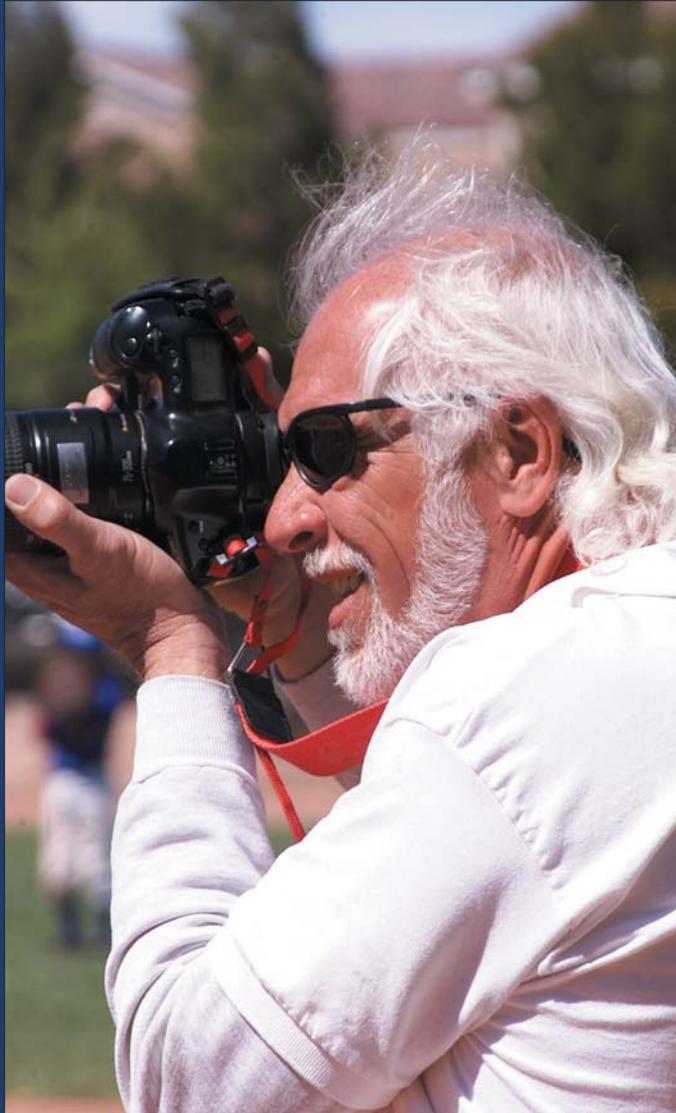


# SUPER SERIES PHOTOGRAPHY THE PHOTOS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

by Jack Hillman, Super Series Baseball Magazine, Design Director



Vince Kaminski

It may be an old cliché, but when it comes to Super Series Baseball Magazine, the pictures really are worth a thousand words! In fact, they're worth a lot more than that! Since I'm the guy who designs the magazine every month, I'm always on the lookout for more photos. So I thought it would be fun to let you know how we get the photos that we use, and how YOU can send photos to us that we might be able to put in the magazine.

Every month we run feature articles about a special



Jackie Valentine with Sparky, the Wonder Dog

team, a tournament host, a wonderful ballpark or sports complex, news items, coach's and player's tips, and lots more. Well, every one of those articles *needs* to have photos or graphics. It's our policy to put as many pictures as possible in each and every issue.

We think (*and hope that you agree*) that the articles are interesting and fun to read, but the photos really make our magazine special! The players get excited when they see themselves, and parents get an awesome keepsake.

We work with professional photographers all over the country. These folks are *good*. It takes a very special photographer to capture that one-of-a-kind action photo! And Super Series Baseball Magazine is incredibly fortunate to have so many great photographers who provide us our *outstanding* action shots. One of our concerns is that often we don't know WHO the player is in the photo. So, if you open the magazine and see a photo of your son or teammate, and there is no caption or name on it, call us or email us and let us know about it. We'll put the info in the next issue.

We're always looking for *more* photos, and we would love to hear from you. You don't have to be a pro to send

us a photo. Your son doesn't have to be the best ball player on the team for us to print his picture. Super Series Baseball is made up of players and teams of every size, shape and ability. We'd like to hear from every one of you.

Email is the best way to send us a photo, and you should always tell us something about the picture – especially identifying who the player is - so that we can put that information in a caption.

We thought it would be fun for you to learn about a few of the pros that regularly send us great photos. These people have really been supportive of Super Series Baseball Magazine. In fact I can honestly say that I'm not sure we could have done it without them and all of the others who have sent us so many photos.

First up are **Vince Kaminski** and **Jackie Valentine** of **EyeCon International** based in Colorado. As a serious amateur, Vince has been shooting sports since the mid '60s.

"I'm a gear head, and I've shot everything from short tracks to Formula 1, from Enduros to Superbikes," a smiling Vince states.

And his smile is always there. Throw in his perpetual suntan, and Vince looks like he just arrived from the beach.

