

2025 Hall of Fame Inductee Terry Reed – Aurora

If Terry Reed was to begin to recruit new umpires, he could sum up one of the major benefits of the job. During his career, Terry has met so many fellow officials and coaches that have become his friends and it is fair to say that he has thousands of friends. By his own count, he has worked several thousand games and officiated numerous district, regional, and state tournaments along with several state championships in baseball and softball which are a great honor for Terry.

Terry's reputation as a top arbiter has garnered him recognition beyond CHSAA and the Colorado High School Baseball Umpires Association. Terry was invited to work the 2018 Dreams Park in Cooperstown in New York and was able to attend the baseball Hall of Fame Museum while there. He has been recognized on a national level for his expertise on the diamond. Terry has several Umpire of the Year awards and has managed to pick up some impressive hardware in the process. Terry received the bronze, silver, and gold medal along with the National Indicator Fraternity for ASA/USA softball.

Terry has been a two-term area director on the softball side. Why softball? Like many of his generation, senior baseball was in its infancy and in Colorado, softball was king. Terry played men's fast pitch and slow pitch for several years before becoming an umpire 40 years ago. Soon, like many players, his interest gave way to what is often referred to as the dark side. Terry enjoyed umpiring so much that he became a 3-sport official with CHSAA for baseball, softball, and basketball.

There is a light side to the Terry Reed saga as well. Originally from Hays, Kansas Terry grew up in Hill City, Kansas playing baseball on the local travel team. After a third move to Great Bend, Kansas, in 1967, he attended and graduated from high school. Terry came to Colorado in 1976 met a lady named Penny and married her in 1977. That was 47 years ago. Now the Reeds have their own starting lineup with three beautiful daughters and 6 grandchildren with whom he has enjoyed teaching and playing softball and baseball.

The game of baseball is not without its challenges where success is often followed by failure. A sunny spring is often followed by overcast. For Terry, the clouds gathered during April of the 2023 baseball season. He had to quit umpiring because of so much pain in his lower abdomen area. In May of 2023, Terry was diagnosed with a tumor in his hip and pelvis the size of a grapefruit. The biopsy showed the malignancy that started in Terry's kidney had spread to his bones.

Terry thought he was in the last inning of the game and made plans for a final farewell to baseball. Terry thought he only had a few months left to live and said his goodbyes at the last baseball meeting. CHSAA bestowed him the honor of throwing out the first pitch in the 5A championship game at All Star Park with all his family watching. It was a special day and meant the world to him.

Yogi Berra once said, "It ain't over 'till it's over" and for Terry the game has gone into extra innings. After beginning radiation treatment and starting immunotherapy and infusions right after at the Rocky Mt. Cancer Center, Terry Reed found out the true meaning of the baseball maxim "hope springs eternal." During one of his radiation treatments, the doctors thought he would be a candidate for a revolutionary surgery that could let him walk again without crutches or a walker. The surgery was performed on July 3, 2023 and four weeks later he was walking and even jogging. The successful surgery put Terry back in the game umpiring some baseball and softball. He worked the regular season of baseball in 2024 before his right kidney removed so that it does not spread and Terry reports he is now "back to almost 100 percent." The last Bone Scan and MRI shows he was cancer free but will continue to take infusions once a month to keep the cancer away. Reed now has a few more pitches to call and a few more games to work. Yogi was right.

Terry sees it another way as he believes God still has plans for him. All the support and prayers he received during this time from family, friends, fellow umpires and even coaches, provides hope of many years left to umpire the sports that he loves. Terry is forever grateful.