

2008 GREATER DUNDALK SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

College All-American Pitt led NCAA in batting average

DHS graduate roomed with Rod Carew in minors

by Bill Gates

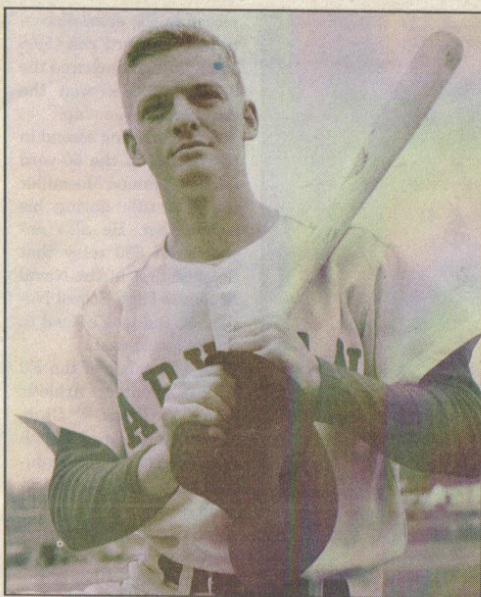
Signed by the Minnesota Twins after an All-American season at the University of Maryland, Dundalk High School graduate Jim Pitt found himself assigned to the Twins' Class A farm team in Orlando, Fla.

His roommate for the season: Rod Carew.

That's seven-time American League batting champion, 1977 A.L. Most Valuable Player and eventual baseball Hall of Famer Rod Carew.

"I learned more about hitting from just watching him," said Pitt, who is one of the four new inductees into the Greater Dundalk Sports Hall of Fame.

"Rooming with Carew was pretty memorable," Pitt said. "I really enjoyed the game, and had the privilege of playing with some really good baseball people."



Jim Pitt was a baseball All-American at the University of Maryland and played in the Minnesota Twins minor league system for four years.

Pitt and Carew played for Orlando in 1965. The next year, Carew was called up to the Twins' AAA farm team, while Pitt went to the Class AA team in Charlotte, N.C.

Carew made his major league debut in 1967 and was named A.L. Rookie of the Year. Pitt, an outfielder, made it to Triple A ball in Denver before an injury ended his professional

baseball career in 1969.

"I think I was doing OK," Pitt said. "Of course, the Twins were loaded with good outfielders. And back then, you had to wait your turn. There was no free agency."

A three-sport athlete at Dundalk High, Pitt was an All-Metro selection for soccer and made the All-Baltimore County team for basketball during his senior year in 1962.

He earned All-Metro honors in baseball as a junior and senior and signed a full athletic scholarship to play at the University of Maryland.

"I was actually a better soccer player than I was a baseball player," Pitt said. "But there was no future in soccer."

An All-Atlantic Coast Conference outfielder in 1963 and 1964, Pitt earned first-team All-America honors when he led the nation in batting with a .460 average in 1964.

"Either the pitching was down in the ACC that year, or I got awful lucky," Pitt joked.

One of Pitt's teammates

Greater Dundalk Sports Hall of Fame 2008 induction

- **Who:** James Pitt, Kent Mosmiller, Robert Smith and Kenneth Rainier.
- **When:** Saturday, Nov. 22, at noon.
- **Where:** student lounge, K Building, CCBC Dundalk

"I've really enjoyed the game, and had the privilege of playing with some really good baseball people."

Jim Pitt
Hall of Fame inductee

at Maryland was Sparrows Point grad and fellow Greater Dundalk Sports Hall of Fame member Ron Swoboda, who left after his freshman year to sign a contract with the New York Mets.

Pitt left Maryland after

his sophomore year to join the Twins' organization, but eventually went back to school and earned a degree in education.

Hired by Severna Park High in 1969, Pitt taught and coached at the Anne Arundel County school until his retirement in 1999.

Pitt coached the Severna Park baseball team all 30 years, winning eight Anne Arundel County championships and four regional titles.

He still lives in Severna Park with his wife of 36 years, Kathleen. Pitt has one child, Jim Jr.

"I've always been humbled by personal accolades," Pitt said. "I give credit to the people who coached me, the guys I played with, who made me a better player."