



The Escondido History Center

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Jack Raymond



2020 ESCONDIDO LEGENDS APPLICATION

GAVY CRAVATH AWARD PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER

Explanation of award: The honorarium will be given to a senior student attending a high school in Escondido who has participated in a variety of school activities and has demonstrated leadership throughout his or her high school years. Volunteerism in the community is also highly important.

Additional consideration will be given for active involvement in varsity baseball or softball, and/or an interest in sports management or coaching. Commitment to attend the Honorarium presentation, when arranged, is required.

Applications are available at www.escondidohistory.org (click on Legends button on front page of website) or from your high school counselor.

Please complete: The Escondido Legends application information below and submit your typed responses to the Escondido History Center along with a copy of your current high school transcript no later than 4 P.M., on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Please include your full name on all pages and deliver finished application:

- In person to the Escondido History Center, 321 N. Broadway or by U.S. mail, P.O. Box 263, Escondido, CA 92033 OR
- As an email PDF attachment to fox@escondidohistory.org .

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. YOUR NAME
2. YOUR HIGH SCHOOL WHICH YOU ATTEND
3. SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT
4. TELL US ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED
5. TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE INVOLVING VARSITY BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL. DESCRIBE YOUR INTEREST IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT OR COACHING
6. DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY WORK AND SERVICE
7. TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE
8. DESCRIBE YOUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
9. SUBMIT WITH YOUR PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE, AND INCLUDE THE NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR.

Clifford “Gavvy” Cravath

Over the years, Escondido high schools have produced numerous outstanding baseball players. The Escondido History Center is proud to honor the first, Clifford C. Cravath, as a 2020 ESCONDIDO FOUNDING LEGEND. Clifford Cravath was born in Escondido in March, 1881. His father, Augustus (A.K.) Cravath, was the first mayor of Escondido, and his mother, Kate Isabella Sikes, was raised in the Sikes family adobe home. Clifford attended Escondido High School, where he was the catcher on the baseball team but, was better remembered as a “bruising fullback” and the captain of the football team.

After graduating from Escondido High School in 1899, Cravath moved to Orange County and tried numerous occupations until entering professional baseball in 1903 with the Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League. While playing in California, he picked up the name “Gavvy”, hitting the ball so hard he killed a seagull (“gaviota” in Spanish) in flight. During his five years playing for the Angels, he led the team to two pennants while developing his hitting skills. In 1907, after reaching a batting average of .303 and hitting 10 home runs, he was sold to the Boston Red Sox. In 1909, he was traded to the Chicago White Sox and later to the Washington Senators. Not able to be successful the first six games with the Senators, he was sent to the minor league, Minneapolis Millers, where he excelled.

In 1912, the 31-year-old Gavvy received his second chance in the Majors with the Philadelphia Phillies and batted .284 with 11 home runs. Gavvy’s greatest year was 1913 when he led the majors with 19 home runs, 128 runs batted in, and a .341 batting average. In 1915, he hit 24 home runs, more total home runs than 12 of the 15 major league teams. In 1919, with the Phillies in last place, at the age of 38, the still successful Gavvy was named player-manager and hit 12 home runs in just 214 at-bats. In 1919 Babe Ruth set the new record with 29 homeruns and, in 1921 broke Gavvy’s career home run mark of 119.

After retiring from major league baseball in 1920, Gavvy managed teams in the minor leagues and also served as a scout. He settled in Laguna Beach, where he lived in the off-season, and became active in the real estate business. In 1927, he ran and won a judge seat in Laguna Beach and spent the next 31 years on the bench. In 1963 the Honorable Clifford C. Cravath passed away. Few remembered his prior life, winning more than five major league home run titles and setting slugging records that were eventually broken by the mighty Babe Ruth.

Gavvy was an Escondido High School football and baseball star, the first, and one of the best, major league baseball players from San Diego County. Now Gavvy is a 2020 ESCONDIDO FOUNDING LEGEND.