

Daniel R. Quisenberry

Kansas City Royals Pitcher
1953-1998

by Kimberly R. Riley

With tears in his eyes and a lump in his throat, Dan Quisenberry looked across the stands at the sea of faces gathered at Kauffman Stadium on May 30, 1998. In honor of his induction into the Royals Hall of Fame, fans gave their hero a standing ovation for a job well done. In typical 'Quiz' style, he humbly thanked his fans and family for their support.

Exactly four months later, those same fans who celebrated Quisenberry's induction paused to mourn his death. Quisenberry, who had a reputation for striking out some of baseball's sharpest players, lost his battle with brain cancer at age 45. He died at his home in Leawood, Kansas.

Daniel Raymond Quisenberry was born in 1953 in Santa Monica, California and grew up in Costa Mesa. He married his college sweetheart, Janie, in 1976. Quisenberry joined the Royals in 1979 as an undrafted free agent following his collegiate reign at LaVerne College in California.

As one of the organization's best relief pitchers of all time, Quisenberry helped the Royals reach two World Series during his 13-year stint with the team. His talent for striking out his opponents helped him rack up such honors as five-time winner of Rolaid's Fireman of the Year, Royals' Pitcher of the Year, three-time member of the American League All Star team, and the five-time American League leader in saves.

Quisenberry played for the Royals until 1988 when he was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals. He played for the Cardinals one-and-a-half seasons and for the San Francisco Giants for one season.

While he made history and headlines for inking a contract worth more than \$45 million at the peak of his career, Quisenberry also went to great lengths to give back to the less fortunate. He and his



wife worked tirelessly to aid Harvesters Community Food Network in efforts to keep area food banks well stocked.

Sources

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