

Kevin Herlihy



Kevin Herlihy's career was studded with representative honours and he was the captain of the New Zealand team when it won the world title in 1984. He also won world championship gold in 1976 when New Zealand shared the title with USA and Canada and won gold again in 1996 as pitching coach with the title winning New Zealand team.

Herlihy was already well-established as one of the best pitchers in the world when he made his ISC debut at the age of 32 in 1979 for the Saginaw, MI Bolters. Herlihy swept both the MVP and Most Outstanding Pitcher Awards that year, leading the Bolters to the title, beating the Long Beach Nitehawks 2-1 in 11 innings.

Herlihy struck out 96 batters in 54 innings, allowing 22 hits, and walked just four batters in the Bolters' seven games. Remarkably, Herlihy allowed just three runs and none of them were earned. Truly an astonishing debut.

In all, Herlihy was named ISC All-World five times, and twice was the Most Outstanding Pitcher.

Herlihy played for the New Zealand national softball team between 1966 and 1984, and was named New Zealand softballer of the year on three occasions. He was a member of the New Zealand team at six Men's Softball World Championships. In the 1985 New Year Honours, he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire, for services to softball, and in 1990 he was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.

Herlihy died in Waikato Hospital in Hamilton on 5 July 2006. In 2007, the ISC established the Kevin Herlihy Memorial Newcomer of the Year Award for ISC players making their debut appearance.

