



# Kent Biggerstaff ATC, LAT

**EDUCATION:** Southern Illinois University (BS), 1969

**CAREER:** Athletic trainer, New York Mets, 1967-77; athletic trainer, Milwaukee Brewers, 1978-80; athletic trainer, Pittsburgh Pirates, 1981-2002; director of Competition & Venues, National Senior Olympic Games, 2005; conditioning coordinator, PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions, 2006-18; ATC spotter, NFL, 2011-18; U.S. Army Medic, 1969-72

**VOLUNTEER SERVICE:** PBATS president, 1993-99; PBATS Executive Board, 1989-2001; NATA Advisory Review Board; District Two NATA Political Action Committee representative; District Two ATSA Committee representative, 2016-18; ATSA Committee chair, 2018

## Why did you pursue athletic training as your career?

My love for sports continued to grow even though my ability didn't. I thought athletic training would be a great way to continue my relationship with sports. I wanted to make

baseball career is one of those moments. I was able to serve PBATS, and as its president, I definitely feel I made a difference. Being inducted into the PBATS Hall of Fame was the culmination and high point of my baseball career. Seeing eight of my minor league athletic

trainers for the Pittsburgh Pirates, was instrumental in me getting to the major leagues and taught me so much about orthopedics and dedication to the job and family. Jeff Cooper and Gene Geiselmann saw leadership qualities in me that I wasn't aware of and pushed me to become involved in PBATS. Tony Bartirome, athletic trainer of the Pirates, taught me how to be a major league AT.

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a difference and help keep athletes on the field as well as do what I could to leave the profession better than I found it.

## What inspires you to volunteer and what do you get out of it?

All of my mentors stressed to me the importance of giving back, and volunteering is a great way to do so. Great satisfaction comes from giving and knowing that you are helping to make the profession better.

## What is your most memorable moment?

It is very hard to pick just one memorable moment out of 52 years. My entire professional

career move to the major leagues was extremely satisfying as hopefully I made a difference for them. Also, being selected as an ATC spotter by the NFL and working with the PGA Tour and PGA Tour Champions has allowed me to work in three professional sports.

## Who are your biggest mentors and what impact have they had on you?

Robert "Doc" Spackman, head athletic trainer at Southern Illinois University, gave me my start and also got me my first professional job at the ripe old age of 19. He stressed to me the importance of attention to detail and never stop learning. Dr. Jack Failla, team orthopedist

## What is the most valuable advice you have received during your career?

Never stop learning, think outside the box and be proactive rather than reactive. Build character – credentials get you in the door but character keeps you there. When you think you know it all, hang up your scissors!

## What advice would you give to young athletic trainers just starting out in the profession?

Never stop learning. Volunteer as much as possible. Strive to leave the profession in better shape than you found it. Don't underestimate the value of character as your credentials add value to you, but your character adds value to many.

## What is your hope for the future of the athletic training profession?

I would hope that our profession continues to grow and we see ATs at all high schools as well as continuing to expand in the emerging settings.