

# Kingman living a `quiet' life

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Before Sammy Sosa and Andre Dawson, the Cubs' most prolific home run hitter in the post-World War II era was Dave Kingman. The slugging left fielder, known as "King Kong" because of his many monstrous homers, belted 48 in 1979.

Kingman grew up in Mt. Prospect. Last weekend he made his first appearance at the Cubs Convention.

"I'm just staying out in Lake Tahoe with the family," Kingman said. "I'm enjoying life and staying close to home. It's a little bit different living in the mountains. It's a little more quiet and laid-back. I have three kids at home so I'm chasing after them and doing a lot of coaching out there."

Kingman was not exactly laid-back when he played for the Cubs (1978-80). He was a reluctant center of attention, often surly with reporters. He once poured a bucket of ice water over the head of a newspaper reporter in the clubhouse. When he played for Oakland, Kingman sent a box with a dead rat enclosed to a female reporter in the Bay Area.

Kingman seems to be making more of an effort to be cooperative these days.

"I have a lot of fond memories here in Chicago," Kingman said. "Of course I spent six years in New York and four years in San Francisco."

Kingman is astounded that Roger Maris' 37-year-old record of 61 homers was smashed by Mark McGwire (70) in 1998 and Barry Bonds (73) last season. Sosa became the first major-leaguer to hit 60 or more in three seasons.

"So many balls are going out of the park now," Kingman said. "It's really great for baseball and it certainly has my attention. I enjoy watching them.

"As far as being a hitter, [hitting a home run] is probably the best thing you can do. Just the perfect timing of the bat on the ball, and just knowing that by the sound of it the ball is going out of the park . . . it was just a lot of fun. I hit 442 of them, so I kind of know the feeling."

Written in Stone? Cubs President Andy MacPhail indicated fans could hear broadcaster Steve Stone in either the WGN radio or television booth during the 2002 season.

"I don't think there's anybody in baseball who disputes he's the best color man in baseball," MacPhail said. "I would be surprised if Steve was not back in some capacity over the course of the 2002 season."

Summer camp: While the renovation of Soldier Field began just hours after the Bears lost Saturday's playoff game, representatives of Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais eagerly await the arrival of the Bears to their new summer training camp.

"I am convinced the success of this year's team and the fan enthusiasm which has accompanied that success will build throughout the off-season," Olivet President John Bowling said. "It is important the team be able to build on this year's accomplishments as they begin training camp this summer."

The Bears had trained in Platteville, Wis., for 18 summers.

Gone fishing: The Cubs received a career-high 107 strikeouts in 82 innings from reliever Kyle Farnsworth last season, so he can't be blamed for resting his right arm this winter.

"I pretty much relaxed and laid low the first month of the off-season," Farnsworth said. "I did a lot of hunting and fishing and just messed around. The past month I started working out and getting ready for baseball. My grandparents have 550 acres in northern Missouri. My dad and I go up there every year in the second week of November to go hunting."

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