

REMARKS OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE
ART GRIGGS "TOP KANSAN" AWARD BANQUET
CITY AUDITORIUM
TOPEKA, KANSAS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1969

BASEBALL IN KANSAS

KANSAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT SPORTS STATE. OUR HIGH SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE PRODUCED MANY FINE ATHLETES. ATHLETICS RECEIVE ENTHUSIASTIC COMMUNITY SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND NOWHERE IS IT BETTER EXEMPLIFIED THAN IN BASEBALL. NO TOWN IS TOO SMALL TO HAVE AN ACTIVE LOCAL BASEBALL PROGRAM, USUALLY A MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, OR AN AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAM. THESE PROGRAMS ARE IMMENSELY POPULAR WITH THEIR SPONSORS, PARTICIPANTS AND EVERYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM.

BASEBALL IS TRULY A PART OF AMERICA, AND IT IS PART OF KANSAS. WE HEAR TALK SOMETIMES THAT BASEBALL IS DYING OUT AS OUR NATIONAL PASTIME, BUT AS LONG AS THERE ARE BOYS WHO CAN SHAG A FLY BALL IN A VACANT LOT OR A PASTURE, BASEBALL WILL BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF GROWING UP AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.

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THE ART GRIGGS AWARD

WE MEET TONIGHT TO HONOR TWO MEN, BOTH OF WHOM REFLECT THE BEST IN KANSAS TALENT AND SPORTSMANSHIP. ART GRIGGS WAS AN ALL-AROUND BASEBALL MAN. HE COMPETED IN THE MAJOR LEAGUES FOR EIGHT SEASONS AND THEN HAD A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE MINORS AS A PLAYER, MANAGER, AND OWNER.

LAST YEAR THE ART GRIGGS AWARD WAS ORIGINATED TO HONOR THE OUTSTANDING KANSAN IN MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL. THE RECIPIENT WAS WICHITA'S JOE HORLAN, A PITCHER FOR THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX. THE SOX MUST SCOUT KANSAS CLOSELY BECAUSE THIS YEAR'S TOP KANSAN IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THEIR ORGANIZATION, CENTERFIELDER, KEN BERRY.

KEN GRADUATED FROM WASHBURN RURAL HERE IN TOPEKA, ATTENDED WICHITA UNIVERSITY AND WASHBURN AND WAS SIGNED BY THE WHITE SOX ORGANIZATION IN 1961. HE BECAME A REGULAR ON THE WHITE SOX TEAM IN 1965 AND AS A ROOKIE LED THE AMERICAN LEAGUE IN PUTOUTS. KEN IS ONE OF THE FINEST FIELDERS IN BASEBALL TODAY, AND THOSE OF YOU

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WHO HAVE SEEN HIM PLAY KNOW VERY WELL HOW HE CAME BY HIS NICKNAME "THE BANDIT". HIS STYLE OF PLAY HAS BEEN COMPARED TO THAT OF TOMMY AGEE, A FORMER TEAMMATE. UNBELIEVABLE CATCHES ARE KEN'S TRADEMARK AND HE MAKES THEM WITHOUT ERRORS. THIS PAST SEASON HE LED AMERICAN LEAGUE OUTFIELDERS WITH A PERFECT, ERROR-FREE FIELDING AVERAGE OF 1.000.

KEN IS A GREAT YOUNG BALLPLAYER AND A FINE REPRESENTATIVE FOR KANSAS. I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT THE 1969 ART GRIGGS TOP KANSAN AWARD TO "THE BANDIT", KEN BERRY OF THE WHITE SOX.