

## **Allen, 1972 White Sox to Be Honored at CBM Fundraiser**

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Forty years after Dick Allen and the 1972 Chicago White Sox breathed much-needed life into the franchise, the Chicago Baseball Museum will pay tribute to one of the most significant teams in local baseball history.

On Monday, June 25, the museum will host a fundraising dinner in honor of Allen and the rest of the '72 team at U.S. Cellular Field. The festivities will begin at 6 p.m. at the Stadium Club.

Information about tickets and sponsorship packages is available elsewhere on this site. The Chicago Baseball Museum and Jerome Holtzman Library and Research Center is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and any contributions are tax-deductible.

In conjunction with the White Sox, Allen also will throw out the ceremonial first pitch prior to the June 24 game against the Milwaukee Brewers. Throughout the season, the White Sox will wear red, pin-striped throwback uniforms in honor of the 1972 team at Sunday home games, and replicas of the popular jerseys will be distributed to the first 10,000 fans 13 and under at the 1:10 p.m. contest.

“It was the best time of my baseball career,” Allen said of his three seasons in a Chicago uniform. “I still remember my White Sox teammates and our fans well. I appreciate the efforts of the Chicago Baseball Museum and look forward to spend time with so many great people again.”

In addition to Allen, the 1972 American League Most Valuable Player, longtime White Sox executive Roland Hemond will be among the dignitaries in attendance.

“Whenever I speak with White Sox fans, it doesn't take long before one of them mentions the 1972 team,” said Hemond, who was selected Executive of the Year that season. “No one left a greater impression than Dick Allen with his clutch hits and long home runs. Along with Bill Melton, Wilbur Wood, manager Chuck Tanner and others, he turned many people into White Sox fans forever.”

After his retirement as a player in 1977, Allen had been a reluctant hero. His last public appearance locally took place at SoxFest prior to the 2000 season.

In the last three years, Dr. David Fletcher urged Allen to step forward and be recognized for his many contributions to the franchise and the city. Earlier this year, the seven-time All-Star agreed to be part of the tribute to one of the most important Chicago teams in modern history.

“Needless to say, our time and energy proved to be well worth it,” said Fletcher, museum founder and president. “The Chicago Baseball Museum has been adamant that the 1972 White Sox team receive its due before long. As much as any one person, Dick Allen was responsible for a turnaround at a crucial point in franchise history. This promises to be one of the must-see baseball events of the year, and it wouldn't have been complete without him.”

In 1970, the White Sox finished last in victories and home attendance in the major leagues. The steep decline prompted talk of a franchise relocation in the near future.

Shortly after Allen was acquired in a trade in December, 1971, however, the team became a division contender.

The South Siders took some baby steps under Tanner one year later, but it wasn't until Allen was acquired after the 1971 campaign that they soon became a contender.

The strike-shortened 1972 season saw the White Sox finish second behind the powerful Oakland Athletics in the West Division race with an 87-67 record, which also ranked second among A.L. clubs. They attracted almost 1.2-million fans at White Sox Park, more than twice their total of two years earlier.