

JIM WANA - HoF 2019



Jim Wana (formerly Jim Seaman as listed in the ISC Championship Guides), now 49, grew up in Linton Military Camp, Palmerston North, New Zealand and started playing softball at age 10. He was initially positioned defensively at first base, but quickly became enamored with the pitcher's circle.

In 1984 the family moved to Trentham Military Camp, where he was coached by John Dawson, a New Zealand pitcher in the 1970 World Championship. As a teenage phenom, Jim started pitching with the Manawatu senior team.

Broadening his horizons as a teenage athlete in the late 1980s, Jim traversed the oceans to further his softball skills during the North American summers.

Jim started building his fastball resume in 1985 as a member of the New Zealand U-19 team, and with team-mate Mark Sorenson (HoF 2010), they and their team-mates struck gold

in Fargo ND as ISF Junior Champions.

Jim's introduction to the ISC World Tournament was in 1987 in Saskatoon SK Canada, where he led his St. Paul MN Strohs/Gatbys to 5th place. He pitched 53 innings with a 5-2 record, 75 strike-outs and a minuscule ERA of 0.53.

For his superb work in the pitcher's circle, Jim was named to the All-World 2nd Team. Jim's obvious talents and achievements garnered attention and the following season, he donned the colors for the highly-touted Sioux City IA Penn Corp squad.

It was a memorable matchup that paid immediate dividends. At the 1988 ISC Tournament hosted in Decatur IL, Jim twirled a three-hitter in the championship game. Propelled by home runs from ISC Hall of Famers Denny Delorit (HoF 2014) and Randy Burnside (HoF 2005), Sioux City prevailed 5-0 over Lexington MO Harold's Supermarket. Jim, at age 19, was named to the All-World team and recognized as the event's Outstanding Pitcher.

Memorable team-mates include Paul Magan (HoF 1995), Steve Schultz and Pete Sandman, who, along with Jim, comprised the four-man pitching staff of the fabled Sioux City IA Penn Corp team of the early 1990's.

Other mentors who positively influenced Jim's career were Gale Kurtz (HoF 1997), Jim Rubbelke and Ron "Doc" Simmons (HoF 2013) – all of whom were described by Jim as "great men and managers"!

Jim won four ISC Championships and three All-World honors, including his 2nd Team recognition with Broken Bow NE Travelers in 1995.

Jim finished his career with the New Zealand Black Sox, and turning back the clock, was battery-mate with Mark Sorenson when the Black Sox won the 2004 ISF World Championship in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Following his playing career, Jim turned to coaching, helping the Black Sox to a 2009 gold medal in Saskatoon SK and more recently leading a young New Zealand squad to the gold medal at the 2017 World Baseball Softball Congress Championships in Whitehorse Yukon. Currently, Jim is prepping his team to defend the world title in 2019 in Prague CZ.

Academically, Jim acquired a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Victoria University in Wellington, NZ and has 14 years experience in retail retail sales and leasing, following owning/operating five Subway stores for almost a decade.

Jim is married to Michelle and they have three children Olivia, Michael and Robbie. Jim enjoys fishing and boating with his children, golfing and the challenge of BBQing American style.