

Gary Baughman - HoF - 2015

Gary Baughman - ADMINISTRATOR AND UMPIRE CATEGORY - Class of 2015

Most everyone who follows the sport of men's fastpitch softball, aka fastball, knows the name of Gary Baughman. If they do not know his name, then they probably are very familiar with his work as the Statistician for the International Softball Congress (ISC).

Gary's name is synonymous with the sport itself, having dedicated a great deal of his life to recording the exploits of the many players who have played the game and/or who are still playing the game.

Gary has followed the game literally all of his adult life but he officially became involved with the ISC in 1993 at the World Tournament in Kimberly, WI when Pat Sullivan asked Gary to work with Art Cashion to record all the stats on score sheets for the '93 World Tournament, won by the Toronto Gators.

1993 was by no means Gary's first hands on experience with scoring and statistics for fastball. Before he became statistician for the ISC he worked the Major Open city league in Iowa that boasted Welty Way of Cedar Rapids. He also worked the ASA National Champion in 1971 and Teleconnect the ISC World Championship in 1987.

He also did then and still does to this day the Iowa Area Tournament. He has worked the Iowa tournament for over 40 years now. He has done the public address announcements and the stats there and for many other tournaments for tournaments all over the Midwest. Gary also did the announcing for several games in Allentown Pa in 1984 at the World Tournament.

So when Gary officially became the ISC Statistician in 1995, at the invitation of Milt Stark, the ISC Executive Director of the day, he was already a seasoned veteran in the world of fastball scorekeeping and statistics.

Gary has been the ISC Statistician for each and every ISC World Tournament since 1995. It may sound as if Gary's job is a bee hive of activity from day one of the annual World Tournament to the Championship game, but indeed it is much more. It's pretty well a year round job.

To get ready for the World Tournament, Gary is collecting team rosters from the first pitch of the season in the travel leagues and indeed even the AAU Tournament in Orlando in January. He literally follows every ISC-level ball game he can get information on.

Gary spends a great deal of time preparing for the annual ISC World Tournament in mid-August and is recording team rosters, changes, etc. to get ready for the big show. Gary helps with the actual schedules for the World Tournament as well as the Legends and U21 tournaments as well.

In his quiet time Gary had access to all of the stats archives. Art Cashion had left a great deal of material from 1947 on. He spent 10 years putting this together and now the ISC all the stats for every player that played up on its website thanks to Gary. From 1975 on he had every game. He put them in his scoring program which took him over 3 years to do. This is a body of work to be treasured.

World Tournament Week:

Gary is one of the first ISC personnel on site each year for the World Tournament. He is available at the Team Registration Desk before the tournament starts to receive roster changes from teams and to clarify player names, numbers, positions, etc. By the time the registration is completed, Gary has every player entered into his stats programme and is all ready for the World Tournament to start.

Gary is one of the first people on-site at the ball park each and every morning during the World Tournament. He works with all the score keepers to ensure they understand what is expected of them and he assists them with both technical issues if they are using a lap top and probably more often with scoring anomalies, of which there can be many.

I can attest to the fact that Gary is one of the last people out of the park at night, long after the last game is over. Usually the only activity in the ball park when Gary leaves are the grounds keepers preparing the diamond for the next day, rolling out the tarps if there is a chance of rain, and the clean-up crews, sweeping the trash out of the grand stands.

During the week Gary is extremely busy, checking every game that has been scored, often re-entering the full set of details from the score sheet. To say Gary is a perfectionist is an understatement, he takes every play, every score personally, he wants it 100% accurate.

Quite often during the week, a manager or two will stop by to provide a correction on a play or a re-entry. Sometimes the scorekeeper does not get the signal from the blue calling for a change and every team seems to spend a lot of time at the hotel room online checking their game stats. If they spot something, they let Gary know. When this happens Gary always follows up and asks the scorekeeper, the blue, or team scorekeeper until he is satisfied he has the absolute correct information.

As the week goes on, Gary is not only checking every game before it is passed on a hot stick to Al Doran to load up to the ISC website, but he is tracking the leading hitters, pitchers, etc., with an eye on who to point out to the World Tournament Selection Committee as potential All World nominees.

Even when the World Tournament is all over and everything is in the books as they say, Gary does not rest. Once he is home in Iowa, Gary takes out every game sheet and re scores them by hand and updates the many computer files associated with the week of play. He often calls or emails team managers and/or score keepers to confirm specific plays that were in question. He passes these to Al to replace what is already on the ISC website so everyone can be assured the information is accurate and complete.

Gary loves the work he does, loves the park and the ball players. It shows. The statistics he has compiled are the centre piece of the history of the ISC.

By Al Doran (Al Doran was the ISC Webmaster who worked side by side with Gary Baughman from 1999-2014.