

# **Paul Algar - HoF - 2012**

## **Paul Algar – ISC Hall of Fame – Player - 2012**

Originally from New Zealand, Paul Algar made his ISC debut in 1982 as a seventeen year old pitcher with Hubbard Construction of Bishop CA and has carved a sterling career spanning 25 ISC World Tournaments.

At the 2011 World Tournament in Moline IL, Paul was competing as a member of the host Quad City Sox of Davenport, IA when he was informed that he had been selected for induction into the ISC Hall of Fame in August of 2012 at Midland, Michigan.

Paul was named ISC All-World on five occasions, four as a member of the Madison WI Farm Tavern for whom he led his team-mates to two world championships in 1997 and 1999.

Paul entered the 2011 world tournament with 39 career wins, two shy of Todd Martin and Doug Middleton who are tied for 5th at 41 career wins each.

Paul has pitched five no-hitters including a pair of perfect games in 1999 and 2003.

I first got to see Paul Algar pitch in 1994 at the ISC World Tournament in Summerside PEI where he led the Green Bay All Car to victory over the reigning World Champion Toronto Gators, led by Darren Zack. That was quite an introduction to “Alfie” who was clearly one of the world’s leading fast pitch pitchers of the day and a respected friend of all who played the game. I have followed Alfie’s career with great interest ever since that personally memorable tournament.

## **The Early Years**

Before Paul came along, his older brother Loren was already an established pitcher, and his dad, Ray, was a pretty fair first baseman on the ball diamonds of Wellington and Melrose. Father and brother had set a path that young Paul eagerly followed. And one that ultimately landed him a seat in the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame.

“Watching my brother pitch, I wanted to follow in his footsteps,” said Algar, 47, adding that Loren is 11 years older. “I would practice on the sidelines while Loren pitched.”... And Paul practiced and practiced, and practiced some more, says his dad, Ray.

**“Ever since he was a kid, he practiced hard by himself,” Ray Algar said. “He would gather a whole bunch of balls and throw at targets on a wall. He would spend two to three hours and then come home for a soft drink and then back to his pitching.”**

**For several years, Ray traveled to the U.S. to watch his sons play on some of America’s finest teams. He followed Loren and Paul’s exploits from California to Florida and throughout the Midwest.**

**“I’ve been to see them about 15 times,” Ray said, “and I’ve gone to the ASA and ISC (national tournaments and world tournaments, respectively). I would spend five to six weeks sometimes. I love America. It’s a lovely place to live.”**

**While he enjoyed watching his sons play fastball abroad, he admits that he misses them since the U.S. has claimed Paul as a son, while Loren lives in Australia and is the men’s national team pitching coach.**

**For Paul, coming to the U.S. as a teenager opened up a whole new world of fastball adventures. He’s played for some of the finest teams ever assembled in the history of the sport.**

**Some of those teams include the Farm Tavern of Madison, WI; Green Bay All-Car; New York Heflin Builders; Hubbard Construction (Calif.); Aurora All-Steel, and Tommy’s Angels of Oshkosh, WI.**

**Paul was asked by Bob Otto:**

**Q: You’ve pitched for some great teams; tell us about some of your fondest memories.**

**A: Pitching for the Farm for 10 years and winning ISC World Tournament in 1997 and ’99, and two ASA championships with the Farm. 1997 in Victoria (BC, Canada) was such a great team effort. Most of the team’s goal was to win for Rod (Peterson). He went so long and came so close before. 1999 was special too.**

**Todd Martin got injured in the fourth inning against Midland, and I finished and threw the next three games. It was a pleasure playing for Rod and I wanted to do well for him.**

**Q: What has the sport both taught you and given you?**

**A: Play hard between the lines, but be the same person off the field as on, and not have a big ego. When I'm pitching, I love it when thousands are watching; it helps me focus more. I (enjoy) having people come up to me at tournaments and talk. It's such a good time. And from our good friend Dave Spring:**

**"Paul Algar is simply one of the finest and most complete human beings ever to play our game. His natural, friendly disposition and gregarious deportment has endeared him to fastpitch fans all over the planet, and his talent has earned him the respect of all of us who love the game, and who mourn its sad deterioration.**

**There are, of course, a sufficient number of tales of Paul as a pitcher in his prime who achieved miraculous results. There aren't enough, though, that exemplify the Paul Algar who inspired or reinforced a love of the game without stepping on the rubber."**

***Compiled by Al Doran of AlsFastball, member of the ISC Hall of Fame with assistance from Bob Otto, Dave Spring, and other fans of the game.***