

# Nothing Gets By

The late President Gerald Ford loved the Vail Valley in Colorado, and after his presidency, he bought a home in Beaver Creek. Subsequently, in 1977, he established the Jerry Ford Invitational Golf Tournament, which became like a family reunion of friendships he had developed across the years with politicians, entertainment figures and sports personalities.

Forrest and Kathleen Preston invited Lola and me to attend about three of those events with them. Across the years, the guests included such dignitaries as Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, the Statler Brothers, the Gatlin Brothers, Telly Savales, Tip O'Neill, Yogi Berra, Julius "Dr. J" Erving and Johnny Bench.



Lola Hunter, former Director of Life Care Design  
Jo Ann Gill and Kathleen Preston  
with All-Star catcher Johnny Bench

Out of the many photographs of those tournaments, the picture Kathleen and Lola seem to like the best is the one with them posing with Bench. His demeanor on those days, while being asked by fans for autographs and picture opportunities, was kind, considerate and gentlemanly in every way.

Bench, of course, had much individual success as a catcher for the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, including Most Valuable Player awards and World Series victories. Beyond those honors, he

remains proud even today of the many times he helped other players, especially the pitchers he worked with. One of them, Tom Hume, began his Cincinnati career with a decent assortment of pitches, but nothing stood out.

One day, however, Hume threw Bench a pitch the catcher had never seen from him. Bench immediately called time out and went out to the mound. He made Hume show him how the pitch was held, and then told Hume to remember it and keep throwing it that way. Hume did, and raised the level of his career high enough that he made the All-Star team in 1982.

It's a given that a catcher should let nothing the pitcher throws get by him, but this principle is applicable in terms of overall awareness as well. He's got to catch and perpetuate the good stuff as well as the errors.

The same is true of leaders in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home.

– Beecher Hunter