

## Brad Rona, Auckland, NZ



Brad Rona was introduced to softball and initially coached by his father Peter. Through hard work and dedication to a sport that he enthusiastically embraced, Brad fine-tuned his abundant natural athletic ability to become that player that his opponents feared the most.

Following an initial affiliation with his local Northcote team, Brad earned a position on the famed New Zealand Black Sox national squad and competed in six Men's World Softball / International Softball Federation championships from 2000 to 2017. During that span, the Black Sox earned four gold and two silver medals, with Brad slugging his way to a .371 batting average, including 33 home runs.

Following his international debut in 2000 in East London, South Africa, Brad was lured to ISC competition, suiting up initially with Marathon, WI County Concrete / Materials (2001 – 05). That was

followed by seasons with New York, NY Patsy's (2006-08), Broken Bow, NE Patsy's (2009), Jarvis, ON Travellers (2010-12) and three seasons with the Toronto, ON Gators 2014-16.

In the batter's box, Brad was an intimidating opponent, combining a sterling batting average complemented with a career-long propensity to take the ball deep – always a home-run threat. As well, he was a superb infielder at either first base or the hot corner at third.

Brad was a five-time ISC Champion, three times with the Jarvis Travellers, book-ended in 2005 with County Materials and Toronto Gators in 2016.

Brad earned ISC All-World distinction seven times, and enjoyed considerable success in 2016 with the Gators, batting .385, with three HRs in the final three games and was named ISC MVP.

Terry Baytor, (ISC HoF 2019) coach of the Gators, shares that in his opinion “Brad possessed a ‘refuse-to-lose’ mentality which he brought to the field each and every day” and that he possessed “great leadership skills ... that made players around him better.”

Now retired from the big stage, in New Zealand sports parlance “Brad Rona left his jersey in a better place than how he found it.”