

# Hall of Famer Anderson dies at 76

By JOE KAY

Reds fans were taken aback when Sparky Anderson showed up in Cincinnati for his first day as a big league manager, an unknown taking over baseball's first professional team.

Sparky who? Really?

By the time he was done, this man with the shock of white hair and schoolboy nickname would produce a considerable list of achievements that featured three World Series titles — including crowns in each league — and a Hall of Fame entry on his resume.

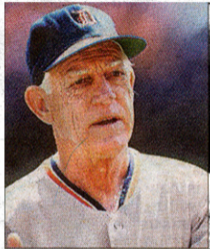
Anderson, who directed the Big Red Machine to back-to-back championships and won another in Detroit, died yesterday from compli-

cations of dementia in Thousand Oaks, Calif. He was 76. A day earlier, his family said he'd been placed in hospice care.

Anderson was the first manager to win World Series titles in both leagues and the only manager to lead two franchises in career wins.

"Sparky was, by far, the best manager I ever played for," said former Reds star Pete Rose, the game's career hits leader. "He understood people better than anyone I ever met. His players loved him, he loved his players, and he loved the game of baseball. There isn't another person in baseball like Sparky Anderson. He gave his whole life to the game."

Anderson's teams in Cincinnati — featuring Johnny



**SPARKY ANDERSON**

Bench, Joe Morgan and Rose — won crowns in 1975 and 1976 and rank among the most powerful of all time.

In 1984, Anderson won with a Tigers team led by Kirk Gibson and Alan Trammell.

"He was a good guy," for-

mer Tigers pitcher Jack Morris said, choking up over the news. "Baseball will have very few people like Sparky. He was a unique individual. He was a character with a great passion and love for the game."

Anderson never tried to overshadow his teams, giving his stars great leeway while trying to stay in the background. At Anderson's request, there will be no funeral or memorial service.

Always affable, ever talkative and known for a self-deprecating demeanor, Anderson was equally popular among players, fans and media.

"Revered and treasured by his players for his humility, humanity, eternal optimism and knowledge of the game,"

his Hall of Fame plaque reads.

The Reds put a photo of Anderson on their outfield videoboard at Great American Ball Park yesterday afternoon, honoring the man who led them to their greatest moments.

Anderson's win total of 2,194 was the third highest when he retired after the 1995 season, trailing only Connie Mack and John McGraw. He's still sixth on the career list, behind Mack, McGraw, Tony La Russa, Bobby Cox and Joe Torre, and was a two-time AL Manager of the Year.

Survivors include his wife, Carol; sons Lee and Albert; daughter Shirley Englebrecht; and nine grandchildren. — AP