

Terry Challis, Whitby, ON



Terry Challis was born in Toronto and his childhood home backed onto a softball park—it was destiny at its purest. Following his minor ball days, Terry immersed himself into work, all the while developing a strong commitment to fastball. Initially it was recreational with co-workers and friends. In time, Terry's skills were obvious and he was recruited into the Richmond Hill League – an initial step on what proved to be an amazing journey. In due course, he joined the fabled York Merchants, who morphed into the York Gators and eventually gained international prominence as the Toronto Gators.

Terry was an original founding player with the Jack Fireman Gators and Terry quickly gained a reputation as a player who thrives on “the moment”. As a skilled fleet-of-foot player for 12 years at ISC tournaments, he patrolled the outfield for notable teams including the Gators as well as Green Bay All-Car, New York Spirit and Owen Sound

Canadian Tire, Terry is best remembered for being the “game-breaker” on many occasions. His superb defence coupled with always being a “tough out”, earned him ISC all-world status five times.

His pinnacle ISC tourney was 1993 in Kimberly WI when he led his Toronto Gators to the ISC crown, the first Canadian team to do so. With 10 timely hits, resulting in a .455 batting average, Terry was named as the tournament’s MVP. In a dozen ISC seasons, Terry batted .330, taking the ball deep nine times for homeruns and was named ISC All-World on five occasions – twice with the Gators (1993-94) and three times with the NY Spirit (2000-01-02).

Terry affirms that the “Gator family” has had significant importance in his life both on and off the field. He credits softball for allowing him to grow as a person, and travel extensively while being surrounded by great team-mates, who were even more importantly, great people. As a member of Canada’s national team Terry earned a Pan-Am gold medal and an ISF silver medal. Terry shared “I have had the privilege of playing with and against some of the great players of all time and I feel very lucky to have had that opportunity. Trying to list them all would be a book in itself. I learned a little something from each and every one and used that to become as good as I could possibly be not only as a player but also as a person.”

Terry continued to suit up with the “Gator family” in Legends competition, alongside those same team-mates and friends, under the leadership of team sponsor and long-time friend Jack Fireman. For the future, Terry projected – “When Jack and our family are done playing, I’m done, but not until then”. While Terry continues to enjoy high level competition as a Gator alumnus, he balances his life with commitments to family - two children Kyler and Logan – along with his career and coaching minor hockey.