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Hall of Fame Tigers manager Sparky Anderson dead at 76

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Detroit -- Sparky Anderson never lost his sense of humor — especially about himself.

Told once that he was "one of a kind," Anderson replied: "You know what? That's good. The world couldn't take two of me."

Now, sadly there isn't even one of him.

Anderson, the Hall of Fame manager who won a World Series with the 1984 Tigers and helped keep the team competitive for most of his 17 years in Detroit, died Thursday. He was 76. Family spokesman Dan Ewald says Anderson died from complications from dementia.

With Anderson's passing, baseball -- not just Detroit -- has lost one of his most colorful figures. Not to mention one of its best managers.

Anderson was the first manager to win World Series in both leagues -- victorious with the "Big Red Machine" in Cincinnati, then with the Tigers.

He managed in five All-Star Games and with 2,194 victories, ranks sixth on the all-time list of major-league managers.

"There'll never be another like him," Tigers' Hall of Famer Al Kaline said of Anderson. "He was old school, and you always knew that he was the boss. But he was a great person as well. He cared deeply about this city."