As I understand it, if he could of, he would of. In 1989, he left the computer industry and started shooting portraits in studio. In 1993, he got out of the studio business and started a kids sports photo business, doing mostly packages, team and individually posed photos. He bought a one-hour lab, a generator and a bread truck-sized step van, and then started doing events and action in Colorado, Nevada and Arizona. In 1999, he began shooting events digitally.

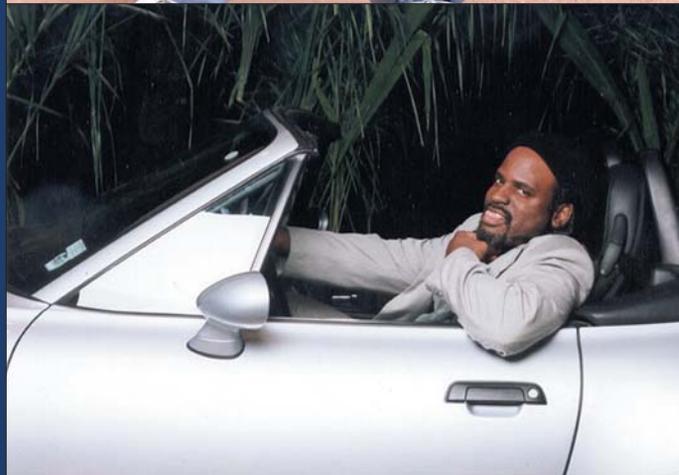
Jackie started shooting sports in 1998. Her initial passion was ski photography in Durango, CO.

"I really like working outside," Jackie said.

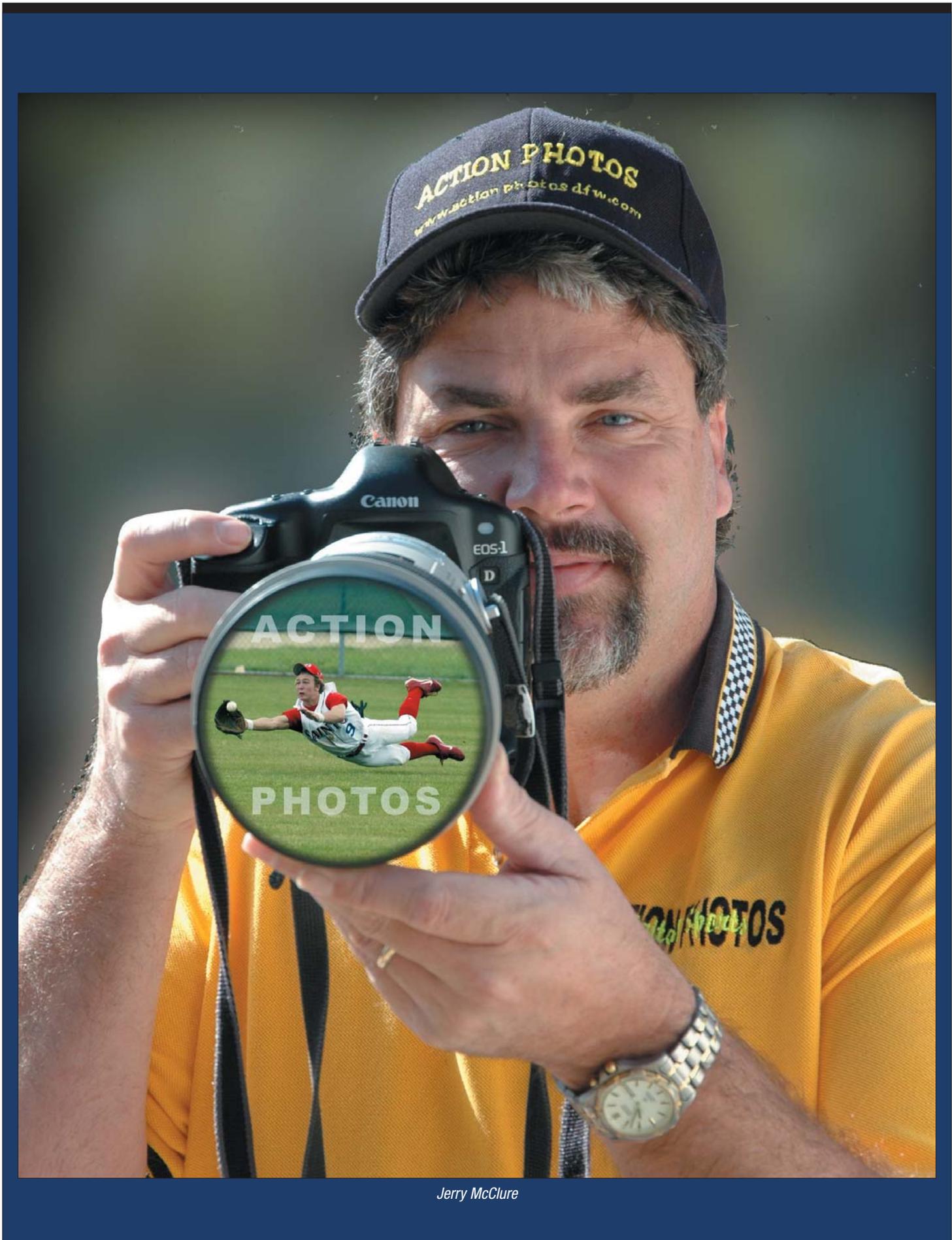
Ski photography was a perfect venue for her. Her *degree* is in photography and graphic design. Her background includes work at a newspaper and at a graphic design company designing websites, brochures, logos, ads, etc. She helped Vince on a few events in 1999, and, in 2000, they formed Eyecon International.

