
Kal Segrist Jr.(1931 - 2015)

SEGRIST Jr., Kal Hill Longtime Texas Tech baseball coach and a great player in his own right, died Friday, June 26, 2015 at Carrillon LifeCare Community in Lubbock. He was 84. He was born April 14, 1931, in Greenville, Texas, and attended Adamson High School in Dallas, playing on a team that won two state baseball championships his sophomore and junior years and that made the state finals his senior year. He signed a baseball scholarship to the [University of Texas](#), and played in the Longhorns' National Championship season in 1950, the first time Rosenblatt Field in Omaha, Neb., hosted the College World Series. Segrist led the Southwest Conference with a .442 batting average for the season and was named to the national championship all-tournament team. He turned professional the following year, signing with the New York Yankees in 1951. He was hampered throughout his professional career with chronic knee problems. His time with the Yankees ended when he and 16 other players were part of the "Big Trade" between New York and Baltimore in 1955, at the time the largest trade in Major League Baseball history. He spent 11 years playing professionally, including stints in Canada, the Pacific League and the Texas League. After retiring from baseball, Segrist finished his bachelor's degree at the University of North Texas. He worked for a time in the Dallas public schools before heading to Texas Tech to work as an assistant baseball coach and to earn his master's degree in physical education. He became head baseball coach in 1968. At the time, Tech's baseball field had several trees in the outfield and a backstop that would blow over in a strong breeze. Segrist earned Southwest Conference Coach of the Year honors in 1969 and in 1980, when the Red Raiders appeared in the postseason conference tournament for the first time. He won the honor a third time after his final season as head coach in 1983. During his tenure, he served on the NCAA baseball rules committee. He retired from the head coaching slot after leading the effort to build the stadium that houses the Red Raiders to this day. At the time, the head coaching position at Tech was a part-time job, and Segrist continued teaching softball, basketball refereeing and archery in the Physical Education Department until his retirement in 1994. He is a member of the Texas Tech Athletic Hall of Honor as well as the Adamson High School Hall of Honor. He spent his retirement years living in Lubbock, tending to the family farm in Hico, Texas, and visiting and coaching his grandchildren. He and his wife are members of Lubbock's First United Methodist Church and the Hi Robinson Sunday school class. Kal Segrist, Jr., was the son of Samye Bethel and Kal Segrist, Sr. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Rebecca Garvin Segrist of Lubbock; six children: Kathy Smith of Waco; Susan Vestal of College Station; Khrist Segrist of Lubbock; Scott Segrist of Lubbock, Sunny Betts of Annandale, Va.; Samuel Segrist of Martinez, Ga.; a sister, Kay Julian of Garland; and 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Tom Vestal of College Station. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for contributions to be sent to the Kal Segrist Scholarship Fund, Attn: Chris Snead, Box 45001, Lubbock TX 79409-5001, or to the Hospice of Lubbock Foundation at <http://www.hospiceoflubbock.org/>. Services are scheduled for 2 p.m., Thursday, July 2 at First United Methodist Church of Hico. Visitation will precede the service from 10 a.m. to noon at Harvest Hills Funeral Home in Hico. There will be a memorial service at 2 p.m. on July 6 at First United Methodist Church of Lubbock. Harvest Hills Funeral Home 254-796-4722

Funeral Home**Harvest Hills Funeral Home**

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