

Former Kansas City A’s pitcher and MLB ERA champion dies at age of 87

BY PETE GRATHOFF
pgrathoff@kcstar.com

Right-hander Diego Segui, who pitched five seasons with the Kansas City Athletics in the 1960s, died Wednesday at the age of 87.

Segui, whose passing was announced by the Mariners, appeared in the first game in Seattle Pilots franchise history in 1969 and also spent time with the Mariners, Cardinals, Red Sox, Washington Senators and Oakland A’s.

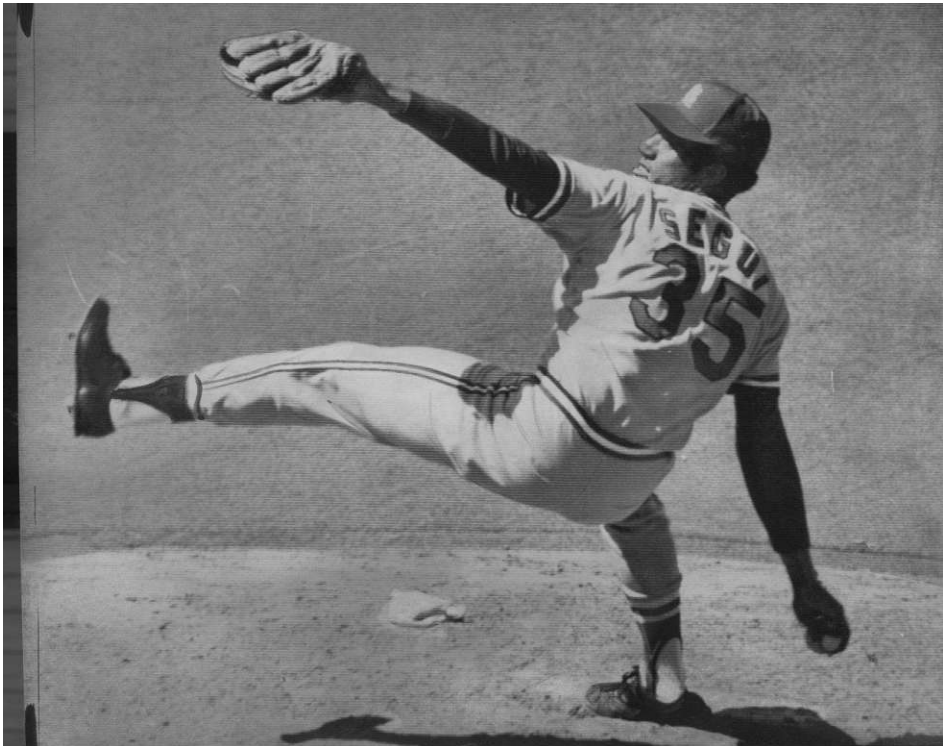
“Our thoughts are with the Segui family, including David, Diego’s son, who the Mariners know well from his time with us in 1998 and 1999,” Mariners president of business operations Kevin Martinez said in a statement. “Diego was always generous with his time, visiting us in Seattle to help us celebrate milestones, including his last trip here for Hispanic Heritage Day in 2012.

“I also have fond memories of Diego’s grandson Cory throwing the final pitch in Kingdome history, a fitting finale for the Kingdome after Diego’s historic first pitch.”

Segui was the starting pitcher in the first game Mariners history in 1977.

STARTING WITH KANSAS CITY

Segui was born on Aug. 17, 1937, in Holguín, Cuba, and he signed with the



Former Kansas City Athletics pitcher Diego Segui with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1972.

Cincinnati Reds in 1958, according to a biography on the SABR website. That story noted Segui was released in April and pitched in the Arizona-Mexico League before being sold to the Kansas City Athletics in September.

“The next three seasons Segui pitched in the Athletics farm system and spent the offseason with teams around Central America and Venezuela, prompting concern that he would squander his pitching arm on meaningless games,

instead of saving it for the major leagues,” Joanne Hulbert wrote.

But Segui used those games to stay in shape and he joined the Athletics in 1962 as a relief pitcher. Segui opened his MLB career with scoreless outings in his first five games and nine of his first 10.

