



**Tony Reichert, Male
Player Category**

Tony started his softball career right out of High School, when he started playing with The Cherry Street Garage in the Seattle Metro League. After a few years, Tony decided that he would put together a group of his friends, and with the backing of his employer, Limback Lumber, created the Limback Lumber Softball Team. Over the next several years Limback Lumber participated in many local tournaments, and annually made the trek to eastern Washington for the "Meltdown" tournament, run by Bobby Long. Tony participated in the USSSA State Championships every year for over 25 years, with Limback Lumber taking third place in the 1993 "C/D" State Championships. Over the years Tony became known for the high energy level he brought to the game, and for his wide variety of pitches. He was recruited many times by teams of a higher classification that saw and understood what he could bring to the game, day in and day out. Tony continually turned down those offers and stayed with his friends as long as they wanted to play the game. Today, Tony is still playing slow pitch, however he is now playing with kids young enough to be his own, and still loving the game as much as ever.



Jerry Herrington, Male Player Category

Jerry began his involvement with slow pitch softball, and USSSA, in 1980, when he joined a local men's team. He has been a member of three State Championship teams in the Church 'A' program, and has won 4 Mixed State Championships over the years. During that time he has been named to many All State teams, as well as winning the MVP of the State Championships on three different occasions. One of his proudest moments in softball was when his team JSG, won the Men's Church "A" World Championship in 1995. Jerry has always been an individual that coaches would seek out for their roster because of his athleticism, attitude and reliability both on and off the field. He always has a smile on his face and refuses to ever accept that his team may lose. Some of the men's teams he has played on are Caddy Shack, Tacoma Dodge, Dobbs & Fox, South End Merchants, MJB Financial and the South King County Merchants. He has also been a member of some of our top Mixed Program teams in the recent past such as Trojans and The Shockers. Jerry met his wife while playing a Mixed Program game in 2003.



Chrissy "CD" Dow Russell, Female Player Category

Chrissy, better known as CD, began playing softball with USSSA at the early age of 18, when she joined the Lake Washington Sports Clinic team. Over the next few years she played for Caddy Shack, Athletic Supply, Issaquah Merchants, Gas Lamp Tavern, and Les's BP. In Chris's words "I realized that I wanted to play at the A/B level, play harder and take it much more serious. I met some awesome people and players while playing for Les's BP and that catapulted me into a different group of players. I started playing mixed, traveling, and meeting higher-level ball players. After many teams and championships and awards for playing well it became apparent that none of those things held a candle to the reason I play the game. It was never about a ring for me. It was only about playing the game that I love. Through the years I have reconnected with old friends and played for some great teams both women's and mixed (Athletic Supply, Grover/Ball Yard, Bulletproof, Team Xtreme, Seattle Express, Stixx, Fresh Pac, Jades). If you needed a player whether you were in Seattle or Tim Buck Two I would be there, no matter the cost or the day of week. I got on a plane or started my drive. This is eventually what led me to where I am today. A pivotal point in my softball life is when I reconnected with childhood friend Don Cooper. Playing for him with "Worth" and "Combat" changed the way I looked at the game. I wanted my teams to travel like the big boys. It became a mission every year to help my teams raise enough funds to make it possible. In 2006 I hung it all up, said I was done. I was 40 and some big changes happened in my life. I was married and decided to start a family. After a couple years away from the game, I came back. I started The Derby Girls Combat in 2009 and finally reached my goal of having a team that travels to the biggest women's tournaments in the country. It has been 25 years of playing the greatest game on earth."



Paul Schukar, Special Category

Paul began his association with USSSA over 25 years ago as a coach of a team in the Church program. Over the years he has taken his team to numerous State, National and World tournaments in USSSA. He has attended many of the USSSA National Conventions, has acted as head of the Church Classification Committee, Chairman of the church board and Assistant Church Program Director for the past 15 years. He has been the Tournament Director for over 25 State, National and World tournaments throughout his tenure. Paul has been a member of the Hall Of Fame Committee for the past six years and has been the MC for our annual Hall of Fame Banquet for the past five years. For many years, in many different areas of USSSA, Paul has been the individual that we go to when anything needs to be done. USSSA has been a big part of his life for the past 25 years, and he has been a big part of USSSA. Our success to this day rests upon him, and many other individuals, that so selflessly have contributed their time and energy to make USSSA Washington State the best softball association in the state.



