
Ed Sukla(1943 - 2015)

Sukla, Ed

March 3rd, 1943 - September 24th, 2015

Edward Anthony Sukla passed away early last Thursday morning after a long battle with cancer.

He was born in Long Beach, the 2nd child of Mary and Ed. Eddie spent his early years in Surfside Colony before his family moved to Huntington Beach where he excelled in all sports at Huntington Beach High School.

He was the starting quarterback in football, starting guard in basketball, the ace pitcher on the baseball team, and the school's best pole vaulter even though he didn't have the time to compete.

Rod Dedeaux, the legendary USC Baseball Coach, lived across the street at Surfside, and said Eddie was among the best natural athletes he had ever seen while offering him a baseball scholarship. But Eddie's dream was to play in the major leagues and the Angels signed him to a bonus contract after his graduation in 1961.

He quickly moved through the minor leagues and made his major league debut in 1964 at 21. The following year he became the first Angel winning pitcher at the new Angel Stadium. An arm injury derailed his career and in 1966 he played his last game in the majors before retiring in 1975. He settled on a new career as a professional scout and joined the Major League Scouting Bureau. He was highly respected for his work and in 2007 was named National Scout of the Year.

During the off seasons he continued to test himself in a variety of sports. His accomplishments were legendary: He became a tournament pool player; an excellent bowler, rolling several 300 games. Not satisfied with those endeavors and despite never playing tennis as a youth, he tackled that difficult sport and became a nationally ranked senior while playing out of the prestigious Palisades Tennis Club.

He wasn't finished! While in his mid fifties he turned his attention to golf and soon was a single digit player, and maintained this low handicap in spite of the bone cancer which attacked his legs.

Even though his health was failing he showed his positive attitude while driving his latest sports car with his signature plate FLYNLOW.

Most importantly, his low-key demeanor and great sense of humor, led to a huge legion of friends who loved, admired him and were so proud of his unbelievable accomplishments.

Eddie is survived by his loving sister, Connie Marangi; her husband, Angelo; and her daughter, Darcy Benward.

Memorial services are pending.

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