

# DARREN DERRICKS - HOF 2019



For the love of the game is understood and demonstrated in various manners by every sports person. It can mean playing late nights on the ball diamond, waking up before sunrise to participate in extra batting practice, staying past the normal practice time for infield drills after everyone else has gone home or sleeping every night with a softball glove under your pillow.

It can also mean displaying passion and devoting significant resources of time, energy and funds to ensure that the sport thrives

Darren Derricks, 48, was born in Green Bay, WI and his passion for the game of softball was evident early. He started playing in the Wisconsin Classic League when he was 18 years old when he donned the uniform of the Umemtum brothers' team.

In 1994, Darren purchased Circle Tap and maintained his enthusiasm by becoming a sponsor of renown for the Circle Tap Dukes based in Denmark WI. At one point he sponsored not one, but two teams and always fostered the "greater good" of the game.

Two examples are his support for a "gentlemen's agreement" that teams in Wisconsin area refrain from poaching other teams' players with an objective of keeping teams together and raising the overall level of local competition, and his decision to release, from his own team's roster, a pitcher so that another team could compete in the ISC World Tournament.

Circle Tap is one of the longest tenured, continuously operating softball organizations, competing in the ISC World Tournaments since 1995. All the teams are respectfully named the Denmark Dukes in honor of John Miller (HoF 2012).

Confident in his style and actions, Darren makes the call for Circle Tap team decisions. He is always willing to express and share opinions that will foster sustainability and quality of play, and make the game better for all teams competing at the ISC World championship.

Darren summarizes his perspective stating "The game of fastpitch softball is the greatest game I have ever been involved with. The awesome people you meet and played against is priceless."

Darren, and his wife Amy have three children – Alayna, Brooklyn and Devin. Not surprisingly, Darren coaches high school girls teams and sponsors youth girls softball and boys baseball teams.

Darren, in collaboration with the Circle Tap organization, is hosting the ISC World Tournament for the first time in the Village of Denmark, assuming most of the risk and financial liabilities which he has generously placed on his own shoulders.

Why? – quite simply... for the love of the game!