

Tom McAvoy Stillwater, NY



The venerable Tom McAvoy was unable to attend his induction due to health challenges. His softball friend Billy Smith of Hankins, NY, nattily attired in his Sunday best, did a credible job sharing how humbled his friend "Mac" is to get a ring, because for McAvoy, "it was always about the ring."

McAvoy was a baseball player of renown as a youth, began his professional baseball career in 1956. He signed with the former Washington Senators and pitched in one major league game in 1959 before his career was cut short when he broke his arm during a winter ball game in Nicaragua later that year. Among his athletic accomplishments, Smith stated "Mac struck out Ted Williams - how many people can make that claim?"

McAvoy started his fascinating fastpitch love affair in Schenectady, NY in 1965, amassing local, state and regional championships. In 1992, he brought his Heflin

Builders team to his first ever ISC, and finished as high as 4th in the 1999 ISC Worlds.

Smith circulated a "diary-style" book encouraging those present to put pen to paper and share best wishes and sentiments with Mac. In some of the early entries, references to great coach, true gentleman and ambassador were inked.

Smith shared that "Mac has so many friends – you can't name an enemy. He brought not dozens, but hundreds of players to the game. Many of them – Kiwis, Canadians, Dominicans – have spent time in the McAvoy household in Stillwater, NY. Tom defined the 'international' in ISC as he traditionally started the season in the Dominican Republic."