



Chris Plaisance, Male Player Category

Chris began playing USSSA in 1984, while playing with Softball Express, a men's "B" team. To Chris USSSA seemed to be better organized, with better run tournaments, than anything else that was available to the softball community in those days. In Chris's words, "their type of proactive approach to the game is the main reason that I have always preferred to play with USSSA". Chris started his softball career playing as a shortstop and slowly made the transition to the outfield, mainly right center. In his later years he made the move to the mound, where he played while he was with the Pepsi team. He estimates that his lifetime batting average is somewhere in the range of .650, with over 600 home runs through the years. His first coach, the late Gary Smith, a current member of the USSSA Washington State Hall of Fame, described his hitting abilities as follows: "He hits for a very high average and can without a doubt hit the home run ball. He can flat out drive the ball". Some of the other teams that Chris has played for over the years include Caddyshack, Pacific Blues, Grease Monkey, Diet Pepsi and the NW Masters. Some of the awards that came his way include, but are not limited to, All State Tournament teams in 1986, 1989, 1990, 1992, 2001 and 2002. In 1992 Chris was named the MVP of the "AA/A" State Championships.



Dan Cooley, Male Player Category

Dan has been playing USSSA softball for over 18 years, for the simple reason as he puts it, "When I started, if you wanted to play with the best, you played USSSA. It is that simple." For most of his playing days Dan has played at third base or shortstop. However, he has pitched on the rare occasion that he was needed to. His lifetime batting average is somewhere between .680 and .720. Dan is known by his fellow competitors as a free swinger that can hit with power when it is needed. Some of the teams Dan has played for include The Cope Brothers, People's Church and Long Pest Control. Over the years he has been named to numerous invitational All Star teams, along with many State All Star teams. He was named to two different "A" World All Star teams.



Lisa Bull, Female Player Category

Lisa began her association with slow pitch softball, and USSSA Washington, in 1983, playing both women's and coed ball. In the early years she played with Starbase, Musgrove Hauling and Dairy Fresh, and as she got more competitive, with KC Road Warriors, Elliott Trucking and Axis. Lisa met Hall of Famer Steve Bull, and married him. Steve taught her about hitting, strength building and how to hit the ball more effectively, and watched her game advance to the next level of play in women's softball. She played on Threads, a "C" team that won the State Championship, and then placed high in both the National Championships and the World Championship. Lisa has been named to many All Tournament, All State and All World teams over the years, while maintaining a lifetime batting average of over .625. In 2008 Lisa played in the Women's "A" Worlds and hit 1000. In the same year she and her team, M.U.B. won the Women's 35+ World Championship and she was awarded the Batting Champion of the tournament. She then won the 40+ World Championship with TKP40's, and was named to the All World team. For the past 5 years Lisa has hit an average of .72 home runs per year, and averaged at least as many walks per year. One of her personal highlights was winning a Home Run contest in 2008, in Olympia that included the men. Lisa loves the game and plays as much as the "Rules" will allow her. She feels that she is not even close to retiring from the game, as she feels there is so much more to accomplish, players to meet, and good times to have. Lisa is without a doubt one of the best women softball players in the game today.



John Everett, Umpire Category

John has been umpiring for over 49 years. He began with USSSA Washington in 1991 and is still umpiring in the year 2010. John was one of the original umpires that fully supported USSSA in Washington, and along with a few others, was willing to risk losing his association with the Tacoma Umpires Association by working and supporting USSSA Washington in the area. He is currently the UIC of the Tacoma and Pierce County area and is a vocal supporter of USSSA. John has worked State and National Tournaments in all of the programs and at all levels of play. Over the years he has worked National and World Tournaments throughout the West and has been active in recruiting and training new umpires in the state of Washington. Without John's involvement in the Tacoma area it would be hard to conceive that we would have the program that we have in Tacoma today. He dedicates the majority of his free time to the improvement of the Tacoma Umpires Association, and making it the best that it can possibly be.



Steve Martineau, Special Category

Steve has been nominated in the Male Players category, as well as the Directors category. After playing the game for over 25 years Steve volunteered to become a Director in the Seattle area, working closely with other Regional Directors in making USSSA the dominate association in the Seattle/Everett region. He became the Regional Director of Seattle/North in 2001, and has attended over 15 separate league meetings every year since then. Steve has always been willing to do whatever Dick Calvo or Roger Wilson has asked of him, and has always had the best interests of USSSA in mind. Steve has been awarded the Men's Program Award and the Executive Board Award, and was recognized with the Western Region "Spark Plug" Award by the National Association 4-5 years ago. After playing the game for so many years, he decided to become an umpire in the late 1990's and rapidly became one of the better umpires in the Seattle area in a very short time frame. With the growth of his first son, Steve had to step back from umpiring and spend as much time as possible in support of his son's athletic growth. USSSA Washington is as strong as it is today, in the north end of the state due to Steve's tireless efforts in representing USSSA in any way possible.



Paul Guetle, Manager/Coach Category

Paul started with USSSA in 1994 with an "E" team sponsored by the Unicorn Tavern, which played in league only. It took only a short time before he decided that the weekends were where the competition was. During the 1995 and 1996 seasons Paul coached and played for another local "E" team, ADT, and after winning nine tournaments during that time, his team was ranked #2 in the state entering the 1996 "E" State Championships. Paul's team finished that tournament with a 5-2 record and the next year he began his rise in competitive softball. After a year at the "D" level with the High Five Sports Bar & Grill, and not winning a tournament, Paul realized that to meet his goals and to become as successful in the game as he wanted to be, he had to participate at the very upper levels of competition. From 1998 through 2001 his team played at the "C" level and participated in as many NIT, Regional and World tournaments as possible. During this time his teams placed high in almost every tournament they played. In 2003 and 2004 his team played at the "B" level, and attended the "B" World Championships in 2003. For the next four years Paul built and coached an elite "A" level team, Tacoma Dodge/Easton, made up primarily of Washington players, and competed at the very top of the "A" division of play. Paul's team won another association's World Championship in 2004 and competed in the USSSA Major World Series, going 1-2. In 2005 his team placed second in two USSSA Major NIT's, and once again qualified for the Men's Major World Series. Paul has coached Hall of Fame players Nate Lawson and Darren Idler, as well as other USSSA greats from the northwest, which include Jeff Rohr, Darrel Shively, Chris Edmunster, Brian Bundt, Brett Kruger and Doug Bond. The things Paul is best known for in the Washington softball community are his fairness, being a man of his word and a coach that insists that anyone that plays for him does it with class both on and off the field. "This game has been good to me, giving me not just great memories, but true and lasting friendships".



**Monty Fairweather, Sponsor Category
(FAIRWEATHER SPORTS – COMBAT SPORTS)**

This is a joint nomination for father and son, Rob and Monty Fairweather. They have sponsored teams in USSSA since 1994, in most of our programs including men's, women's, church and mixed. Some of the Washington teams that have received this sponsorship include The Reds/JJ/Fairweather Worth, Team Combat, Reds, Combat NW Trojans, Team X-treme, Lady Combat, Team Combat Mixed and many more. They have been Tournament sponsors in all of our programs here in Washington, and have donated entry fees, equipment and uniforms to various youth teams throughout the years. USSSA Washington was very fortunate in 2009 to have the support of Combat Sports as a major sponsor for the Men's "E" Western World Championships. While Don Cooper is the local figure that most of us associate with Combat Sports, Rob Fairweather, the father, is the majority owner of this company. USSSA, both locally and nationally, has been very fortunate to have the support of the Fairweather family and their companies over the past fifteen years.



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