



Don Cooper, Manager/Coach Category

Don has been a coach and part time player with USSSA for over 20 years. He started his career at the "D" level of play in Washington State and proceeded to coach and manage on the National scene. He has coached both men's and women's teams during his career, as well as a short stint with a church group. While most of Don's greatest achievements have happened while coaching teams from other parts of the country, he has always had some players from the state of Washington, and has achieved some of the highest finishes in softball, as a coach/manager. In 2008 his team won the Men's Major World Series. He is probably the most knowledgeable individual in the state of Washington, pertaining to the very upper level of play. Over the years Don has helped sponsor many of the local teams here in Washington by putting in some of his own money from one of his many businesses.



Joel Muirhead, Male Player Category

Joel has been playing softball for the past 13 years. While not in the game for as long as some, he has accomplished more than most in a very short period of time. Joel began his softball career playing with the Emerald City Ale men's "C" team. His team participated in the 1994 "C" State Championships, finished 2nd, and Joel was named Co-Tournament MVP. During the next three seasons his talents were quickly noticed, and he was asked to make the jump to the "A" level of play, with teams such as PNG/Extreme/DeMarini, Ultima and Pepsi All Sport. In 1997 Joel joined the JSG Men's/Church and immediately went after some loftier goals. Over the next three years JSG participated in the Church "A" World Championships, where they finished 2nd twice and then won the World Championship in 1999. Joel was named the All World Defensive MVP in '97, the All World Offensive player in '98 and the Tournament overall MVP in 1999. Included in the '99 season was a "B" NIT win in Oregon, where he was named the Tournament MVP, and a Championship in the Men's "B" Regional in Martinez, Ca. In 2000 Joel played his last season at the "A" level with TPS Northwest, as he wanted to reduce his travel time and commitments to softball. During 2001-2003 Joel played with a local "C" team, Waldo's. During this time he was instrumental in his teams' success by helping them to win one "C" NIT and the men's "B" State Championship in 2003. Over this time period he was named to numerous All Star teams, which included the Men's "B" State All Tournament team. In 2004 and '05 Joel played with the Warpigs/KTI and continued his superior play with more All Star selections and leading his team to a World Championship in another Association. As said by one of his coaches, "Joel is the type of person that reflects what the Washington State USSSA Hall of Fame is all about".



John Lindsey, Special Category

While many people in the softball community have never heard of John, and have no idea of his role in the success of USSSA in Washington State, he is without a doubt one of the biggest reasons that we are as strong as we are today. John became the assigning secretary for the Seattle Metropolitan Slow pitch Umpires Association (WSSUA/Seattle) in 1986. Since that time he has annually assigned over 100 umpires to cover in excess of 10,000 games for league and tournament play in the King County area. He has done this with very few mistakes and in a manner that has all of the other softball associations wishing that he was working with them. John takes great pride in his association with USSSA and the job that he does. Like so many of our umpires over the years, John chose to be a part of USSSA because he wanted to be a part of the best association around, and because of him, and many others like him, we are.



Mike Burton, Special Category

Mike Burton began his association with USSSA Washington State in 1983 when he entered his team into a local USSSA tournament. By 1985, he began talking to the USSSA officials about USSSA and was recruited by Joe Jucha to become involved. From that point on USSSA benefited from all that Mike had to offer and then some.

In 1986, Mike was involved in the formation of USSSA-Kitsap County, which started the first USSSA leagues on the Kitsap Peninsula and began running USSSA tournaments in the area. Additionally, he became active with the Corporate/Industrial and Armed Forces programs and in 1986 was appointed an Area Director in the Industrial Program. Due to his efforts, the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard softball league converted to USSSA and remains USSSA to this day. Mike was the Tournament Director for the first Industrial State Championships held at Fort Dent in Tukwila in 1987. He branched out into the other USSSA programs in 1988 and began to run Men's, Women's, Armed Forces, Mixed, and Church tournaments at the Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Key Peninsula Park, Roosevelt Field, Lions Field, and, eventually, Pendergast Park.

