

Charles Smith - HoF - 1983

CHARLIE SMITH, A QUIET GENIUS OF THE GAME

(An International Softball Congress Hall of Fame Biography)

By: Gordon Wise - - - ISC Information Officer

When the International Softball Congress World Tournament moved to Rock Island, Illinois in 1961 to begin its historic nine-year run in that city, a legendary powerhouse from the border town of El Paso, Texas, was primed and ready to move into the throne room.

Dautrich Realty, having finished in fourth place in the 1960 World Tournament held in Long Beach, California, was set to upset and replace the Long Beach Nitehawks who had captured an incredible SIX consecutive championships.

That El Paso club, featuring such greats as Kenny Wykoff and Hall of Famers Dude Ausmus and Paul Lopez, also featured a quiet and awesomely talented first sacker by the name of CHARLIE SMITH.

One of the heroes of the Dautrich Realty team as they swept to back-to-back ISC World Tournament titles in 1961 and 1962, Smith was selected to the All-World Tournament team in 1962.

And that is one of the highlights of Smiths career in the sport of fastball which began in 1944 and ran all the way to 1990.

"Those were some of the really big events of my years in the sport," observed Charlie Smith, "Those two World Tournament titles and getting picked as an All-World team member with all of those great hitters."

Flash back to 1944 and look in on a very young Charlie Smith (just 14 and breaking into the tough El Paso Church League). That was the beginning of a career that carried the quiet and personable Smith through the adventures of "making a lot of outstanding trips - - having seen most of the USA and Canada because of softball - - having met and enjoyed so many great people through the years".

Along the way, Smith (a firstbaseman throughout his entire career) racked up such additional honors as: All-Tournament twice and batting champion once of the tough ISC 4th of

July Tournament in El Paso; All-City in his native city for 10 seasons; competing in a total of 12 NSC/ISC World Tournaments.

His teams fared very well in ISC World Tournament competition. In addition to the championship years of '61 and '62, his teams finished in second place once; twice finished fourth; and twice finished in seventh place.

His honors in the diamond sport have piled up like the wins in World Tournament action.

1977 - - - Charlie Smith inducted into the El Paso Softball Hall of Fame;

1989 - - - Inducted into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame;

1983 - - - Inducted into the INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL CONGRESS HALL OF FAME;

1985 - - - Inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Since 1986, Smith has lent his talents to the I.S.C. as an administrator having been a Commissioner since that time. During this period, he has held such important posts as Commissioner of the West Texas/New Mexico Area; Southern Vice President; Treasurer of the Carrol Forbes Foundation - - - - and on to his current post as Treasurer of the I.S.C., a position in which he follows his close friend and ISC legend Frank Porth.

The financial records, and indeed the integrity, of the International Softball Congress are in mighty good hands - - - those same hands that anchored the right side of so many infields during nearly a half century - - -

The hands of ISC leader and icon - - - CHARLIE SMITH