



On his high school junior varsity baseball team **Jim Bouton** nickname was "Warm Up Bouton" because all he ever did was warm up, he never got into the games. The goal of becoming a major league pitcher was "unrealistic" so he did his Career Week essay on becoming a forest ranger.

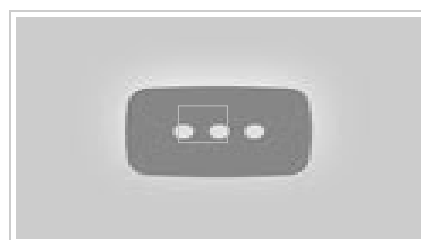
People are still having trouble predicting what Jim Bouton might do next. In 1963 he won 21 games for the New York Yankees and made the all-star team. In 1964 he won 18 games and beat the Cardinals twice in the World Series. In 1969 he wrote *Ball Four*, the funny, controversial, all-time bestseller that revealed baseball players as human beings. *Ball Four* was recently selected by the New York Public Library as one of the "Books of the Century." The latest update, titled *Ball Four: The Final Pitch*, is now entertaining a new generation. In 1970 Bouton retired from baseball and became a television sportscaster in New York where he helped WABC-TV and then WCBS-TV climb to 1st place in the ratings. During the 70's he wrote a sequel to *Ball Four* entitled *I'm Glad You Didn't Take It Personally*, earned good reviews in a Robert Altman movie, *The Long Goodbye*, and created, wrote and acted in a CBS network TV sitcom based on his book.

In 1978 Bouton made a comeback to baseball with the Atlanta Braves. Gambling his television career for a dream, Bouton rode hot buses and ate cold hamburgers for two years in the minor leagues before he was called up by the Atlanta Braves. When the 39 year old knuckleballer beat the San Francisco Giants 4-1, it was his first major league win in eight years. During his comeback Bouton helped create *Big League Chew*, shredded bubble gum in a pouch, so ballplayers could look right without getting sick. *Big League Ch...*



Jim Bouton

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