

Bill Nowlin

Subject: Bob Gallagher interview

He was a little better than I was, but I was received very well because of him. A lot of people remembered him or respected that background. My dad went to Providence College and played baseball and basketball there. I think he made the hall of fame in basketball at Providence College. He was probably going to play baseball but he played in the Cape Cod League and he broke his thumb sliding, or some such. He got hurt and it became a problem, so he ended up just being a ninety day wonder who ended up going into the service in World War II.

I'm left-handed so I played whatever they let a left-hander play. Mostly I played centerfield and first base. My dad modeled me after Ted Williams. He really had that in mind. He thought I would make a terrific first baseman. I had good speed. He was a good mentor. He brought me along psychologically and physically. He was certainly my director. He was a third baseman. My grandfather was a first baseman/outfielder and he played on the Black Sox scandal team. He was the leadoff hitter for the 1919 White Sox. He played quite a few years.

My mom always remembered him always providing, even during the Depression and everything. He ended up painting houses after he retired -not quite as glamorous a thing. He couldn't set money aside too well. Whatever he did, he did a really good job at it.

I only vaguely remember him. I was seven when he died, and we moved out to the West Coast about that time. 1954. I remember sitting on his knee at the house, but I didn't talk baseball because at about six or seven, I really didn't have that picture. I kind of wish I could go back. There are a few things I'd like to go back and ask some questions about.

He never had a shrine to himself anywhere. He didn't really talk that much about it. He just was a pretty humble guy. Mostly right field, a little first base. He played the outfield. Kind of a utility guy, it sounded like, although he hung on a long time. I tried the utility route and it didn't work.

I was picked up by the Red Sox. I went to Stanford and signed after my junior year with the Dodgers. I played single A, double A, triple A. I played for Lasorda in triple A before he was a major league manager. And then the Red Sox drafted me in the winter draft that year. I came in, and Yastrzemski was obviously the big guy. And Harper. I came along about the same time as Dwight Evans. So I played center field. I had a poor spring training. They had Rick Miller and Ben Oglivie at the time, so I was sort of the sixth outfielder, it worked out. I had no problem with that, because I played poorly.

I went to Louisville triple A and played for Darrell Johnson, with Cecil Cooper at first. I played center and Dwight Evans played right. We had a pretty doggone good team. I watched Evans evolve. He was 18, very, very raw. I watched him mature. We had a good year; we won the pennant that year. I got called up briefly to the Red Sox when Yastrzemski got hurt. I think I was there for five weeks. That was in '72. I wasn't much on the field except as a pinch hitter. I pinch ran. We were on like a three week road trip when I first came up. I got one at bat a week for five

weeks. Never got a chance to have any sort of rhythm or anything. I guess I was labeled as not necessary.

I was hitting .430 in triple A when they brought me up and that just threw me completely off, although I was thrilled to be there. It was a pennant race and but it just took me right out of the hot streak and I just sat and watched. It was an odd experience, but we were like two games out and so people could care less about me. It was all about how I could help the team.

I watch Dusty Baker out here. He takes his extra guys and they play once or twice a week. I love that idea. We used to play nine -eight -guys until they dropped. Guys were exhausted but they were in the lineup every night. There was a lot of fear, I guess. The Lou Gehrig thing. Wally Pipp. He got out and he couldn't get back in. I think there's a lot of fear in athletes. A lot of fear of failure.

I got a chance to play in Houston the next year. I had a twelve game hitting streak, and I felt like I finally established myself. I thought I would start the next year when they traded Jimmy Wynn but then Greg Gross came along and they put him in, and he went 4-for-5, 3-for-4 the first two games. I never smelled the lineup after that.

I started like five games that year. I got in a lot of games, but it was again totally out of rhythm. So actually I asked to be traded. Preston Gomez said I could hang around as an extra guy and I could play first. Maybe I should have done that, but I just felt like I needed to play to be the best that I could be. I wasn't very good. They didn't give a lot of training, not a lot of working out guys that weren't playing. You just had to figure it out yourself.

[It was Shano Collins' daughter who married Bob's father. Bob has Collins for a middle name.] I'm named after my mom's brother Robert Collins who was killed on Iwo Jima [Shano's son.]

