

Leo Burns

1993 Inductee - Special Recognition Category



Leo, or Dusty as he was commonly called, arrived back on the BC Softball scene in 1972. During those next 20 ½ years, he umpired softball and baseball up until his death in June of this year.

His start in umpiring goes back to 1950, in Victoria. For the next 20 years, he carried his equipment wherever his military career took him. In 1964, he attended the Harry Summers professional Umpire School. He was offered a pro contract, but turned it down to stay with his family.

Leo's career was very distinguished in the Softball ranks. He officiated in three National Tournaments (1974, 79 & 83), including two Senior Men fast Pitch events (1974 & 1983). Leo was considered one of the finest ball and strike umpires in fastpitch.



From 1975 to 1986, he was the umpire-in-Chief of District 1 (Victoria). Leo was one of the most knowledgeable 'Rules Man' in the country and he loved to spend countless hours arguing rules with those that would listen. He, along with Jim Sutherland, produced one of the first case books in Canada "So You Think You Know Softball". He enjoyed evaluating and offering assistance to young officials and spent many volunteer hours helping with umpire development in British Columbia. With his famous magnet board, he conducted clinics up and down Vancouver Island.

Even during his sickness, he continued to assist where he could with our officiating program. During his last few years, when his legs could not take the ground of fast-pitch he continued to umpire Slo-Pitch and helped Joe Dobko produce one of the finer groups of Slo-pitch umpires in the province. We will deeply miss his nature and his constant readiness to ask, 'What can I do to help?'. Ladies and gentlemen please join me in honouring the late Leo Burns.