

## Gary Baughman, Cedar Rapids, IA



Growing up in Cedar Rapids IA, Gary Baughman enjoyed sports participating in church league softball, as well as competing in football & wrestling and running on the track team at George Washington High School. Jack Ogden, a sports reporter for the Cedar Rapids Gazette, shared the intricacies of scoring softball games with Gary and he became “hooked on stats”.

Gary served as statistician with the Cedar Rapids Major Open city league, a local loop that boasted Welty Way (1971 ASA Champs) and Teleconnect (1987 ISC World Champions). As well, he did game announcing and stats for the Iowa Area tournaments throughout the Midwest spanning 40 years, and in 1984 assumed some P.A. chores in Allentown PA for the 1984 ISC world tourney. In 1991 he compiled stats for the Cedar Rapids IA Bosch-Rausch Financial team that won the ISC and ASA state titles, and competed at the ISC Worlds in Sioux City IA. Gary recalls the play of his friend and fellow pipe-fitter Mike Pallesen, a terrific power-hitting local Hall of Famer in Iowa.

In 1993, ISC Commissioner Pat Sullivan, who was aware of Gary’s stats skills from the Iowa Area qualifiers, suggested that Gary assist ISC Statistician Art Cashion at the World Tourney in Kimberly WI. Two years later Gary was invited by ISC Executive Director Milt Stark to assume the role of ISC Statistician. Gary accepted the opportunity and tackled the numbers responsibilities and challenges. Gary had access to ISC memorabilia and he pounced on the significant amount of material that had been archived by Art Cashion. After a decade of meticulous research and compilation, Gary assembled stats for every player that competed in the ISC, and every game since 1975 is now summarized.

Much of this detail is available on the ISC website as Gary’s passion for “the numbers” in fast-pitch helped create a legacy as his being the consummate statistician. Since his appointment in 1995, Gary has been a fixture in the annual tournaments, painstakingly completing and summarizing game reports that add to the history of the game and the quality of the yearly-up-dated ISC Championship guide. To complement his 42 years as a union pipe-fitter/welder, Gary has carved out an admirable sports administrative volunteer career, continuously adding to the ISC’s historical archives. While his other main focus is family with his son Bret and grand-children Breanne, Karissa and Kole, Gary does spend the majority of his time on ISC responsibilities – and he shares that “our great game is my life and is all that I want to do”.