

Tom Boyd - HoF - 2016

Tom Boyd - Umpire - Class of 2016



As a youth, Tom Boyd played baseball and football and enjoyed wrestling. Living in Orefield PA, he attended Parkland High School and upon graduation attended Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster PA.

Tom got his start in softball officiating near the end of the 1972 season. With encouragement from Bob Walsh and Barry Boyd, both of whom were influential in his career, Tom started officiating at ISC qualifiers in 1975 and was added to the ISC World Tournament umpires roster

in 1981. In that inaugural tournament in Saginaw MI, he worked the plate in a 28 inning marathon featuring Tulsa OK and Ashland OH.

A decade later in Sioux City IA, Tom was again behind the dish when HoF lefty Brad Underwood and his Owen Sound ON Canadian Tiremen locked horns with "Chubb" Tangaroa's Rohnert Park CA Guanella Brothers. That match-up was a 22-inning squeaker semi-final from which Owen Sound emerged with a 1-0 win to advance to the finals.

Tom's on-field arbitrating has taken him to many legendary softball communities, including Allentown PA, Central Park NY, Kimberly WI, Las Vegas NV, Midland MI, Owen Sound ON, Rochester NY, and countless other "Fields of Dreams" throughout Ontario, the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic ISC regions.

Other highlights include serving as plate umpire for HoF Michael White's first championship with Cedar Rapids IA Teleconnect in Saskatoon SK (1987) and Gerald Muizelaar's first championship for HoF Doc Simmons' Travelers in Eau Claire WI (2001).

Reflecting on his career Tom recalls his first World Tournament in 1981, which many think was the "best of all time" when he worked the 28 inning game after the famous 34 inning matchup the evening before. He also cherishes the opportunities to work the Championship final games in 1987, 1990 and 2001.

Of the multitude of players, coaches, officials and umpires that he met through the ISC world he has special fond memories of fellow arbiters and compatriots Bob Walsh (HoF 1986), Ron Brinkman (HoF 2013) and Margarito "Maggie" Banales (HoF 2005)

Tom worked 21 ISC World Tournaments in a stellar career upon which the sun finally set in 2005 in Eau Claire WI.

Tom and his wife Diane have three children Nick and his wife Alyassa, and two daughters Kelly and Katelyn and her husband Chad.

While missing his two decades of officiating, Tom is enjoying his retirement that includes racing flat karts and micro-stocks. He shares that he is "glad to be a survivor of cancer – seven + years out - and he reminds his fellow softballers and families the importance of getting "checked out" because it (cancer) can be beaten if detected early".