

Sean O'Brien - HoF - 2018



Sean O'Brien, 47, was born in St. John's NL and with brothers Mike and Rob followed their father Gerry's lead in participating in hockey and softball. Sean states that his father and uncle Herb provided maximum opportunity for the brothers to hone their skills in a highly competitive family atmosphere.

At age 17, Sean became impassioned with softball, and along with brother Rob departed "The Rock" to travel to New Zealand to further advance their skills. On returning to Canada, Sean finished his junior career with the Stittsville ON 56ers. In senior ranks, Sean played four seasons with the Grande Prairie AB Pride of the NorWest Fastball League.

Returning to Ontario, Sean made his inaugural ISC appearance in 2000 as a member of the Owen Sound ON Selects. His decade-long career ended in 2010 in a "dream-come-true" season suiting up with his brother Rob as team-mates with the ISC World Champion Jarvis ON Travelers.

Sean has represented Canada internationally in the developmental ranks (1995-2000) and at the senior level (2000-2010), competing in two ISF World Champions (silver and bronze medals) and three Pan-Am qualifiers.

During his eleven year ISC career, Sean was also a member of the back-to-back champion Amsterdam NY Broken Bow Spirit. As a respected and highly skilled catcher, complemented by clutch hitting, Sean earned ISC All-World honors on five occasions – 2002 and 2003 with Amsterdam NY Spirit; 2008 and 2009 with Saskatoon SK Aspen Interiors, and in his final 2010 season with the Jarvis ON Travelers. During his illustrious ISC career, Sean batted .304, including four tournaments when he batted .400 or higher.

Life-long friendships were honed with team-mates Frank Cox, Mike Taylor and Jody Eidt as the quartet played together for seven years winning several titles with Owen Sound, New York Spirit and Broken Bow.

Other influential peers include Colin Abbott, Rob Gray, Dean Holien, Ryan Wolfe and a trio from New Zealand - Jarrad Martin, Brad Rona and Michael White. As well, special thanks are extended to influential coaches over the years – Doc Simmons, Denny Bruckert, The Kurlyks, Steve Kooser, Larry Lynch, John Hill and Dan Donahue – many of whom are members of the ISC HoF.

Sean graduated from Roncolli Elementary and Gonzaga High Schools in St. John's and had a brief stint at Memorial University prior to apprenticing for Fire Sprinkler Pipe Fitter and obtaining his Red Seal Trade Certificate.

He initiated his career in Grand Prairie AB with GP Fire & Safety and on moving to Ontario, was a valued employee at Richardson Fire Systems in Cambridge. Both employers understood the rigors of high-level softball and supported time off as required by Sean in pursuit of his dreams.

Sean acknowledges the great love and support from his parents Mary and Gerry, as well as brothers Mike and Rob, wife Stacey and son Gray as significant factors in his success. He currently works in Ottawa ON with Tyco Johnson Controls and resides with his family in Brockville ON.