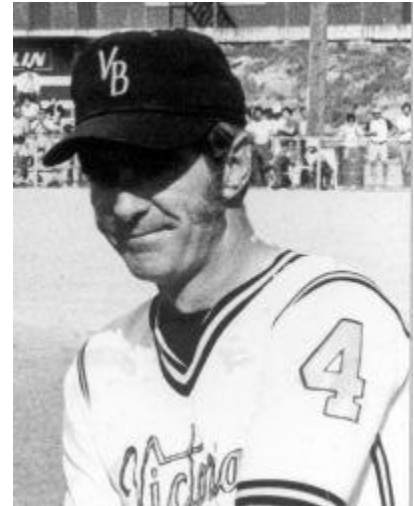


Joe Patterson

1989 Inductee - Builder/Sportsperson Category



Joe Patterson started playing organized softball in 1959 on the local level in Victoria. In the years 1959 to 1968, he was a perennial all star as a first baseman and outfield. His batting average in these years was always around, or over the three hundred mark. During these years, he participated in three provincial championships, two of which his team won. The other seven years, his team chased the elusive dream of a Senior A Men's Championship. The dream came true in 1969, when he played for Bate Construction. This was the start of what was to become a provincial and national softball dynasty. His full-time playing stopped in 1972, when he was asked to coach the Victoria Bates Fastball team. He stayed on the roster as a player until 1974, although his participation was limited.



Joe was instrumental in changing the attitude of a lot of players towards the game. His practice methods, discipline and attitude towards the game was adopted by many softball people. The following is a run down of Joe's accomplishments as player and coach:

- Player – Provincial Championships 1969, 1971
- Coach – 6x Provincial Champions in 1972-1977
- Coach – National Senior A Runners up in 1974
- Coach – 3x National Senior A Champions in 1975-1977 (possibly the first time in Canadian history that one team under the same coach won three consecutive Canadian Championships)
- Coach – World Champions 1976

Joe's impact on the game of softball will be felt in not only Canada, but the world for years to come. Joe's personal comments are that 'I feel that I worked hard at playing the game and harder at coaching it. I enjoyed it all and hope that some of what I put into the game has helped it grow and become a better sport'.

Joe received recognition for his contributions to softball both locally and provincially and he not only gave his time coaching his own team, but in the off-season, Joe donated countless hours conducting coaching clinics (particularly in the minor division) in BC.