

Tony Lo Bianco once managed Donald Trump on a softball team

By Page Six Team

November 12, 2018 | 9:59am



Tony Lo Bianco — who starred in the Oscar-winning classic “The French Connection” — says he once managed **Donald Trump** on a celebrity softball team, and the future president had a demand.

Lo Bianco, 82, — who just won a Lifetime Achievement Award at the **NYC Television Festival** — was a venerable pitcher/manager in the Broadway Show League for years. Back in the '90s, he managed a team including Trump in a celeb softball game at Yankee Stadium.

“We met at the Pierre and got into a car,” Lo Bianco told Page Six. On the way to The Bronx, he asked Trump, “You wanna win?” When the future president said he did, the actor shot back, “Just let me manage, and we’ll win.” But Trump told him, “I gotta play first base.”

The only issue was that their team included Joe Pepitone, the Yankees' first baseman for much of the 1960s. At the ballpark, Lo Bianco instructed Pepitone, "I want you to play shortstop." Pepitone responded, "I'm first base. I'm left-handed!" Lo Bianco assured the southpaw, "I'm not worried about the double play."

Luckily, the team prevailed. Later on, Trump had Lo Bianco perform his one-man show, "Hizzoner!" about Fiorello La Guardia at Mar-a-Lago.