

The Greatest of All Time

# THE WIND BENEATH HIS WINGS

Sandi Scully is Vin's biggest fan — and the most important BY MARK LANGILL



**T**he weather usually changes with the seasons of life, but Sandi Scully can always count on the same forecast from her husband, Dodger broadcaster Vin Scully. “He’s a sunbeam,” she says with pride. “He walks into a room and he’s a happy guy. He finds joy and delight wherever he goes.”

The couple first met in the early 1970s, when she worked as an executive assistant to Los Angeles Rams football owner Carroll Rosenbloom. One day she received an emergency call from a colleague asking if she could learn to operate the office switchboard. She agreed and was at her

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Vin Scully was the Grand Marshal of the 2014 Tournament of Roses Parade. And right by his side was his wife, Sandi.

temporary post when Vin's entrance into the building "brightened" her day.

"I thought to myself, 'Why can't I meet a sunny guy like that?'" she said. "He was supposed to be there to buy a present for Rams general manager Don Klosterman. That was the premise. Actually, he was there because someone had told him about me. We went on a date, and things happened to work out. This November, we'll celebrate our 43rd wedding anniversary."

To begin his 67th and final season in 2016, Sandi and Vin walked together from the Dodger Stadium press box which bears his name to the field for an Opening Day ceremony saluting his Hall of Fame career behind the microphone. They waited in the Dodger dugout with former team president Peter O'Malley during the introductions of former Dodgers including Sandy Koufax, Tommy Lasorda, Don Newcombe, Maury Wills, Orel Hershiser, Steve Garvey, Ron Cey, Al Downing, Rick Monday, Ron Cey and Bill Russell, along with current Dodger pitcher Clayton Kershaw.

When it was time to start the program, Vin slowly walked to home plate while Sandi veered right to join their children — Kevin, Todd, Erin, Kelly and Catherine — blended family members lovingly dubbed "yours, mine and ours."



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Sandi has often joined Vin in the press box for games at Dodger Stadium.

Vin might have a high-profile job, but he doesn't relish the spotlight when it comes to individual awards and ceremonies. For fans having a hard time letting go of their securi-

ty blanket — who in 1976 was voted the “Most Memorable Personality” in the history of the Los Angeles franchise — the presence of Vin's family on the field served as a reminder there is life besides baseball.

“People forget he's 88 years old, and there are things he might like to do besides calling balls and strikes,” Sandi said. “He's a very healthy and dynamic person. I don't think either one of us are looking ahead to the end of his Dodger broadcasting career. But we are looking forward to life when he's not on a schedule every day.”

During the early years of their marriage, their love of golf was a common bond. Vin was the lead broadcaster on five Masters telecasts for CBS from 1975-82.

“We played golf all over the world and were pretty good at it,” Sandi said. “Perhaps one day we'll have a golf handicap that we're proud of again. In addition to



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The Scully family, Sandi and all, will now have Vin home after 67 years of him living the nomadic life of a baseball man.

golf, we still enjoy swimming and playing with the children and grandchildren. We like to take walks together, spend time at the beach, and we both love to read. We just enjoy simple things during our down time. I love to cook, so we like to have good meals together.”

And what about baseball? With her husband the walking encyclopedia for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles eras of the Dodgers, does she have any interest in the sport?

“Of course!” she exclaimed. “I have been a baseball fan for a long time, and all my brothers played baseball. I’ve watched enough games over the years to know a little bit about the game. I appreciate someone like Chase Utley and the way he plays the game. I think he’s a great example for the younger players.

“I’m also a fan of Vin Scully and think he’s very talented at what he does. On television, I see him as a broadcaster and usually separate the fact that he’s my husband.”

When Vin announced his decision to re-

tire on August 29, 2015, it started the countdown for tributes and makeshift farewell tours, as opposing players and coaches in 2016 made the pilgrimage from their clubhouse to the press box. For Vin’s final visit to Anaheim, the Angels presented him with several special mementos, including a piece of silverware from the New York hotel in which Vin once worked polishing silver.

Sandi appreciates the outpouring of affection, from the umpires who tip their caps to the booth before a game, to the latest generations of fans who grew up listening to a familiar voice. Those generations now come together on Vin Scully Avenue.

“I understand how they love him,” she said. “They take him to the beach, to the picnics and anywhere else they go during the day. He’s been part of their lives for a long time, a fixture in their homes. It’s interesting how the little children adore him and want to get his autograph like their parents. Because of that sunny personality, I think fans feel his warmth and heart as a person.”