

# Melanie Matthews

2017 Inductee - Athlete Category



Melanie Matthews was born in Vancouver, BC, in 1986. Starting at the age of five, she had already developed a passion for softball beginning her playing career with the Cloverdale Minor Softball Association. Next up, she went on to play for Surrey Storm '98 throughout her remaining PeeWee, Bantam and Midget levels. While playing with Surrey Storm, she quickly established herself as their starting catcher. Throughout her youth, Melanie found herself competing in several other sports such as soccer and basketball.



After graduating high school, she received a well-earned scholarship to attend the Div I Stetson University in Deland, Florida. Shortly after, she got accepted into the Business Administration Program at the Simon Fraser University (SFU) where she played for two seasons (2005-2007). During her time spent at SFU, she set the record for best batting average in a single season at .559 and the longest hitting streak (27). To this day, she still ranks fourth in all-time SFU career home runs.

In 2003, Melanie was selected to play for the Canadian National team where she competed for eight seasons from 2006 to 2012. Her speed, agility and strong arm landed her an outfield position and eventually she became their lead-off batter. Throughout her time with Team Canada, she competed in numerous Canada Cup and Canadian Open tournaments. At the 2006 WBSC Women's Softball World Championship, she led Canada with 20 hits and an outstanding .667 batting average. She competed in three WBSC World Championships (2006, 2010, and 2012), where she had a .460 batting average and 112 plate appearances. She also played in two Pan American Games winning a silver medal in the 2007 tournament, and a gold medal at the 2007 Universiade Summer Games in Bangkok, Thailand. The following year she competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games with Team Canada, placing fourth. During her nine-year career with Team Canada she maintained a whopping .376 batting average across 660 plate appearances.

## **Career Highlights**

- 2004 – Competed in the Universiade Summer Games
- 2006/07 – 2x Canada Cup's Top Batter

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- 2006 – World Championships Team Canada placed 5<sup>th</sup> (Olympic Qualifier)
- 2007 – Universiade Summer Games Gold Medalist in Bangkok, Thailand
- 2007 – Pan Am Games Silver Medalist
- 2006/10/12 – Competed in 3 WBSC World Championships
- 2008 Olympian – Placed 4<sup>th</sup> with Team Canada at the Beijing Summer Olympics
- 2010 – Women's World Championships Bronze Medalist in Caracas, Venezuela
- 2011 – Competed in the Pan Am Games
- 2017 – Inducted into the Softball BC Hall of Fame
- 2019 – Inducted into the Softball Canada Hall of Fame
- 2022 – Inducted into the World Baseball Softball Confederation Hall of Fame