

On the field at Kauffman Stadium before the May 13th game between the Kansas City Royals and Colorado Rockies I was looking for Rene Lachemann to tell him that one of his former teammates wanted to see him. But Rene was not around, so I began asking different Rockies players and staff if they had seen Mr. Lachemann. All of them responded with the same reply, "You will hear him before you see him." Soon it was discovered what they meant as the bench coach of the Rockies made his way up from under the stadium where he had been working with one of the catchers, and his booming voice could be heard. This voice has been heard by many major league and minor league players for many years as Rene Lachemann has managed and coached and trained these players in the finer points of the game. Rene was born in Los Angeles California and is the youngest of three brothers to have long careers in professional baseball. Rene served as a batboy for the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1959 to 1962, went to the University of California and was signed by the Kansas City Athletics in 1964 as a catcher. He played for the KC A's in 1965 and 1966 and moved with the team to Oakland appearing in games in 1968. He began managing in the Oakland minor leagues in 1973 spending 5 seasons in the A's system before going to the Seattle Mariners organization. He took his first major league managers job in 1981 with the Mariners succeeding Maury Wills, and led the M's from 1981-1983. The following season 1984 he served as the Milwaukee Brewers manager. After being let go by the Brewers he served as a coach for the Boston Red Sox from 1985-1986, then returned to the Oakland A's where he coached under former Kansas City Athletics player Tony LaRussa from 1987 to 1992. In 1993 he was selected as the first Manager of the National League expansion team Florida Marlins and led the team from 1993 to 1996. After his dismissal there he returned to Tony LaRussa's staff as a coach with the St. Louis Cardinals from 1997 through 2005, and then returned to Oakland once again serving as the A's bench coach from 2005 through 2007. In 2008 he managed the Colorado Sky Sox, the AAA affiliate of the Colorado Rockies and spent 5 seasons there from 2008 through 2012, before joining the parent club Rockies to serve as a coach under manager Walt Weiss.

The middle brother Marcel Lachemann was signed by the Kansas City Athletics in 1963, worked his way up to AAA and then moved with the organization to Oakland in 1968. He made it to the big leagues in 1969 and also pitched for the A's in 1970 and 1971. After his playing career he began coaching and has coached with the California Angels (1984-1992, 1997-1998), the Florida Marlins (1993-1994) and the Colorado Rockies (2000). He also served as the Manager for the California Angels from 1994-1996, and has worked in the front office of the Rockies and currently works for the Los Angeles Angels as a special assistant to the GM. The eldest of the three brothers Bill Lachemann played 9 seasons in the minor leagues of the Brooklyn Dodgers as a catcher. He has coached and managed 14 seasons in the San Francisco Giants system and in the 1995 and 1996 seasons served as the bullpen coach under his brother Marcel for the California Angels. He has been a longtime coach for the Angels and this season at the age of 80 years old, Bill continues to coach serving the Angels as the roving catching instructor and catching coach for the Angels big league team.

So it is no wonder to me now, how come so many people told me that you would hear Rene Lachemann before you would see him. The reason is that this former Kansas City Athletic has been a big part of the game for so long and has so much knowledge to lend that everyone stops and listens for him to speak.

For a great peek into this man, go to YouTube and type in "Coach gives a young fan awesome life advice"