

## Featured Alum: Terry Kassien, Class of 1979

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**Years Attended:** 1978-79

**Area of Study:** Athlete

**Email:** tkassien@hotmail.com



Baseball Team, 1978 National Runner Up, 1979 National 3rd Place

*From Alumni Outreach Director*

*Barbara Claybaugh:* I had the pleasure to meet with Terry on my last visit to California in May, and we shared stories from the “good ole days” and looked at the many pictures he has from the glory days of that winning baseball team. His teammates will be hearing from him as he hopes to bring them all together for a mini reunion the weekend of October 3-5th as part of the 40th Anniversary Celebration. He has written the

following to share with his many YC friends. Enjoy!

Terry says: “Thirty (30!) years have flown by since my freshman year at Yavapai College. I came to YC on a baseball scholarship and had never been to Prescott before. It was quite a change from the beaches of Southern California where I grew up but the YC coach (Rod Soesbe) convinced me that Prescott was the place for me. After all these years how right he was.

Our team was composed of players from all over the United States. We came because of the solid baseball reputation and a great town. Most of us had never been away from home and with Prescott being a sleepy little small town we had lots of time to bond and became a very close team. Our 1978 team won the Conference, State, and

District Championships. We moved on the Grand Junction Co. for the Nationals. YC had just won the National title the year before and everyone in Grand Junction knew about YC and Prescott. We played an unbelievable tournament but lost in the National Championship game to Ranger College. We finished #2 in the Country!

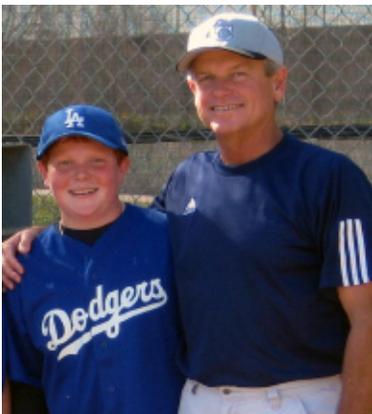
My favorite memory of that year has to be the reception the College and City gave us upon our return to Prescott. Our team was pretty down having lost such a meaningful game but to our surprise our team bus was met by a Police escort and drove us through town to a surprise reception at the College! Town's people, fans, students, faculty, etc met us. What a turn out! I think the Mayor was even there.

The next year was 1979 and again we had a VERY strong team. We won the Conference, State, and District titles. Again, off to Grand Junction. We played great again but finished 3rd in the National Tournament.

Having spent 2 years at YC I look back very fondly of those years. I met many great people and made a lot of friends. The school was very supportive of the athletes and the town really rallied around us. Most of our home games were played in front of large crowds and came out even on the worst weather days. The students always were loud and rowdy. Visiting teams did NOT like coming to Prescott to play YC.

After 30 years of memories I still hold YC and Prescott close to my heart. I look forward to seeing you in October. Go Roughriders!!"

### **Alum Update: Terry Kassien, Baseball Team, 1978-79**



Speaking to Alum Director Barbara Claybaugh:  
"Nice talking today as always. Yes, the **1978 Yavapai College Roughriders** are getting together again to compete in the **Over 50 Year Old Baseball World Series** in *Phoenix Oct 19th - 24th*. We play 9 games in 6 days!! Yikes!!!! But the Old Guys from Prescott are working out and getting ready. We hope to compete but win or lose it's going to be a blast.

We have 15 guys from the '78 team confirmed right now. Possibly 1 or 2 more might join the fun. I am missing the following players' information so if you have it I'd sure like to contact them. I'm missing the following players:

- Dave Witty
- John Olague- I believe he still lives in Prescott. He graduated from Prescott High School in 1976.
- Tim Ballard
- Omar Rodriguez
- Ken Solow
- Mike Ott

I plan to stop in Prescott with my 13 year old son sometime in the next 2 weeks. I'll give you a call once I firm up my plans."

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### **Alum Update: Terry Kassien, Class of 1979**

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Terry Kassien was the featured Alum for [August 2008](#).



**'78 Roughrider Baseball, left to right:** John Lee, Peter Otero, David Nenad, George Gohde, Scott Paterson, George Chadwick, Steve Lawrence,

Terry Kassien, Kevin Janssen, Dave Heckerl, Ray Etchebarron, Jay Irons. Not pictured: Bart Day.

*Former Yavapai College baseball players created "the '78 Roughriders" to play in the 50-over World Series in Phoenix last week October 19 to the 24th. The squad was made up of members who finished second in the nation in 1978 and third the next season for YC.*

Terry Kassien sent an email that humorously read; "Like I said, 'this seemed like a good idea at the time'. We won our first game against team New Era at the Phoenix Municipal Stadium, then lost our next 5. We lost our first and only playoff game on Friday. We finished 1 win and 6 losses. Ouch. But, we had a BALL!!!!!"

"We did not know how serious these teams are and how much they train, workout, and play. They travel and play year round. We had not played individually or as a team in 30 years so little did we know there was not too much of a chance at victories."

"We are all very tired and sore. 7 games in 5 days including 2 double headers. Some games were played in over 100 degree heat so I think we'll need a lot of rest."

"I'll pass along more details and some photos soon. I'll be in touch!!!"