

Dan Nessler - HoF - 2009

Dan Nessler
Great Hitter
By Marley Lloyd
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For us who have known Dan Nessler for many years, the first thing that comes to mind in describing Dan is that he was one of the best hitters in the game of Fastpitch Softball during his 20+ year career from 1980-2000.

I had the opportunity to be a teammate of Dan's on our Happy Chef Team of Mankato, MN for 10 of those 20 years. He constantly led our team in batting average and on-base statistics.

Dan's athletic career began in St. James, MN. He was born on February 1st, 1963 and graduated from St. James High School in 1981.

During high school, Dan's high school baseball team advanced to the Minnesota State Tournament 3 straight years winning the State Championship in 1979. Dan was All-Conference in Baseball 3 years and All- Conference in Basketball & Football 2 years.

Dan was an Outstanding Athlete at Mankato State University from 1982-85, where he earned All-Conference Selection in Baseball 2 times and was selected Captain his Senior year.

Dan was an outstanding hitter, top defensive 2nd baseman and speedy base runner and premier bunter during his career in the ISC.

He played for Happy Chef 1982-85, 1990 and 1992-1995. During those years Happy Chef won the Minnesota State ASA "AA" Championship 3 times 1982-85 and the ASA Class A National Championship in 1995 where he was named 2nd Team All American. Dan was also player/manager for the Happy Chef team from 1992-1999.

During Dan's 5 year career with Penn Corp of Sioux City, IA , Penn Corp won the ISC World Championship Tournament 3 times 1988, 1989 & 1991. Dan was selected to the All-World Team 4 times (1985 & 1992 Happy Chef) (1988 & 1989 Penn Corp).

During his career Dan was selected to participate in 4 US Olympic Festivals winning 2 Gold medals, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze.

Dan now resides in Mankato, MN with his 2 children Lauren & Steven. Dan is active in coaching and attending his children's activities. Dan is a successful senior sales account representative for Corporate Graphics.