

Jarrad Martin - HoF - 2016

Jarrad Martin - 1st Base/Outfielder/Pitcher - Class of 2106



Jarrad Martin enjoyed a great childhood with parents who were actively involved in sport in Waitara New Zealand, That resulted in Jarrad's formative years and that of his two younger sisters, spending endless hours on athletic fields that included ball diamonds, rugby pitches, golf courses and indoors on basketball courts. Contributing significantly to Jarrad's growth in sports was his father Murray, who was an effective teacher and a influential mentor for his son.

In 1989 Jarrad graduated from Waitara High School; and apprenticed as an electrician, becoming fully qualified in 1994. In due course Jarrad became owner/manager of Kinetic Electrical in New Plymouth NZ, an enterprise that commands significant leadership and management on Jarrad's part.

Throughout his career Jarrad was the epitome of quiet, but very strong leadership spanning 18 ISC seasons. In his rookie campaign, he suited up with Sioux City IA NHCD and won his first ISC Championship in Salt Lake City UT. Over his lengthy career, he won five more titles, including an incredible four straight from 2003 – 2006 with Broken Bow NE Travelers/Spirit and Marathon WI County Materials.

Jarrad's sterling, consistent performances earned him ISC All-World honors seven times in ten seasons between 1999 – 2008. He was selected the tournament's MVP in 2006 (Marathon WI) and again, non-traditionally as an outfielder with the runner-up team - Broken Bow - in 1999.

As one of the most consistent performers for the New Zealand Black Sox national teams, initially at the ISF Juniors (1989) he won four ISF World Championships and was named New Zealand's "player of the decade" for the 1990s. Following retirement he gives back to the game as an assistant coach for the Black Sox Jr. national team. He cites that during his career, the New Zealand vs Canada competitions were the toughest in the world at that time.

In reviewing his career, Jarrad is humbly appreciative of those who have contributed to his journey. He shares that fellow 2016 inductee Thomas Makea was a fierce competitor and recalls how hard Brad Underwood (HoF 2006) pitched when Jarrad faced Brad in 1992.

Jarrad cites gratitude to sponsors, team-mates and friends for all contributing to his abundance of memories. His pursuit of athletic excellence has resulted in his being not only a great player, but contributed to his development as a humble and decent person of renown.

In typical unabashed fashion, Jarrad states "Special thanks to all our fans – some loved us but some didn't know how to love us (Kiwis) - thanks to those who were often sitting on the fence when they didn't want to cheer for us."

Jarrad and his wife Lynley are proud parents of five children – Rebekah (20), Josh (19), Ian (17), Tayshawn (10) and Jada (6)