

Bill Seinoth had it all: looks, personality, and loads of charisma. He also was good at baseball-- very good. One of the top prep players in the country and a College World Series MVP for the USC Trojans, Seinoth was so good that the Los Angeles Dodgers selected him in the first round of baseball's 1969 major-league draft and were counting on him to be the team's first baseman long into the future. As former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda said, "He was good. He had power, he could do everything." Unfortunately, the likable, hardscrabble slugger lived life under a cloud, and it often rained down calamity. In his short life Seinoth was driven from Little League and Babe Ruth League by those who believed he was too good, fell from a bleacher, was slashed twice by menacing assailants, suffered a horrendous beaming at the hands of an Oregon State pitcher and, finally, lost his life in an explicable accident while driving home following his first season in the Dodgers organization. This is the story of the darling of college baseball and 1968 NCAA champion USC, a can't-miss major league prospect who only came up short once: while driving along the nation's most dangerous stretch of highway through the lonely, sun-baked California desert. In "Seinoth -- The Rough-and-Tumble Life of a Dodger," revisit the glory years of USC baseball and the life well lived of a can't-miss Los Angeles Dodgers star whose journey toward greatness fell tragically short.