

Raymond “Buddy” Barker

Buddy was a member of the Martinsburg High School Class of 1954. While at Martinsburg High School he played basketball, baseball and ran track. He signed a professional contract with the Baltimore organization and played on minor league teams for ten years – 7 of them on AAA teams at a time when there were only 8 teams in each league. Buddy led the league in RBI's in 1957 with 97. Life magazine featured him in 1958 as the best in minor league baseball with the likes of Brooks Robinson, Ron Hansen and Marc Braeden. In 1964 Baltimore traded him to the Cleveland organization who in '65 traded him to the New York Yankees, where he played for 3 years before retiring after the 1967 season. He was the Yankees utility player and punch hitter tying a record for back to back punch hit homeruns. Buddy is the only native born West Virginian to play for the New York Yankees organization.