

THE NORMAN J. HUBNER ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Tom King has the statistics to support his ranking as the greatest baseball pitcher in LaPorte High history. And that is an enormous statement since the Slicers have been blessed with many great pitchers while achieving unparalleled success on the diamond. Because pitching is such a dominant factor, King also could be ranked as the No. 1 Slicer baseball player, period. He had great control for a fire-balling left-hander and paced the Slicers to a state championship in 1971. Though he was not a great hitter, he came through with many clutch hits when the light-hitting Slicers were scratching for runs. Give him an early run, sit back and enjoy the show because the game was over!

Start with this: King, who graduated in 1972, still ranks among the top 10 in all but seven of the 17 categories listed in the Indiana state record book. He ranks No. 1 with 214 strikeouts in a season. He is tied for No. 1 with 17 victories and 10 shutouts in one season. He is No. 2 in starts in one season (18, tie), career shutouts (21) and innings pitched in a season (132.1). In addition, he ranks No. 3 in complete games in a season (15), No. 4 in career victories (40, tie), No. 7 in career strikeouts (518) and No. 8 in career innings pitched (335.1).

King was chosen as a first-team All-American by the American Baseball Coaches Association as a junior. He also was featured in Letterman Magazine, the first national high school sports magazine. He was a fifth-round draft choice of the Chicago White Sox in 1972. He posted a five-year record of 22-17 in the minor leagues - including a 9-2 MVP year with a 2.41 ERA in 1974 at Appleton, Wis. - before retiring in 1976.

