

James L. Blake

4024 Country Club Blvd.

Sioux City, IA 51104

(712)253-0695

blakej2@live.siouxcityschools.com

James Blake was born in 1965 in Sioux City, Iowa. In high school he participated in baseball, football, and basketball, making the all-state team in baseball and basketball. Later, in college, he won a national championship alongside his football team in 1983. He is a member of the Northwestern College athletic Hall of Fame, and still ranks third in career interceptions with 22. At the time of his graduation, he was also the school record-holder in homeruns and RBIs in 1987.

Later in 1987, James started his playing career for Stapleton Lawn Care and played with them until he moved to R.E. Scott in 1990, when he appeared in his first World Tournament. In the fall of 1990, James traveled to New Zealand to play for the Broadway-Melrose Royals. The Royals finished third in the Wellington competition and top 10 in New Zealand's national league. The Royals' greatest victory that year was over New Zealand's #1 ranked team Poniki Kilbirnie.

In 1991, James moved to the Sioux City Soos, which is the team he found the most success playing for. The Soos finished in the top 10 in the World four times, finishing 3rd twice in '94, and '95. James earned ISC All-World honors in 1992 in Salt Lake City and 1995 in Sioux City.

After the Soos disbanded, James played for Mankato Happy Chef in 1997, finishing his career playing for the Sioux City Huskies from 1998-2000. Mankato finished 25th in the ISC World Tournament in Victoria, B.C. The Huskies finished as high as 15th in the ISC Worlds and 6th in the ASA National Tournament.

Overall, James dedicated 13 years to his fastpitch softball career from 1987-2000, in which he competed in seven World Tournaments and six ASA National Tournaments. He also competed in several state tournaments where he won three ASA State Titles with the Soos in 1992, 1994, and 1995.

After his playing career, James has stayed active in the game of softball by coaching the past 13 years at North High School in Sioux City, the last seven as head coach.