

Oral History Interview
John F. "Six" McDonnell
February 26, 1978

pp. 9 - 10

MCDONNELL: Well, anyway, I didn't care much about football, but I did play quarterback for three years I think, the last three years. But here I was thinking about making that baseball club. I was a baseball player.

ENDACOTT: That was always what you liked.

MCDONNELL: Yes, and I was pretty good at it. And here come these two big guys across the playgrounds, you know, Dwight and Ed. Well, they was the big shots in our school you know, campus, whatever you call it, and hollering at me, "Hey, Six come here."

And I wondered what the heck they wanted with me so I went over there and I swagger, "What do you want?"

"Well," they said, I think it was Dwight doing the talking too, he says, "I'm President of the Athletic Association and we're going to start baseball pretty soon now, middle of February," I think he said, "and have you been considering going out for the ball club?"

And I said, "Yes, I have. I think I can make your ball club, as an outfielder."

And they says, "We got news for you; you're going to be the pitcher." Yeah, just like that.

And I said, "Pitcher, I'm no pitcher; I'm an infielder." I'd played kid ball in the infield, second base. I was left-handed and that's no good either you know, but I didn't know anything different then. I could field and I could throw but I said, "I'm no pitcher."

They said, "Oh, we think you are. Anyway our big pitcher has moved to Colorado." That was a fellow named Gene Eddy, remember him?

ENDACOTT: I didn't even know him.

MCDONNELL: He was the big football star and a pitcher too, and their family moved to Colorado. So he says, “We haven’t got any pitcher and you’re going to be the pitcher.”

I said again, “Why, I don’t know anything about pitching.”

“Well, we’ve been watching you play out here on the playgrounds and everywhere and you have a great arm and you got the best arm in school and you’re going to be the pitcher.”

“O.K. I’ll give it a try.” So I was the pitcher