

The Independent & Free Press

Wednesday, August 22, 2001 52 Pages Vol. 124 No. 20

Local man talks ball with Willie, Yogi and Co.

Paul Cartwright has worked with many famous athletes but recently he was feeling as though he had been dropped into a modern-day version of Field of Dreams.

The Georgetown resident found himself sitting around a table talking baseball, business and family with Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks and Willie Mays.

"It was like my baseball cards had all come to life," said Cartwright, who was in Cooperstown, N.Y. for the Hall of Fame induction ceremony two weeks ago.

Cartwright, who owns Sports Celebrity Marketing, a company that represents retired athletes, was at the Hall of Fame with client Al Oliver.

Oliver delivered the invocation at the ceremony after Cartwright had approached the Hall of Fame about having the former Pittsburgh Pirate and Montreal Expo speak.

Cartwright also thought it would help raise Oliver's profile as a candidate for the Hall of Fame. A new election system being introduced is intended to make entry more difficult but it may actually help Oliver. A panel made up of roughly two-thirds Hall of Fame players, will vote on players not elected by the professional baseball writers.

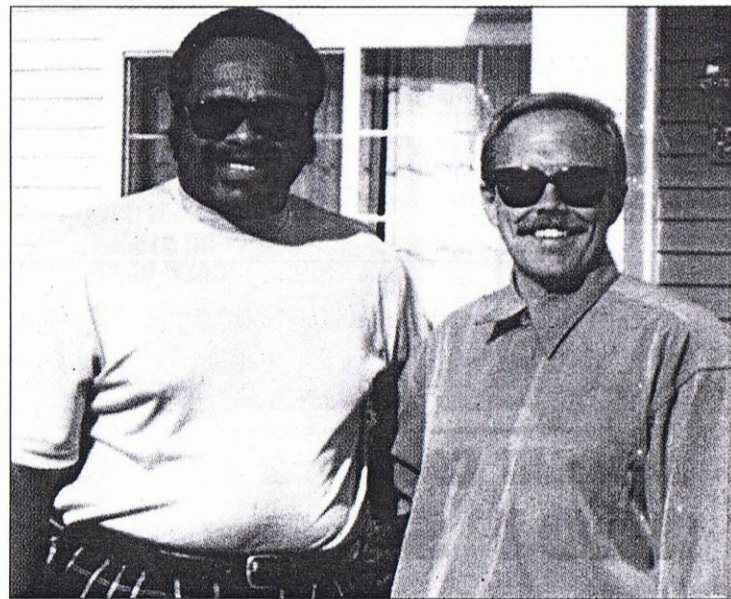
Cartwright said many players he spoke to said Oliver, a seven-time all-star with 2,743 career hits and a .303 average over 18 seasons, should be in

the hall although he has been dropped from the ballot.

Aside from having dinner with Aaron while surrounded by guards, Cartwright had breakfast with Dave Winfield on the morning of the former Blue Jays' induction and rode to a Hall of Fame reception with Yankee legend Yogi Berra.

"I sat down on the trolley and turned to say hi to the guy beside me and it's Yogi Berra," Cartwright said. "He was so nice. When we got to the Hall of Fame there was a huge crowd and they started chanting his name. Yogi insisted I go first but I said, 'They're chanting Yogi, Yogi not Cartwright, Cartwright.'"

—By Herb Garbutt,
staff writer



Sports celebrity marketer Paul Cartwright, right, recently took in the baseball hall of fame ceremony with client Al Oliver.

Submitted photo