Santo Induction Is Bittersweet Moment

By Dr. David Fletcher
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COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. -- Ron Santo wasn't around to enjoy the greatest achievement of his career, and that sad reality hit home on an otherwise bright Sunday afternoon.

Santo was inducted into the Hall of Fame along with Cincinnati Reds shortstop Barry Larkin at Clark Sports Center, but after they had waited so long for the big moment to arrive, the Cubs faithful didn't respond in the expected numbers.

By my count, only about one-fourth of the crowd was dressed in Cubbie blue, a far cry from the Ryne Sandburg induction seven years earlier.

Famous Cubs celebrities such as Jim Belushi, John Cusack, Jeff Garlin and Bill Murray were nowhere to be seen. There wasn't even a Ronnie "Woo-Woo" Wickers sighting.

The highlight of the weekend turned out to be at a Cubs-sponsored celebration on Saturday afternoon, when the atmosphere was decidedly more upbeat.

Maybe this shouldn't have come as a surprise, though. When the life of the party isn't in attendance, it can't possibly as much fun.