Ron Koenig, Special Category

Ron began his involvement with USSSA Washington in the early 1980's, as both a player and coach. In 1988 he decided that he would try his hand at running a tournament. He obtained the SERA complex in Tacoma on a weekend that others had had difficulty in attracting teams to play. Within two years Ron had one of the biggest tournaments of the year, with 48 teams, playing from 8:00 AM to midnight, on a Saturday of that second year. He obtained sponsors, awarded a first class trophy package, and was well liked by the teams. There wasn't a league in the Seattle/Tacoma area that was not visited by Ron in the weeks leading up to his tournament. After reaching his goals in that area, Ron began umpiring in 2002, and quickly became the leader in the number of games umpired in each year. He became a Regional Director and member of the Executive Board in 2003, and attended many league meetings over the years. Ron obtained the trust of the league director of the Kirkland leagues and won them over to USSSA in 2011. He received the Jack DeRosia Award from the USSSA Washington State Umpires Association in 2012. There is almost nothing about the history of USSSA softball, in Washington, that Ron cannot talk about with authority and an unbelievable knowledge. Ron, and his work ethic, has been an inspiration for others in USSSA, and has always been a huge part of our success here in Washington.



**Don Large, Sponsor
Category**

Don is the owner of Uptown Auto Body and has been a major supporter of USSSA for over 20 years. His teams have won numerous State Championships, along with a few National Championships. If Uptown had a team, it was a known fact that it was the best team in the Bremerton community, and one of the best in the northwest. An Uptown team has participated in a Men's State Championship every year for the past twenty years, and has traveled to the Nationals the majority of those years, as well as on to the World Championships a few times. In the late 80's, and throughout the 90's, a tournament was not considered to be fully competitive unless an Uptown team was entered, and others were not considered successful unless they beat Uptown Auto Body. When umpires took the field and saw that Uptown was playing, they always knew that their best efforts were going to be needed, and that a hard fought battle was about to take place.



Kevin Moeller, Umpire Category

Kevin became an umpire in the mid 80's, after coming to the conclusion that the umpiring in the league that he was playing in (not USSSA) was in need of some help and that he wanted to face the challenge of becoming one of the best. He signed up with WSSUA and immediately began his career in umpiring. He was one of the few new umpires that immediately caught the eyes of veterans like Howard Hughes, Ed Haugen and Dale McGregor. Kevin earned his way up the ladder of the umpiring ranks by working hard and learning the game from top to bottom. He quickly became one of the most respected umpires in the northwest, and was picked to work many post season events, traveling out of state to National, Regional and World Tournaments. During his career he represented WSSUA at numerous league meetings, speaking not just for the umpires, but for USSSA as well. Kevin was a part of many of the local umpire clinics throughout the 90's. His highest honor came in 2001 when he was picked to work the Men's Major World Series in Florida, where he was ultimately selected to do the plate in the Championship game. Kevin has since retired from the game he came to love, but still stays in touch with many of the friends he has made over the years. He is still capable today of stepping onto the field, at any time, and working a game at any level of play.



Kermit Stricklin, Coach/Manager Category

Kermit has played and coached USSSA Softball teams since 1998. He was reluctantly introduced into softball by Dale Hornung and Kim Hooks when he was recruited to play on some of the top local 'C' teams from 1998-2000 with his TNT team peaking with a 15th place finish at USSSA 'C' Worlds in 2000. Kermit played his last year as a player only in 2001 with Axis Chiropractic, with the Axis team winning USSSA 'B' State. After the 2001 season Kermit's interests in softball grew to where he wanted to be more than just a player on one of the top local teams. Kermit began to change his focus to coaching/sponsoring teams and trying to develop younger players to compete at the highest levels in softball. In 2002 The H&S Gators was his first team at the 'C' level, followed in 2003 with the Gatorline 'C' team and 2004-06 with the 'B' team Dobbs and Fox/Gatorline. In that five season span his team took 3rd place at the 2005 USSSA 'B' Worlds, won a Major World Series Berth in 2004, three USSSA State titles, and in 2003 won three 'C' N.I.T. titles. After a nice run Kermit re-instilled a national vision in the state of Washington when he and his core teammates merged with C-Town out of Boise, Idaho for the 2007 and 2008 seasons with great success, taking 2nd place in USSSA 'B' Worlds in 2007 and winning two Major N.I.T.'s (2007 Seattle Major and 2008 Georgia Peach Major). The Softballcenter.com editor Dale Weiser for Major Softball wrote "Kermit Stricklin is a tremendous talent evaluator and game manager on a national level as well as an underrated hitter. Kermit is very much deserving of a managerial post with a top team." In 2009 Kermit coached a Southern California team sponsored by Combat Sports (Don Cooper) and Elite Sports, which finished 4th at the USSSA 'A' World Championship and won the 2009 Mike Davis Major N.I.T. in Concord, California. In 2010 Kermit was invited to join the GTL/Cartel management team, where he helped coach the Cartel team to a 2010 'A' USSSA World title, a 4th place finish in the 2011 Major World Series and six Major N.I.T. wins over the two years. Kermit credits USSSA for giving him and his players the opportunity to play in an organization that was well organized in both tournament and post season play and allowing him to make lifelong friends across the country. The nomination is not only a credit to Kermit and his success but more of a culmination of all those who have supported him along his spectacular journey in softball.