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News

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*****Medical illustrator named
finalist in design competition
for Chicago White Sox uniform.

DALLAS--He calls himself a "frustrated so-so jock." So this medical illustrator is pleased to have a special relationship to a professional baseball team.

Scott Barrows is one of six finalists in the competition for a new uniform design for the Chicago White Sox. The winner is to be announced Oct. 3 at the Minnesota Twins game, when the team will wear their new uniform for the first time.

The competition drew 1,600 entries from 40 states and five foreign countries. And the finalists include three professionals and three fans. (Barrows, instructor of Medical Illustration at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, is one of the fans since he is not a professional fashion designer.)

Barrows heard about the competition this spring when he was visiting his mother in the Chicago suburb where he grew up. The new White Sox owner had commissioned a new uniform, but the fans didn't take to the stylish new design. So Barrows supposes the owner said, "If the fans know so much, let them design the uniform."

Memories of his childhood at the White Sox games with his dad inspired Barrows to "play around" with some sketches, which he didn't think were very good. But his wife encouraged him to enter his navy blue, orange and white design.

The Sox now wear navy and white, but Barrows chose navy and orange for his design because they are the colors of the University of Illinois and of the Chicago Bears. "So people in Chicago will identify with these colors. Also they vibrate next to each other." He selected a yellow-orange shade because it would show up as orange on TV.

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The horizontal stripe underlines "Sox" on the shirt then turns vertical to connect the word with the sock. "But I guess most people won't notice that," he says.

The illustrator's uniform entry took much more thought than he likes to admit. But the White Sox are more than just a baseball team to him.

When he was growing up, his father managed a steel mill with 13,000 employees, and he was required to travel a lot. Times spent alone with his father were few and far between, he recalls wistfully, and their best times were spent at Comiskey Park.

Barrows remembers too that White Sox fans were a special breed. While the Cubs on the North Side were supported by the wealthy Chicago kids, the Sox were based on the South Side in the "ethnic, blue collar, rowdy part of town"--a much more exciting team.

In high school he participated in athletics but says he was a "closet artist." He would play a baseball game and go home and draw pictures of the game. Athletics were acceptable. "And I planned to be a doctor because that was acceptable, but I knew I liked drawing better. When I found out about medical illustration as a profession, I couldn't believe it. It was what I liked to do, and it was acceptable!"

In Barrows' re-discovered sports illustration hobby, he recently illustrated an educational coloring book about soccer for the Dallas Tornado.

Come Oct. 3, he hopes to be in Comiskey Park to see the team dressed in his uniform. The runner-up designers will receive trips for two to the Sox spring training in Sarasota, Fla. The winning designer will receive an all-expense paid trip for two to the World Series.

He says it's enough to be a finalist. But if all his wishes come true, Scott Barrows will see the White Sox play in the 1981 World Series wearing his uniform. What a time for an artist to come out of the closet--in front of 45,000 rowdy, screaming White Sox fans on national TV!

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