

BOB WELBY MEMORIAL RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AWARD

Dan Yantzi - Player/Contributor - 2002

DAN YANTZI - WATERLOO, ONTARIO

(Nomination submitted by Larry Lynch, Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)



Dan Yantzi was born in 1957 in Kitchener and started playing fastpitch as a nine-year old in Shakespeare prior to playing minor ball for his hometown Tavistock.

In 1978, as a 20 year old, Dan moved to senior ranks with the Kitchener Evergreens of the Ontario Fastball League. He later toed the rubber for Waterloo CHYM'rs ('82), Kitchener Pride of Canada ('83-84), Guelph Ingrams ('85), Newmarket Nationals ('86), Cambridge Gores ('87) and finally closed out his career with the Waterloo Twins ('88-'95), including serving as the team Treasurer.

In ten years of competition at the ISC (1984-95), Dan was named to the All World 2nd team in 1991 with the 6th place Midland Explorers and again in 1993 with the 6th place Waterloo Twins.

In Dan's first ISC tournament game, he battled a young Michael White of Bakersfield, Ca., tossing a one-hitter, only to lose 2-1 on a passed ball.

In Dan's last year of active playing, he served as Canada's first player representative to the ISC. Since retirement, he works tirelessly to improve the development of young pitchers, and is a staunch proponent of the "two feet on the rubber" pitching rule.

Maturing from his younger days as a fire-balling right-hander and a dominant hurler in Ontario, Dan prolonged his career through a strict regimen of exercise, weight training and diet. In additional, he also added a dreaded change-up pitch to his repertoire.

Following a sparkling 17-year career, he continues to give back to the sport. He works to develop young pitchers, and through his efforts the next generation of hurlers have the opportunity to develop better mechanical skills, have fewer injuries and be better prepared to pitch in international competition.

Dan led the Waterloo Twins to the team's inaugural ISC appearance in 1990, and is the first Canadian pitcher inducted into the ISC Hall of Fame. Further, Dan is a world class competitor, a man of convictions and principles, who truly played for the love of the game.

Dan is the local owner of Sketchley Cleaners, and is the proud father of Aaron (20) and Jordan (19).

(As presented by John Thompson at the 2002 Hall of Fame Induction in Kitchener, Ontario).