

David Boys - HoF - 2013

David grew up on the ball diamond in Maroa, Illinois, spending as many hours every day as he could playing ball. He literally slept with his ball glove by his side, waking every morning hoping to find other kids who would want to play pick-up games as much as he did.

David's father Paul Boys was a fastpitch catcher and David was the team's batboy. Before each game, Paul would point out the best hitters and David would study their technique and try to mimic them. However, David was never allowed to play fastpitch, only baseball throughout his high school and college career.

In 1987, David began playing with some friends for the Decatur Generals, a local fastpitch team. But in the summer of 1989, Russ Boice, then-coach of the Decatur Pride, called to invite David to play as a reserve. When the starting shortstop was injured, David took that spot and made the most of that opportunity. He caught the eye of Gale Kurtz, coach of the mighty Penn Corp team from Sioux City, Iowa. Kurtz called David in what David described as "one of the most exciting phone calls ever" to ask him to come play for Sioux City Penn Corp. David played there from 1990-1993, where the team won two ISC World Championships.

David went back to the Decatur Pride in 1994 and 1995 where the team won back-to-back national championships. Then he moved on to Tampa and played for the Smokers from 1996-1999, where the team won two ISC World Championships.

In 2000, David came back "home" to play for the Decatur Pride and was coached by Denny Bruckert. This was the year of his fondest memory, as the Pride won the world championship. David calls this his highlight not only because he was back home, but also because his family and friends were able to be there to see him play.

Timing has been everything in David's career and he is so grateful for the opportunities he was given to travel, experience life in many amazing places, and play the game he loves.

David played shortstop from 1987-2005 for various teams like Decatur Pride, Sioux City Penn Corp, Tampa Smokers, Victoria BC, and Calgary Diamondbacks. During this time, he was a member of 5 world championship teams, 8 ASA national championship teams, played for the USA national team, competed in two Pan-Am Games and two ISF World Championships.

Written by Erin Atherton