Segui collected four saves and two wins in that span.

“I like much work,” Segui told the Kansas City Times’ Paul O’Boynick after allowing one hit in three innings in an A’s win

over the Tigers on May 3. “My control (is) better when I work more. My arm feels good. I pitch much in the winter league.”

After defeating the Tigers on that May night, A’s pitching coach Eddie Lopat said Segui would get the day off. Segui’s response was an insight into his pitching philosophy.

“You call me,” Segui told Lopat, “I pitch.”

Segui ended up making 13 starts for the Athletics in 1962, and mostly was used in the rotation over the next three seasons. He led

the league in losses (17) in 1964.

After being sold to the Washington Senators ahead of the 1966 season, Segui returned to the Athletics in 1967. The franchise moved to Oakland the following year, and Segui was selected by the Pilots in the MLB expansion draft following the 1968 season.

The Pilots stayed in Seattle for just one season before moving to Milwaukee and rebranding as the Brewers. Milwaukee traded Segui back to the A’s and he led the league with a 2.56 ERA in 1970 after making 47 appearances for Oakland, including 19 starts.

Segui pitched in the 1971 American League Championship Series with the A’s and later appeared in the 1975 World Series with Boston.

During his 15 MLB seasons, Segui had a 3.81 ERA in 639 appearances, including 171 starts. He had a 92-111 record and 71 saves.

In an interview with the Longview Daily News in 1969, Segui explained his mentality as a relief pitcher.

“If you scared,” Segui said, “you whipped before you get there.”

MULTIPLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After leaving baseball, Segui lived for a while in Kansas City, Kansas, with his wife, Emily, and four children: Diego Jr., David, Daniel and Diana. He was living in Washington at the time of his death.

David Segui was born in KCK and was on the Kansas City Kansas Communi-

ty College baseball team before playing 15 MLB seasons.

The Mariners noted that Diego Segui is a member of the Venezuelan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the Hispanic Heritage Baseball Museum Hall of Fame. He was honored last year by the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum with a lifetime achievement award.

“Heartbroken about the news of the passing of my dear friend, and former MLB pitcher, Diego Segui,” NLBM president Bob Kendrick wrote on X. “He was 87. We honored Diego last November with our Negro Leagues Beisbol Lifetime Achievement Award. Sending thoughts and prayers to the Segui family.”

The SABR biography said that while Segui pitched right-handed, he wrote and ate as a lefty. He could throw left-handed, too.

“Not too well, though,” Segui told Hy Zimmerman in the Seattle Daily Times in 1969, per SABR. “Been throwing other way too long. I was changed when I was (a) little boy in Cuba. It was so long ago, I do not remember who or why. But I changed. Maybe they needed a right-hander. I grew up on (a) farm. Not many kids in the neighborhood. We played baseball in fields with small teams. Maybe five, six boys on a side. I was (a) good hitter. I thought I would get to baseball that way. But I throw hard. So they make me a pitcher.”

Pete Grathoff:
816-234-4330, @pgrathoff

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Legals

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Harmoni Towers, LLC is proposing to construct a new monopole style telecommunications tower approximately 0.13 miles north-northeast of W. Grand Ave. and S. Meridian St., also known as 200 W. Grand Ave., Haysville, KS 67060, 37° 33' 56.6" N, 97° 22' 0" W. The height of the tower will be 45.7 meters above ground level (150" above mean sea level) and 48.8 meters above ground level including appurtenances (160 feet above mean seal level with appurtenances). The tower will not require FAA lighting. Specific information regarding the project is available by calling T-Squared Site Services at 724-308-7855 during normal business hours. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering Annexa Registration (Form 854) file no. A136326 and may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the Federal Communications Commission, 47 CFR § 1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Request for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website and may only raise environmental concerns. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Request for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmental-request. If the filer is unable to submit electronically, or if filing electronically would be unreasonably burdensome, the request may be submitted by mail to FCC Request for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 with a request for waiver under 47 CFR § 1.1304(b). A copy of the Request should be provided to T-Squared Site Services, Attn: Todd Marimpieri at 2501 Shenango Valley Freeway, Suite 3, Hermitage, PA 16148. IJL0248759 Jun 27,29 2025

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