



## **JIM COATE**

### **PROFILE**

In this day when pitching a complete game is as rare as a triple play and five innings by a starting pitcher is considered a “quality start,” it is incomprehensible that Jim Coate once pitched a 28-inning complete game.

But that’s what happened back in 1967 when Coate – a 6-foot-2 senior left-hander for the Canyon High Cougars (before Canyon became a middle school) – went up against a strong Hayward High team.

The game was tied 1-1 after 15 innings when darkness brought everything to a stop. Coate returned to the mound when the game resumed a few weeks later. The Cougars finally pushed across two runs in the top of the 28 th for a 3-1 lead and Coate secured the victory by pitching a scoreless bottom half of the inning – a total of 13 innings that day to go with his previous 15.

Those were the days before pitch counts, but at an average of 15 pitches per inning, that would be an incredible 420 pitches.

Coate struck out 40 batters in that game, which could well be a national record if such records were kept.

Coate finished his senior season at Canyon with a 0.65 earned run average and was named the Cougars’ most valuable player.

An excellent student, Coate went on to Stanford where he compiled a 2.17 earned run average over three varsity seasons – which still ranks ninth best overall on the Cardinal career ERA list -- and his senior year won the Bruce Cameron Award for baseball leadership and academic achievement.

Undrafted by a major league team, Coate decided he didn’t want to play in a rookie league, realizing his chance of making it to the major leagues was a longshot.

Recently married, he and his bride, Nancy, instead enrolled at Sacramento State to pursue teacher credentials.

With their credentials secured, the couple spent the next year in England where Coate earned a Masters’ Degree in English Literature. On their return to the United States, Coate began a 32-year teaching career at Edwin Markham Middle School in Placerville.

In addition to teaching English, physical education and U.S. history, Coate coached flag football, basketball, cross country and track at the middle school level. He also became involved with the El Dorado County Sports League for middle schools and for 22 years served as commissioner of the league.