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Stan Saleski, 59; longtime baseball scout

GLOBE STAFF AND NEWS SERVICES OCTOBER 19, 2014

SAN FRANCISCO — Stan Saleski, a longtime advance scout for the World Series-bound San Francisco Giants, died while scouting the AL Championship Series in Baltimore on Oct. 11. The team, which announced his death, did not provide a cause. He was 59.

Mr. Saleski, a noted high school pitcher from Worcester, Mass., spent more than three decades scouting at the major league level for the Giants, Marlins, and New York Yankees.

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He worked for the Marlins during their run to the franchise's first World Series championship in 1997, then for the Giants as they captured their first title since moving west in 1958 with the 2010 crown and again in '12.

As a youth pitcher, Mr. Saleski was a star in Central Massachusetts in the early 1970s. According to a 2006 story in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, he threw 11 no-hitters in Little League, before amassing a 39-3 record for St. Peter's Central Catholic

High School. His coach, Butch Vail, called him the best high school pitcher from Worcester he had ever seen, according to the Telegram and Gazette.

One game in particular stood out. Playing Legion ball for Grafton Hill against Northborough in 1973, Mr. Saleski threw 12 no-hit innings, only to lose the game, 1-0, in the 13th inning. His opponent on the mound was Mark Fidrych, who also tossed 12 innings without a hit.

Fidrych went on to become rookie of the year for the Detroit Tigers. Mr. Saleski pitched for Eckerd College in Florida, where he hurt his arm. He was drafted in the 27th round by the New York Yankees in 1977. After two seasons of minor league ball, he retired.

The Yankees named him a scout for New England; at age 23, he was the youngest scout in major league Class B baseball. Among his signees for the Yankees was Greg Gagne of Fall River, who later played shortshop for the Minnesota Twins in the World Series.

He also spent several years as a minor league pitching coach for the Yankees.

Mr. Saleski joined the Giants organization in 1998.

General manager Brian Sabean called him “a longtime friend and an integral part of our organization.”

Mr. Saleski had been living in Oakwood, Ohio. He leaves his wife, Lisa, and daughter, Whitney. Services were pending.

Material from the Associated Press was used in this obituary.