

Brad Underwood, Owen Sound, ON



Pitching prowess is a result of hard work, and can be augmented by solid athletic genes. Brad Underwood epitomizes both, as he followed in the “spike-strides” of his father Bill, an accomplished flame-throwing pitcher in Owen Sound, Ontario. Only difference is that Brad brought it from the south side, and quickly earned fastball respect, and a nickname “Lefty”.

As a minor-age hurler, Brad and team-mates won numerous Ontario provincial titles, but the era of “Undy-dominance” commenced in 1979 and 1980 when the Owen Sound King Farm teams promoted junior-aged Brad to the senior league. He quickly established himself (9W – 3L and 110 Ks) and remained with the team for a dozen years. During that period, Brad and the Owen Sound club won four Ontario Championships and two Canadian titles. Even more impressive were the accomplishments in the ISC.

In 1987, Brad and the Owen Sound Canadian Tire squad gave notice, finishing 8th, and he was selected as a First Team All-World player (5-2, an ERA of 0.40 and 98 Ks). A year later, in 1988, Brad led his mates to 3rd place, tying for the highest finish ever by a Canadian-based squad. Brad was 4W-2L, with a superb ERA of 0.64 and 81 Ks, and another All-World selection.

The defining moment for Brad and the Tiremen was at the ISC Worlds in Sioux City, IA. It was a storyline on which movies are produced and legends are born. On Saturday afternoon August 17, 1991, Brad defeated the defending ISC Champions Bellevue (Seattle) WA Seafirst 2-1. Scant hours

later, he threw a perfect game against Aurora IL Colonial Baking.

The pair of wins advanced Owen Sound to the Sunday morning semi-final. The opposing team Rohnert Park CA Guanella Brothers gave veteran Kiwi Chubb Tangaroa the call for pitching, and Chubb and “Undy” battled for 7 innings (no score) through 14 innings (scoreless) and 21 innings (still scoreless). In the top of the 22nd, Brad, a menacing batter and a “tough out” in his own right, singled. Displaying his all-round athleticism, the 32 year old stole 2nd base to set the table, and scored on an ensuing single. In the bottom of the 22nd, Brad sensed victory and once again shut down the Guanella Brothers. But wait, there’s more.... the marathon win vaulted Owen Sound into the championship game of the 48-team event, with the Opening Pitch just moments away.

Brad dug deep and threw nine shut-out innings against the host Sioux City’s undefeated Penn Corp team, finally allowing a pair of runs in the 10th inning. Owen Sound’s 2nd place finish was the highest ever by a Canadian team up to that year. Brad was 6W-2L, with 110 Ks punctuating his 0.89 ERA, and was awarded the Top Pitcher award.

He was also named top pitcher in the 1994 ISC, with the Champion Green Bay All-Car Roadrunners. Brad retired initially in 1999, but returned for the ISC 2002 tourney in Kitchener, helping Owen Sound to a 5th place finish, followed by a Canadian national gold medal, and then retired for the 2nd time – permanently.

Brad is currently 2nd in career ISC wins by a south-paw (8th overall) with 36 wins. Brad and his wife Jody and children Jenna and Bobby reside in Owen Sound, Ontario. Continuously employed for 29 years with the Miller Corporation, he has recently devoted time to coaching minor hockey and lacrosse.