

TERRY BAYTOR - HOF 2019



It's been a long and winding road for Terry Baytor, 67, whose softball / baseball longevity spans seven decades from sandlots in Toronto to multiple world stages.

Terry was introduced to softball at age seven in the North York Fastball League under the tutelage of his father Paul. Influenced by hockey coaching legend Roger Neilson, Terry also honed baseball skills in North York and Leaside, such that he entertained a baseball scholarship opportunity at the University of Minnesota and attended a New York Yankees prospect camp at Yankee Stadium in 1968.

He started coaching softball in 1969 at age 17 with a group of youngsters, leading them through minor ranks to eventually compete at the senior men's level, winning multiple Ontario championships along the way.

Commencing with his inaugural foray in 1983 at the ISC World Tournament in Bakersfield CA, Terry managed four teams (Agincourt ON Rawlings, Toronto ON Gators, Tampa Bay FL Smokers and again, Toronto ON Gators) spanning 11 summers. With eight "top four" finishes in those events, Terry's teams won four ISC titles, three with Gators (1993, 1995 and 2016) and one with Smokers (1998), compiling 59 wins against 16 losses for a .787 record.

Terry took a 17 year break (1998-2013) and subsequently unretired to lead the resurrected Toronto Gators, with a 2014-16 record of 16-4 culminating in winning the 2016 ISC title.

Terry was very prominent at the international level for 28 seasons, initially as an Assistant Coach (1982-89) and then Head Coach (1989-2000) with Canada's National Team, compiling a 79-9 record. In total Team Canada squads in which Terry was involved amassed nine international medals - gold at 1983, 1987 & 1991 Pan American Games, silver at the 1984 World Championships, gold at the 1995 & 1999 Pan Am Championships and bronze (1988), gold (1992) and silver (1996) at the ISF World Championships.

Terry is one of the most successful softball coaches in the world, providing leadership to teams competing in more than 2,100 games, and is the only Field Manager to win a Canadian, ISC, Pan Am Games and ISF/WBSC championship.

Terry is also an honored member of the Brampton Sports Hall of Fame (2001), and was inducted into three other Softball Halls of Fame - Softball Canada (2003), World Baseball Softball Confederation / International Softball Federation (2005) and Softball Ontario (2015).

He was also inducted as a team member into the Softball Canada Hall of Fame with Team Canada (2017) and the Toronto Gators (2018).

As a graduate of the University of Toronto with a Masters of education, Terry's professional career as a teacher/administrator spanned 34 years, and included 18 years as a high school principal.

Terry and his wife Barbara of 44 years, have two children Chris, 36, and Alex 31 and three grandchildren Chloe, Reese and Beckett