

## ***Hickey's Unlikely Story Isn't One to Forget***

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There have been more talented pitchers, for sure. But I've never known one to appreciate the major leagues more than Kevin Hickey, who passed away much too young this week.

Hickey grew up in Brighton Park, about six miles from Comiskey Park, but he didn't find himself and baseball until his late teens. For the heck of it, he took a break from 16-inch softball to attend a White Sox tryout. Darn if the kid didn't make the cut.

The 1983 White Sox had a bunch of good stories, and Hickey's may have been the best of all. As he joked to me that memorable season, a familiar smile on his face, "I better enjoy this before they find out who I really am."

I'll remember Hickey as a South Side boy who made good, an overachiever who lived each day as though it might be his last.