

How Tom Seaver Struck Out Willie McCovey 11.10.18

The baseball world lost a great ambassador with [the passing of Willie McCovey on October 31](#). Known as 'Stretch', the water landing over the right field wall at SF Giants park honors him, '[McCovey Cove](#).'

One of McCovey's biggest competitors was [Tom Seaver](#), a 311-game winner and 1992 hall of fame inductee. When reflecting on McCovey's passing, [Seaver told a story](#) about "the most satisfying moment of his career:

Madden: Remembering Willie McCovey and the time Tom Seaver figured out how to strike out the man known as 'Stretch'

By BILL MADDEN
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The background:

In 1969, McCovey beat out Tom Seaver for the NL MVP award, but years later Seaver regaled in telling people how the most satisfying moment of his career was the sweet revenge he got striking out McCovey with the bases loaded and two outs in a game – on a changeup.

As Seaver recounts the game situation:

"It's what I called my WCS – worst case scenario – I got McCovey up there, two outs, bases loaded and I say to myself, 'Okay Big Boy, let's see how good you are. You can't walk him, and he and everyone else is expecting you're gonna throw him a fastball because you're f-ing Tom Seaver!' I'm looking over at first base, even though everyone knows the runner isn't going anywhere and I'm refusing to look at McCovey because I wanted him to get over-anxious. And then I threw him this little bird seed and down he went!"

Afterward, McCovey yelled: "You can't throw that pitch! You don't have a changeup!" to which Seaver hollered back: "I do now!"

How much did that moment mean to Seaver?

Every year on induction weekend at Cooperstown, Seaver never let McCovey forget, always greeting him with: "How's that changeup, Stretch?"



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Why tell this story?

Because even the hardest throwers of their generation (Reggie Jackson once said "I would show up at the park just to hear Tom Seaver pitch") know the value of changing speeds and how it can get the best hitters out.

Learn the changeup!

I have plenty of information on my website [about the changeup that you can read about here](#).

Have A Question About This Newsletter?

Contact (PitchingDoc@msn.com / 631-3452-7654) Dr. Arnold!