

Murle Johnson

2010 Inductee - Athlete of Distinction Category



Murle Johnson started playing fastball in 1948, at age 14 and retired in 2000 at age 65. In the 51 years he played, he never missed a season. In 1948, Murle played with the BC Telephone team earning the Top Pitcher award in Junior competition. Moving into Senior B Men's softball, Murle competed with Fera Sheet Metal, winning multiple MVP awards throughout his time in Senior B. In 1951, Murle helped Fera Sheet Metal win its league championship.



Murle's pitching moved him quickly through the ranks, reaching Senior A Men's softball by age 18. From 1952 to 1962, he played for the Eldorados, establishing himself as one of BC's top pitchers. Next, he played for the Molsons Canadians from 1963 to 1971. During his time with the Molsons Canadians, they won the league and BC regional Championship. He set a new record with 18 consecutive strikeouts against the Post Office team and threw a no-hitter at the Canadian Championships in 1963. That same year, Murle was recognized as Top Pitcher in both the league and BC regional playoffs. In 1968, he represented BC at the Pan American Games and won bronze at his league playoffs. Murle continued to collect awards and medals throughout the next years at this level before eventually moving into Masters, where he was the recipient of the Masters Athlete of the Year award, in 1997.

Along with his outstanding pitching career, Murle also supported fastball by umpiring (under Gordie McDonald), eventually moving up to Umpire in Chief. Murle umpired in Senior A and Senior B Men's leagues, as well as Senior A Women's leagues at South Hill and in various house leagues throughout the lower mainland.

Murle mentored countless men and women throughout his career, patiently showing them the ropes and teaching them the fine art of fastball pitching - essentially giving back to the sport he loved.

Career Highlights

- 1948/67 – Top Pitcher Award Recipient
- 1949-51 – 3x Senior B Men's MVP Award Recipient
- 1967 – Represented BC at the Pan American Games
- 1967 – Top Pitcher in the BC Playoffs
- 1968 – Set a new record of with 18 consecutive strike-outs

Murle Johnson

2010 Inductee - Athlete of Distinction Category



- 1970 – Represented BC in Hawaii for the Third Aloha State Softball tournament
- 1975 – Senior A League MVP Award Recipient
- 1989 – Regional Top Pitcher pitching a perfect game
- 1994-95 – 2x Masters National MVP
- 1995 – Inducted into the South Hill Sports Hall of Fame
- 1997 – Masters Athlete of the Year Award Recipient
- 2010 – Inducted into the Softball BC Hall of Fame