

Matt Darling

1203 Evans View Drive

Adel, Iowa 50003

Cell: 515-249-5829

Email: mcdarling02@gmail.com

I grew up watching my Dad play softball in Winterset Iowa. I couldn't wait to start playing so started immediately after the baseball season ended my senior year and never looked back. I remember going to many great tournaments but the Fort Dodge tournament sticks out. We'd camp out and have the opportunity to play many teams we didn't typically get to play. Especially early on, I remember how much I would look forward to the weekends. Many of my closest friends also began playing with Winterset around the time that I started and we became a competitive team that allowed us to travel and play at a higher level. I'll never forget Gary Christensen and Jerry Mitchell taking us under their wings and hauling us around on the weekends. We always had a great mainstay of guys on the Winterset team including two great pitchers in Steve Corkrean and Keith Whiney that kept us very competitive.

As I got more experience and began playing with Albaugh travel increased and the competition became much better, which drove me to want to play even more. There were several great memories with Albaugh including beating the Farm twice in one year, taking Adam Folkard, arguably the best pitchers of our time, down to the wire in a heated winners bracket World Tournament game and placing in the top 5 in several ISC World Tournaments. The atmosphere of the World Tournament always made me hungry to continue playing. I created some lifelong memories and relationships with my Albaugh teammates that I'll never forget.

My fondest memory was being selected to the United States National team and winning a Silver Medal at the Pan American Championships in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in 2003. Playing with the USA team allowed me the opportunity to meet and play with some of the best players in the world which was quite an honor!

Playing Career

- Winterset A's (Winterset, Iowa): 1994 – 2001
- Lafayette Pub (St. Louis, Missouri): 2002
- Albaugh, Inc. (Elkhart, Iowa): 2003 – 2011

Accomplishments

- 1999: 23U World Champions – Winterset A's
 - 1st Team All-World
- 2002: 1st Team ASA Major All American, Lafayette Pub
- 2002 – 2006: USA National Team Member
 - 2002 Canadian Skins Competition
 - 2003 Pan American Silver Medalist in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
 - 2006 AAU Champions
- 2005: ISC 1st Team All-World, .571 Avg., 9 RBI
- 2006 Runner up ASA Major with Team Florida
- 2009: ISC 2nd Team All-World, .412 Avg., 4 RBI, 4 SB
- Multiple Time ASA State Class A Champions, Albaugh, Inc.
 - 2005 All Tourney Team
 - 2012 MVP and All Tourney Team (Retired, only tourney of year)
- Placed Top 5 in ISC World Tournament 3 times with Albaugh, Inc. (2007, 2009, 2010)
- 2013: NAFA AA Major Champions, Kegel Black Knights (Retired, only tourney of year)
 - MVP and 1st Team All-World

Statistics

- Career .400+ Avg. for all years played
- Career .300 Avg. for ISC World Tournament
- Career: 500+ Stolen Bases