My father was very much interested. He wasn't one of those guys who would shove you in, but he just was very interested. He probably saw in me...probably had a picture of what I could do and what I couldn't, kept giving me visuals of it. He was really very supportive. Not a ranter/raver type of guy. A good motivator.

My son Zachary went to Stanford as a water polo goalie and played in the NCAA championships for Stanford. When we lived in Santa Cruz, we lived right by the water and he was a life guard there. He became a swimmer and a water polo player. He's down in Argentina now. He's working on Internet stuff, speaking Spanish. He's very adept, a pretty versatile guy.

He was very good at baseball. Very bright. Good player, but there comes a point where you can see...he wasn't fast enough, wasn't strong enough. It wasn't going to be his sport, not professional. So he just went with what he enjoyed. He's still good friends with those water polo players from Stanford. It was a good move on his part.

[After you finished with the Mets, were you out of baseball then?] Yeah. I requested a trade. I said, 'You don't even know who I am. "I would play for Yogi Berra. He didn't even know who I was. He was a nice guy but he was pathetic in the dugout. He was a really nice guy, and a great

player. In terms of strategy or whatever, he was a joke. It was all cronyism. The Kranepool gang. Little cliques. Kind of like the Red Sox when I got there, with Yastrzemski. A little cliquey. So I just said, look, I don't like the East Coast. I didn't like New York. I like Boston, but I didn't like New York. I asked if they'd trade me back to the West Coast. They were going to send me to triple A, so I just said trade me. I got traded for somebody named Brown, a third baseman, and I went to Phoenix and played with Jack Clark and Johnny LeMaster and Bob Knepper and those guys.

Just for a year. 1976. My kids were starting school. There was no free agency and I was making \$25,000 a year. It just didn't make sense. Time to try something else. My wife and I moved to Santa Cruz. We got involved in child care for a while, and I got involved in teaching. I've been teaching for 19 years. I teach at Santa Cruz High. Social studies, American government and world history.

I've got three editions of THE SCIENCE OF HITTING by Ted Williams. It's a great book.

[back to your reception in Boston as Shano's grandson] The stories that were written about me were written in regard to him and my relationship to him. It was nice. I got more attention than I deserved. I certainly made little contribution. There's such lore in Boston. It's such an historic town, that I think it's a natural.

Clif Keane of the Globe. Oh my God, he was awful.

I didn't have too many fans come up. We were out of town most of the time I was up. I think we were there for two weeks. I stayed with Bill Lee. My wife and I lived with Bill. I'd played with him in Alaska. A great guy. Carlton Fisk was a really great guy. We were at spring training together. Good guy. Real neat guy. He was just a really strong individual. Sparky Lyle was there that year. He got traded in spring training for Danny Cater. That was a strange guy. He was a pretty wild guy. There were stories about him living with a hoodlum priest or whatever in New York. I think when he went to New York he moved in with some aberrant priest. They called him the Hoodlum Priest.

I didn't know these guys that well. They were nice enough to take me in, although Yastrzemski really did not. He was really pretty rough. He probably wouldn't remember but he just took, I think, a disliking to me. I asked him once and he went, "What do you mean?" I confronted him about it. I wanted to know, "Did I piss you off somehow?" He just went, "I don't know what you mean."

But what am I going to do? I'm some little kind of a rookie in his Hall of Fame career. He could treat me any way he wants.

How many people wouldn't trade places with me in a second? It was great.

I think I was number 47. I had kind of an odd number. You find out after a while that if you get numbers like that in spring training they don't have great plans for you. 89 or 105! Of course, there were some good 47s. Hank Aaron was 44. I think Warren Spahn might have been 47.

Harry Hooper used to live out here. Before he died, he lived over here in Capitola. I met him when I was in high school. His son, who was in real estate, helped get him in the Hall of Fame.

I think baseball at that time was more of being a good athlete.

[some discussion about contemporary international baseball & other things -I stopped transcribing at this point]

Bob Gallagher, grandson of Shano Collins

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Bob: 1972 7 games, 5 AB 0 hits 3K (debut 5 /17/72) Bob born in Newton 7/7/48 POSITION??

He later played 206 games over 3 seasons with Astros and Mets and hit .220 (.264 his first year with Houston in 1973)

Shano died 9/10/55 in Newton MA. 10 years ML, played w. BOS 1921-25 .264 lifetime POSITION =OF mostly RF
First year w. BOS .286 68 rbi 4 HR