

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Thomas Gorman, '38



Tom Gorman grew up in the Hell's Kitchen parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, on the West Side of New York City. A good student and a natural athlete, Tom was a standout player on both the baseball and basketball teams in his 4 years at Power. His coach was another of tonight's inductees, Br. Arthur Loftus, and together they were instrumental in helping make PMA's athletic programs a force to be reckoned with in the CHSAA.

Among Tom's achievements at Power were pitching a 3 hit shutout against St. Augustine's HS to win the 1937 Varsity Baseball City Championship, scoring a last minute goal to win the 1937 Bishop Molloy Challenge Cup Basketball Tournament and being high scorer on the 1937 basketball team with 207 points. As a senior, Tom was voted PMA's Best Athlete, selected as the All-Scholastic Center on the New York World-Telegram's varsity basketball team for Catholic schools and signed by the New York Giants baseball team.

Tom's budding MLB career with the Giants as a left handed pitcher was interrupted by World War II, where he served in the US Army for 4 years, being discharged as a Staff Sergeant in October of 1945. He attempted to resume his pitching career in 1946, but the war, and other injuries, had taken their toll. His wife, Margaret, encouraged him to give umpiring a try. After spending several years working in the minors, Tom was promoted to the majors as a National League umpire in 1951. A distinguished career was born. Tom umpired 3,805 major league games, retiring in 1976.

Among the notable games in which he umpired were nine no-hitters, including two behind the plate. On April 17, 1964, he was the home plate umpire for the inaugural game at Shea Stadium between the Mets and the Pirates. He worked 5 All-Star Games in 1954, 1958, 1960 (2) and 1969. He umpired in the World Series in 1956, 1958, 1963, 1968 and 1974, serving as crew chief in the last two Series. In 1956, he was in left field for Don Larsen's perfect game against the Brooklyn Dodgers and in 1968, he called balls and strikes as Bob Gibson of St. Louis struck out a Series-record 17 Detroit batters.

In 1975, he was honored by the Al Somers Umpire School as the Outstanding Umpire of 1974. In his acceptance remarks, he said of umpiring, "It's a hard road but a good road. Sometimes you'll ask yourself if it's worth it. If you've got the guts and the skills, the answer is bound to be yes. People may come to see ballplayers, but there'd be no baseball without good umpires."

Tom and Margaret Gorman raised four children together: Thomas, Patricia, Kevin and Brian. Brian has been a major league umpire since 1991 and wears the same uniform number 9 that Tom wore after the NL began adding numbers to umpire uniforms in 1970.

Tom Gorman died on August 11th, 1986. "When I go," he had told his children, "I want to be buried in my umpiring suit and holding my indicator." His wish was granted. His uniform was buttoned, and his blue cap with the white letters, "NL," was at his side. In his right hand was the indicator, with the ball-strike counter set at 3-2. According to his son, Kevin, Tom had said, "Let God make the last call."