I asked Vince what was special about Super Series Baseball tournaments, and he replied, "the kids ... their level of play, sportsmanship and dedication to the game. Our best memory is really a series of memories. We have seen these kids develop and grow over the years. We have been part of the jubilation of a home run and the disappointment of an error. We can see and capture the expressions on their faces."

As Eyecon International, Vince and Jackie photograph, display and print images right at the tournament site. In most instances, the photos are ready as soon as the game is over. They shoot DCS520 cameras, Canon EOS1 film



*Bobby Cantero*



*Jerry McClure*

cameras with a Kodak CCD (not CMOS) imager replacing the film transport.

They display their work in one of their trailers on as many as nine computer display systems. They print the photos as you wait on Kodak photo printers, not ink jet or laser. They also post their work on their web site.

"I think shooting baseball requires *knowledge* of the game, great anticipation and timing," said Vince. "We try to make every kid look like a pro. Jackie's graphics make our images unique. We offer magazine covers, action sequences, collages as well as photo prints in various sizes."

Vince and Jackie work primarily in the West, from Minnesota to Texas to California, and they are planning on doing some work in Florida, too.

**Bobby Cantero** of **US Sports Photography** has been a pro photographer since 1988 and covers the West Coast, Arizona, Texas and Missouri from his home in Los Angeles.

When I asked him how he got started in sports photography, he replied, "I wanted to be in the high school yearbook, so I started shooting basketball and football games and started selling prints of the photos as a freshman in high school."

Well, Bobby's early entrepreneurial start has paid off big time for him.

He's been shooting Super Series Baseball tournaments since our events started out in California and Arizona more than six years ago. He originally started working with **Rick Melendrez** of Southern California Super Series, who then referred him to **Rick Perreault** of Arizona Super Series. The rest is history. Bobby shoots about 15-20 Super Series tournaments every year, and he has been a fixture at the Winter National Championships in Peoria.

Bobby shoots traditional film using a Nikon N90S with an 80-400 zoom lens. He takes photos on location one day, and gets developed prints back the next. He sets up on site so that participants can view, and purchase, photos. You can also view and purchase photos on his website. Those will be delivered in two to four weeks. He will take special request photos of players on location during a tourney.

Bobby said he loves shooting Super Series tournaments.

"The games are on time, the Super Series people are great to work with and overall the tourneys are high caliber, including the parks they're played in," he said. "My most memorable Super Series moment was the first National Championship in St. Louis – shooting at Busch Stadium, the parade of players and teams at opening ceremonies and the championship game for the kids."

I also asked him how he gets such great action shots.

He explained, "You have to know the sport that you're shooting. You have to plan ahead, think ahead, think like a player, and think of what could happen next, and be ready. I like to take shots that will make kids happy."

Bobby went to school at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco and graduated with a degree in Photo Journalism. He's been freelance since 1995. He claims his first love is fine art photography, but personally, we are going to encourage him to keep on sending us those great baseball photos.

When I asked **Jerry McClure** of **Action Photos DFW** in north Texas what geographic area he covered, he replied, "Have camera will travel. I will go anywhere, anytime, if the tournament is large enough."

If you know Jerry, you know he means it. This guy is a serious pro. He has spent the last 18 years photographing competition at all levels, from professional sports down to the youth baseball. He's had his photos published in publications at all levels as well.

Jerry's career actually got started back in high school, too.

"I got hurt playing high school football and that ended my sports career. I always wanted to stay close to sports, and this (*photography*) was the ticket," he said.

Jerry is an incredible photographer. He shoots with top of the line Canon equipment, and he knows how to use it.

"I anticipate and try to position myself to follow through when the action unfolds," he stated when I asked him how he got such great action shots.

You can see Jerry's photos on his website.

Jerry has been around Super Series for quite a while. He *especially* likes shooting Super Series tournaments.

"I like the level of play of the different age groups, and I like the organization and how the tournaments are run," he said.

His favorite Super Series memory came last summer in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, "at my first National Championship Tournament, capturing the excitement of all the winning teams, and preserving the moment for all the players and parents."

These are just a few of the many pro photographers that help fill Super Series Baseball Magazine with all of those awesome photos.

But we also get lots of absolutely fantastic photos from parents and coaches. So please keep those photos coming. Send your photos to [magazine@superseries-baseball.com](mailto:magazine@superseries-baseball.com). We want to hear from you, and we want to put your photo in the magazine. The more photos we get – the better our magazine!

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