



Fred Whitacre

The Father of Baseball in Colorado Springs

Inducted October 27, 2010

While Chicago-born Whitacre is well-known for bringing baseball back to Colorado Springs in 1988 with the move of the Hawaii Islanders of the Pacific Coast League to the city, his career was a virtual cornucopia of sports riches which embraced stints with the original 1969 Montreal Expos, the 1984 National League Champion San Diego Padres, professional soccer, collegiate basketball coaching, promotion, marketing and even ownership of a minor league baseball team, the West Palm Beach Expos. He was named the Executive of the Year three times in the Florida State League and once in the Pacific Coast League. In all, he served in the front office for five championship teams. Whitacre retired from full-time sports



work in 1992 after serving as the President & CEO of the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation following his departure from the Sky Sox as its founding President & General Manager, and building the franchise from the ground up. He became a consultant to the Colorado College ice hockey program and engineered the successful effort that built the CC season ticket base to over 5,000 as the program moved into the World Arena. His personal friendships with the late Larry Doby and local hero Goose Gossage earned him invitations to Cooperstown as both were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Whitacre received the Thayer Tutt Sportsman Award from the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation in 2005.