

Terry Challis - HoF - 2015



Terry Challis was born and raised in Toronto Ontario and grew up in a house that backed onto a softball park which was where his love and passion for softball began. After playing minor ball on that diamond throughout his youth, Terry joined the working world and found himself playing recreational fastball for a team comprised mostly of fellow co-workers and friends.

It was obvious there was something special about Terry and he was soon recruited into the Richmond Hill League and later joined the local powerhouse York Merchants which would soon become the York Gators and finally the world champion Toronto Gators.

Terry would be one of the original team members and would stay with sponsor and co-inductee Jack Fireman for 7 years culminating in two world championships and 3 Canadian championships along with numerous other top 5 finishes in both ISC and Canadian championships. Challis would be named MVP of the ISC world tournament in 1993 leading the Gators to their first world championship and go on to be named all world 5 times and all Canadian on numerous occasions.

In years to come, Challis would also find success with All Car out of Green Bay and spend several years with the New York Spirit, year in and year out showing the consistency associated with the top players in the game.

Terry would also have the privilege to represent his country on the Canadian National Team winning a Pan-Am gold medal and an ISF silver medal. Terry was known throughout his career as being a "gamer", a guy you hated to play against, but was loved as a teammate and was a player that could and would always rise to the occasion on a big stage.

He has stated on several occasions that the "Gator family" had a huge influence on his life not only on the field but also off of the field and credits softball for allowing him to grow as a person and see the world, all while being surrounded by not only great players but more importantly, great people.

"I have had the privilege of playing with and against some of the great players of all time and I feel very lucky to have had that opportunity. Trying to list them all would be a book in itself. I learned a little something from each and every one and used that to become as good as I could possibly be not only as a player but also as a person"

Terry has maintained his love for the sport and still to this day continues to play with those same team members and friends playing Masters fastball for a Gator team still led by owner and friend Jack Fireman. "When Jack and our family are done playing, I'm done, but not until then"

Terry now resides in Whitby Ontario with his two kids Kyler and Logan, and in between work, family life, and coaching minor hockey, is still playing the game he loves.