

# PATRICK SHANNON - HoF 2019



Patrick Shannon's fastpitch journey started as a youth in Auckland, NZ when he embraced softball, encouraged by his uncles who enjoyed the sport, and specifically in awe of Uncle Mike Forysthe who won a world championship as a catcher for New Zealand in 1975.

The following are the Hall of Fame required credentials: - solid, effective and consistent defence; impactful and timely offence; propensity of placing others above self and simply being a noble and unselfish team-mate

Those attributes are embodied by 43-year-old Patrick, who had awesome softball skills and was a definitive "five tool" player possessing speed, power, hitting for average, fielding and arm strength.

He made his presence felt in every game in which he participated. Four ISC Championship rings could adorn one of Patrick's hands, and ten ISC All-World plaques would fill his trophy cabinet.

Patrick was a significant contributor to a quartet of ISC World Championship teams, twice winning back-to-back titles with Marathon WI County Materials (2005-06) and Kitchener ON Rivershark Twins (2008-09).

Spanning a dozen ISC World Tournaments from 2001-12, Patrick was named to All-World Teams ten times (tied for the 5th most) including seven 1st team selections. At the plate, in 82 games Patrick amassed 74 hits, 63 RBIs, an on-base percentage of .449 and an awe-inspiring 23 home runs. Most of the dingers occurred in dramatic fashion when the game "was on the line".

Behind the plate, while handling many of the greatest pitchers in the sport – including international hard-throwing hurlers Aussie Andrew Kirkpatrick, Argentinean Lucas Mata and Canadians Todd Martin (HoF 2016) and Frank Cox – Patrick committed only three errors in his career, a phenomenal .996 fielding percentage.

Internationally, as a member (1996 – 2013) of the New Zealand Black Sox, Patrick has gold medals from the 2004 (Christchurch NZ), 2009 (Saskatoon SK Canada) and 2013 (Auckland NZ) World Championships.

Patrick cites the professionalism of fellow - New Zealander Mark Sorenson (HoF 2010) whose drive to "be the best" taught Patrick how much work it takes to be an elite player, and Darren Zack (HoF 2010) whose love of the game and ability to compete with no regrets was a true inspiration.

Many players have stated "Patty may have been the best team-mate I ever had" and has oft been described as "an even better person off the diamond".

Quite simply – Patrick Shannon is one of the best to ever play the game. Patrick and his wife Kristie have a daughter Taylah (20) and sons Tyrelle (18) and Eli (15) and Patrick has worked at Kristie's family owned winery since 1994.

Patrick has also competed in basketball and indoor cricket, and the entire family enjoys holidays when time permits.