

Mark Smith - HoF - 2004

MARK SMITH - 2004 ISC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

Mark Smith, a native of the Halifax area in Nova Scotia, Canada played in nine ISC World Tournaments beginning in 1981, and finishing his ISC World Tournament playing career in 1994 at Summerside, PEI. During this period which spanned 14 years, Mark Smith led his teams to 2 ISC World Titles.

Mark Smith pitched in 8 ISC World Tournaments and was named to three 1st team All-World selections, twice as a pitcher, and once as a first baseman, and one 2nd Team All-World selection.

At the age of 22, during his first ISC World Tournament in 1981 at Saginaw, MI., Mark Smith posted a 5-0 won/loss pitching record, leading his undefeated Camarillo Kings from softball obscurity to the ISC World Championship. In 32 innings pitched, Smith posted 50 K's while allowing only one earned run. His remarkable performance earned him his 1st team All-World selection, and his award as 1981's ISC Outstanding Pitcher. Mark Smith threw a perfect game against the Las Vegas Aces, and a one hitter against The Tulsa Firebirds in the Championship game.

Mark was also credited for a 2nd perfect game at the 1982 ISC in Kimberly, WI, when he was 4-0, with 49 strikeouts, and again was named 1st team All-World. Mark's pitching was the key element leading the Camarillo Kings to their consecutive ISC World Championship. This repeat title run enabled the Camarillo Kings to be the first team in two decades to successfully defend their ISC World crown.

Mark also played for the 1986 ISC World Tournament runner up, Lakewood, CA Chameleons, when he earned 2nd team All World honors. After dropping their first game of the Tournament, the Chameleons won 9 consecutive games in the Losers Bracket, battling back to the Championship Game. Teaming with pitching mate and fellow ISC Hall of Famer Kevin Herlihy, Mark notched pitching victories in 4 of those 9 games without enduring a loss. Mark added 40 more strikeouts, allowing only 3 earned runs in 24 2/3 tough innings.

Mark was also a member of the powerful Alberta Brake and Clutch team that finished in 4th place at the 1984 ISC World Tournament, in Allentown, PA. He also played for the 5th Place finishing Victoria Payless Team that hosted the 1990 ISC World Tournament. Mark was voted 1st team ISC All-World in front of the hometown Victoria fans in 1990, this time not as a pitcher, but as a 1st baseman, with 7 hits in 16 at bats, for a .438 batting average.

In his final ISC World Tournament, in 1994 at Prince Edward Island, Mark was 0-1, pitching an 8-inning complete game with 16 strikeouts, but lost 1-0 on an unearned run!

Mark's career ISC World Tournament Pitching totals: 18 Wins - 4 Losses 81.8%; 149 2/3 Innings Pitched, 24 Total Runs Allowed; 19 Earned Runs Allowed; 45 Walks; 220 Strikeouts; and a .889 ERA.

Marks ISF Career as an international softball superstar representing Softball Canada is just as colorful as his ISC accomplishments. He competed in numerous Pan American Games and ISF World Series wearing the Maple Leaf of Team Canada. He is also a veteran of numerous Sr Men's Canadian National Championship Tournaments, and is a member of the Softball Canada Hall of Fame, where he was inducted in 1999.

A Major ISF highlight for Mark Smith was in 1992, where his timely hitting helped lead the Canadian Senior Men's National Team to the Gold Medal at the VIII Men's World Series of Softball in Manila, Philippines. His 8th inning, 2 RBI double, proved to be the winning margin in a 5-3 Gold Medal Victory over New Zealand, and ace pitcher Michael White.

Mark Smith is currently giving much back to the young players of the games, as the Head Coach for Softball Canada's Senior Men's National Fastpitch Team. He has already garnered considerable success in leading Canada to the Gold Medal at the 2003 Pan American Games in Santa Domingo, The Dominican Republic. He will also be leading the Canadian team as head Coach for the XI ISF Men's World Series of Softball at Christchurch, New Zealand, at the ends of January 2004.

His special gifts for the game of fastpitch softball will make Mark Smith always remembered as one of the most talented softball stars of any era, from any country.