

## John Joseph Paul Botcheller, '67

John Botcheller was a two sport athlete during the four years he attended AMA. His senior year, he was an Academic All Military League MVP.

His roommate **Mickey Toms** says that John was great at soccer but baseball was his sport of choice. He was taught to play baseball at an early age by his father who was a New York Yankee lifetime fan.



John brought to AMA a skill rarely seen in the 1960s. Not only could he field and bat, he could pitch. A lefty who made Augusta a winner in a sport where we had not always done well.

His senior year, he was named ALL Military First Team Pitcher and he defeated SMA almost singlehandedly when they led the league. He batted almost .400 his last year and won a lot of games with his bat.



Mickey Toms welcomes John Botcheller to the gym stage

He went on to Washington and Lee and St. John's Universities where he pitched well until an injury which jeopardized his professional baseball career ended his time as a player.

He was one of **Colonel Hoover's** rangers playing fullback on the soccer team. AMA played mostly freshman college teams since the other military schools had not yet discovered the sport. Taking an undefeated season to W&L

where AMA had beaten their frosh team twice, the Blue and White soon realized they were up against many of the Generals' varsity players.

Trailing one-zip late in the game, John drove a long, hard kick from AMA's end of the field and caught the W&L goalie asleep. The ball bounced once and into the goal. The game ended, W&L wanted overtime but Colonel Hoover had herded his team back on the bus and the season ended with AMA undefeated, unbeaten, thanks to John Botcheller!

John was Valedictorian his senior year, Battalion Adjutant, yearbook editor, ~~Ad Astra~~ and all round leader and role model. AMA can be proud of this Bluestreak – John Botcheller.