 years. Seeking another opportunity in minor league baseball, he dialed up the Spokane Indians and managing partner Bobby Brett. Robertson wasn't pushy, but if they had an opening, he'd certainly be grateful. The broadcaster had hardly spoken a word when Brett and Pier assured they'd make room in their booth.

"(Robertson) says, 'Well, how long should this be?'" recalled Dave Pier, the chief marketing officer for Brett Sports, the organization that runs both of Spokane's minor league franchises. "We said, 'Well,

it's a lifetime contract, Bob. You tell us when you don't want to do it anymore.'"

Robertson spent 12 years with the Indians, calling four Pacific Northwest League championships before stepping away from the club in 2010. Those in the organization still speak to his diligence and work ethic and assure few in his position take the steps to prepare for a game as Robertson did.

But, for all the prep work he did, Robertson wasn't email savvy, so members of Spokane's public relations staff would send information guides and stats via

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

fax to his local FedEx shop in the Tacoma area.

“He’d always call in February or March starting to look for background on who might be in the Rangers farm system because he did such tremendous research,” Pier said.

On that same front, Brett, the club’s managing partner for more than 20 years, added “when Bob first showed up, I was absolutely amazed how much homework and background he did before he even showed up in Spokane on those players. So, we’d get our roster and Bob would come into town a few days before the season started and he had notes after notes after notes on these guys. Then he was looking forward to meeting these players, but he already knew 80% of their

backgrounds. Who they dated in high school. It was amazing how much homework he did on a day-to-day basis.”

Another unknown gem from Robertson’s tenure with the Spokane ball club?

“One of the funny things, when Bob came into the league one of the things he wanted is, not every press box had a bathroom,” Pier said. “So, we had to tell him one of the teams that didn’t have a bathroom was moved out of the league. He said, ‘Well, there’s good news and bad news: they’re not in the league anymore, but on the other hand, the team that took their place has a bathroom in the press box.’ So, he was pretty excited.”

Fifty-two years of tales similar to that one came flooding back when news of Robertson’s death

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spread Monday morning.

When Price finished postgame interviews with Robertson, the play-by-play announcer usually invited another assistant coach to the press box for a short conversation on the record.

Because the assistants often tried to skirt the interview, Robertson sweetened the pot, offering \$5, \$10 or even \$20 to anyone who'd talk.

"I talked after the Apple Cup when we were ahead and lost in the last seconds of the game with (Jim) Sweeney," said Price, recalling a game in the 1970s when he was an assistant. "I'd have paid twice that much not to have to go up there and talk to him."

Robertson, who served as the voice of Notre Dame football for two years in the 1950s, dabbled in boxing, hockey, hydroplanes and Major League Soccer.

He was also the longtime voice of Division III Pacific Lutheran basketball.

Robertson is survived by his four children, Hugh, Janna, John and Rebecca, along with his seven grandchildren.

To the day that he died, Robertson spoke with unequivocal adoration for his late wife, Joanne.

"I know Bob really missed her," Pier said. "I'd think we'd all like to think they're back together."

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2021 SCHEDULE

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4 EUG	5 EUG	6 EUG	7 EUG	8 EUG
9 EUG	10	11 @VAN	12 @VAN	13 @VAN	14 @VAN	15 @VAN
16 @VAN	17	18 EVE	19 EVE	20 EVE	21 EVE	22 EVE
23 EVE	24	25 @EUG	26 @EUG	27 @EUG	28 @EUG	29 @EUG
30 @EUG	31					

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 TRI	2 TRI	3 TRI	4 TRI	5 TRI
6 TRI	7	8 VAN	9 VAN	10 VAN	11 VAN	12 VAN
13 VAN	14	15 @TRI	16 @TRI	17 @TRI	18 @TRI	19 @TRI
20 @TRI	21	22 @HIL	23 @HIL	24 @HIL	25 @HIL	26 @HIL
27 @HIL	28	29 TRI	30 TRI			

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 TRI	2 TRI	3 TRI
4 TRI	5	6 @VAN	7 @VAN	8 @VAN	9 @VAN	10 @VAN
11 @VAN	12	13 EUG	14 EUG	15 EUG	16 EUG	17 EUG
18 EUG	19	20 @TRI	21 @TRI	22 @TRI	23 @TRI	24 @TRI
25 @TRI	26	27 VAN	28 VAN	29 VAN	30 VAN	31 VAN

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 VAN	2	3 EVE	4 EVE	5 EVE	6 EVE	7 EVE
8 EVE	9	10 @TRI	11 @TRI	12 @TRI	13 @TRI	14 @TRI
15 @TRI	16	17 HIL	18 HIL	19 HIL	20 HIL	21 HIL
22 HIL	23	24 @EVE	25 @EVE	26 @EVE	27 @EVE	28 @EVE
29 @EVE	30	31 TRI				

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TRI	2 TRI	3 TRI	4 TRI
5 TRI	6	7 @VAN	8 @VAN	9 @VAN	10 @VAN	11 @VAN
12 @VAN	13	14 @EVE	15 @EVE	16 @EVE	17 @EVE	18 @EVE
19 @EVE						

LEGEND

HIGH-A WEST

EUG - Eugene Emeralds (San Francisco Giants)
 EVE - Everett AquaSox (Seattle Mariners)
 HIL - Hillsboro Hops (Arizona Diamondbacks)
 SPO - Spokane Indians (Colorado Rockies)
 TRI - Tri-City Dust Devils (Los Angeles Angels)
 VAN - Vancouver Canadians (Toronto Blue Jays)

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