In 1989 he was appointed to the USSSA Washington State Executive Board as the Corporate Program Director and as the Director of Region 4. He remained the Region 4 Director until his retirement from USSSA in 2004. Mike is the one individual that was instrumental in the complete conversion of all softball in Bremerton to the USSSA program. He regularly attended league meetings in Bremerton, Gig Harbor, Port Angeles, Bainbridge Island, Port Townsend and throughout Kitsap County. He assisted in the establishment of the Kitsap County Umpires Association and he worked with the Bremerton Parks Department personnel in placing league teams in the proper division and level of play. Mike was awarded the USSSA Washington State "Owen B. Shackett" award in 1987, the State Director's award in 1994, and the USSSA Washington "Special Service" award in 1998. For over twenty years Mike was the voice of USSSA softball in Region 4, the "go-to" guy, the one who would always listen and the one who got things done. USSSA Washington State is indebted to Mike Burton for the many loyal years he served the association and for all of the accomplishments he achieved for every softball player in Region 4.



Paul Duffy, Umpire Category

Paul has been an umpire for over 25 years with 21 of those years being with USSSA. During this time, Paul has worked all over the northwest region in National and Regional events and has umpired many World Tournaments. Paul has worked State Championships every year and has served as the UIC for numerous State Championship events. He has been involved with the Seattle area umpire training clinics for 20 years. He has been instrumental in representing USSSA Washington, as well as the umpire association, at many league meetings over the years. He is presently serving as the Seattle area UIC and is in charge of development and recruiting of new umpires. He has been invaluable to Dale McGregor, USSSA State Umpire-In-Chief, in all areas of the game. Paul has always been known to be one of the best umpires in Washington and has earned the respect of not just his fellow umpires, but the majority of players as well.



Shane Fast, Male Player Category

Shane Fast has been a softball junkie for the past 25 years. He has played, coached, umpired and been a tournament director in USSSA. As a player Shane has been on teams that have won many invitational tournaments in Washington; as well as State Titles in both the Men's & Church programs. He was a member of the JSG team that won the Men's Church "A" World Title in 1995 and 1999. Along with finishes of 4th in 1994, 2nd in 1996, 3rd in 1997 and 2nd in 1998, Shane was named to the All World Team in 1995 and again a few years later. At the Church State level JSG won the A Championship Title every year they played except for one from 1994 through 1999. In the Men's Program JSG won the Men's A State Championships in 1994 and 1996; Shane was a Co-MVP in 1994 and MVP in 1996. JSG also won the Men's B National Tournament in 1999. Along with those honors Shane has been named to the all tournament team of several State and National championship teams. One of Shane's highlights was playing on the Steele's Sports team in 1987 as they barnstormed the country and went 7-7 with 6 home runs. He has played just about every position on the field, but is mostly known for his days on the mound. Shane has some lofty career stats that include a .650+ lifetime batting average and over 1000 home runs.



Gary Zahnow, Sponsor Category

Gary sponsored the Unlimited Tile team from 1980-2000. Gary was an individual that was very strong ASA. One year he stood up at a league meeting at MLT Parks when we were trying to get the league to switch over to USSSA and said we need to give these guys a chance for a year to see what they have. Gary was very well known & respected by all the other coaches and sponsors in the area. I believe with the help of Gary's influence, along with his standing up and speaking, we were able to get that league 25 years ago. It is still USSSA to this day. It was the first USSSA league in the north end. It opened the door for many more USSSA leagues in the north end for years to come. The Unlimited Tile team supported WA USSSA by playing 120 games a year through tournament and league play. Gary sponsored all their tournaments, league and travel. He was one of the great sponsors that have been a part of the history of USSSA Washington. Gary played the game throughout all those years, and to this day is still missed by the players' that had the privilege to play for and with him. USSSA Washington was very lucky to have this individual be a major part of our early years in Washington softball.



Debra Dunlap, Female Player Category

Debbie began her career with USSSA Washington in 1983, when she joined the Seattle A's, and quickly became known for both her offensive and defensive skills. She played one year with Case Construction and then joined the Seattle Express team, with whom she earned numerous All Star awards over the next 10-12 years. In 1990 Debbie was nominated by a number of the top coaches in the NW to be a part of a select women's team, selected from around the United States, to travel to Moscow, Leningrad/St. Petersburg and Tallinn, Estonia on a National tour and exhibition for USSSA softball. She has been named to many National All Tournament teams and has lost count of the many State Championships she has been a part of. She refers to softball as the experience of a lifetime, and credits her time spent in the game as being ultimately responsible for teaching her many of life's toughest lessons. As many of the women ball players have stated over the years, her greatest achievements have been those that have been accomplished as a team. She has been a part of many of the top Co-ed teams to have ever played in Washington State and currently is still participating in her local co-ed leagues and enjoying the game with her family and friends near her.