

# Catching up with a baseball Hall-of-Famer

LONSDALE — Barbara Tank of Lonsdale was invited to meet Hall of Fame Catcher Johnny Bench earlier this month at St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee.

Bench made a visit to Shakopee on Aug. 13 to meet with patients who recently underwent joint replacement surgery at St. Francis Regional Medical Center.

Bench, who had hip replacement surgery in 2004, and orthopedic specialists from the hospital also presented a free public seminar on new treatments and technologies for orthopedics. The event supported St. Francis' commitment to orthopedic care and the new St. Francis Orthopedic & Neuroscience Center scheduled to open in November 2007.

Bench was the National League Rookie of the Year in 1968 and was also voted MVP in 1970 and 1972. He was the World Series MVP in 1972, was a 14-time all star and earned 10 Gold Glove awards as a catcher for the Cincinnati Reds. Bench was named the 16th greatest baseball player of all time by the College Sporting News in 1998. He retired from baseball in 1983.

— Jeff Wald



Submitted photo  
Barbara Tank of Lonsdale recently met with Hall of Fame Catcher Johnny Bench at the physical therapy department of St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee. Pictured are from left, Gwen Relander of Chaska, Minn.; Dr. Robert Hartman, St. Francis Regional Medical Center; Tank; Bench; Barbara Moede of New Ulm, Minn.; and Randy Vargason of Owatonna, Minn.

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