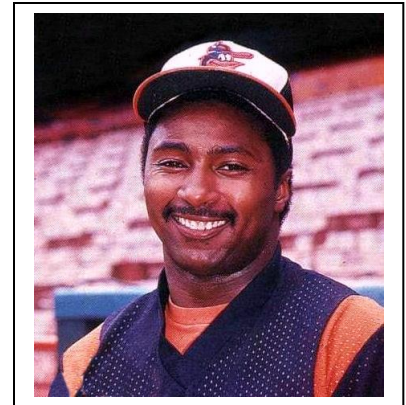


## KEN DIXON

In the world of sports, terms such as “natural” and “all-around athlete” are easily used, and sometimes even “best athlete anybody has ever seen.” Such is surely the case when one speaks of Ken Dixon, ACHS graduate in the class of 1980. Not only could he compete at a high level, but he also succeeded in leading his teams to championships, while collecting an impressive array of personal awards.

Dixon dominated essentially any game in which he participated. His high school football coach described him as one who was a scoring threat at any time, from anywhere on the field. In three years, he amassed more than 5000 yards on offense and scored 60 touchdowns.



Surrounded by other talented players, Dixon led the basketball team to a cumulative 65-4 record and one regional final. Basketball honors include his being named to the All-State team.

Baseball was a sport in which he showcased the talents that ultimately led to a professional career with the Baltimore Orioles. He featured a 90 mile-per-hour fastball, impressing major league scouts and leading to his being a third-round draft pick after high school. His over-all record at ACHS was 38-6 as a starting pitcher.

Dixon’s combination of motivation, strength, speed, agility, competitiveness, and overall athletic talent put him at a level where he could have been a Division I college athlete in any of three sports. Instead, Dixon chose to spend most of the decade of the 1980s in professional baseball.

Following his playing days, he was pitching coach for one season with the Newburgh (NY) “Nighthawks” in an independent league. Since that time, he has used his talents to join with other former major leaguers to form the Diamond Dreams Foundation, a growing organization that provides community support through sports and other mentoring endeavors. It features an annual “Play With a Pro” golf tournament in the Washington area, with proceeds benefiting underprivileged youth in the community.

Kenneth John Dixon – October 17, 1960

### Career Highlights

- ACHS: All-State, football (2 years), basketball, baseball; Seminole District Player of the Year, football; basketball, regional final; baseball, 2 consecutive state championships; 38-6 pitching record; Seminole District Player of the Year, baseball
- Minor Leagues: drafted 3<sup>rd</sup> round by Orioles; Southern League, Charlotte, Pitcher of the Year, 1984; league records, innings pitched (240), complete games (20), strikeouts (220); added to starting rotation with Baltimore Orioles for the last month of the season, 1984 (280 innings pitched that season, total – more than any other Oriole)
- Baltimore Orioles: 1985, member of starting rotation, 8-4, 3.62 ERA, 8<sup>th</sup> in AL, 162 innings, 110 strikeouts; named Orioles Rookie Pitcher of the Year; 3<sup>rd</sup> in AL Rookie Pitcher of the Year
- Baltimore Orioles: 1986, fulltime starting pitcher, 33 games, 11-13 record, 202 innings, 182 hits allowed, 172 strikeouts (personal best)
- 4-year Major League career with the Baltimore Orioles: 105 appearances, 26 wins, 4.60 ERA, almost 500 total innings and 400 strikeouts