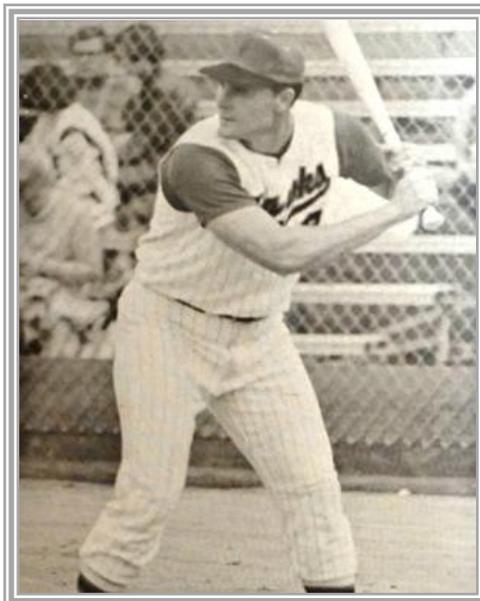


Nick Hopkins - HoF - 1992



Nick Hopkins made a choice between pursuing a dream of playing major league baseball and coming home to Long Beach to play with the Long Beach Nitehawks, choosing the latter. He doesn't regret it one bit, and he's now a member of two Hall of Fames.

Hopkins attended Long Beach Wilson High School. He signed with the Boston Red Sox organization and worked his way to the AA level in Memphis before deciding to return home. He had a young son and was a bit homesick with all the traveling. The Red Sox' loss was the Nitehawks' gain. He had played professional baseball for five years after graduating.

Nick combined softball and baseball for six years playing semipro baseball with the Long Beach Rockets. He played for one year with the Long Beach Fire Fighters in the Western Softball Congress.

In 1959 Nick joined the Long Beach Nitehawks where he played shortstop for 18 years (1959 to 1977).

He was named to the Western Softball Congress All-Star team 15 times and was a member of six International Softball Congress World Tournament winners.

Hopkins was named to the ISC All World Team in 1966 and in 1969 and was named WSC MVP in 1966, 1968 and 1974.

Often accused of playing a shallow left field, Hopkins had arguably the best range of any shortstop to ever play the game. He once handled 125 chances without making an error.

Nick was inducted into the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame in 1992.

He was inducted in the Long Beach Century Club Hall of Fame in 2005. It makes him the fifth Nitehawk star so enshrined, joining the legendary Joe Rodgers, who created the team, Stan White, Jack Randall, and the equally legendary Red Mears, who played before succeeding Rodgers as owner and manager.

Hopkins signed with the Boston Red Sox organization and played professional baseball for five years after graduating from Wilson High School. Nick combined softball and baseball for six years playing with the Long Beach Rockets. He played for one year with the Long Beach Fire Fighters in the Western Softball Congress before joining the Nitehawks in 1959 where he played shortstop for 18 years (1959 — 1977).

He was named to the Western Softball Congress All-Star team 15 times and was a member of six International Softball Congress World Tournament winners. He was named to the ISC All World Team in 1966 and in 1969 and was named WSC MVP in 1966, 1968 and 1974 and was inducted into the ISC Hall of Fame in 1992.

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