



Don Kessinger

The name of Don Kessinger conjures up images of a thin, slick shortstop ranging from left to right and never missing a ball. Don was the shortstop for the Chicago Cubs from 1964 to 1975. The following year and a half he played for the St. Louis Cardinals and then ended his career back in Chicago with the White Sox for 2 and a half seasons. His last season, 1979, he was actually the player/manager of the White Sox.

During his career, Don received a number of honours. He played in 6 All-Star games, won two Gold Glove Awards and he led the National League in putouts in 3 seasons, in assists 4 seasons, in double plays 4 seasons and in fielding average once. And in 1969, he set the record for that time by playing 54 consecutive errorless games at shortstop. He even went 6 for 6 at bat in a game in 1971, the last Cub ever to do so.

But Don's off the field awards are even more impressive than what he accomplished on the diamond. He was the winner of the inaugural Danny Thompson Memorial Award for Christian spirit in Major League Baseball, was awarded the Ken Hubbs Award for exemplary conduct on and off the field, and the Lou Gehrig Award for service on and off the field. Many other local, regional and state honours have also been awarded to Don.

Don wasn't just a great baseball player. He was actually a two-sport All-American at Ole Miss in baseball and basketball. After his retirement from baseball, Don returned to Ole Miss in a number of capacities in their athletic program and led many of their teams to championships. Before retiring from Ole Miss recently, Don served as Associate Athletic Director for Internal Affairs.

Obviously, Don's great experiences have made him a highly sought after speaker. He talks with groups about baseball fundamentals and has headed many clinics and conventions on the subject. He also has given many motivational speeches to employees of some major companies and charitable organizations across North America.

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