

# Michael White Softball Resume

1986 2nd place Iowa ASA Major State with Cedar Rapids Teleconnect

1987 1st place Iowa ASA Major State with CR Teleconnect

1988 season with CR Teleconnect but didn't pitch in state tourney, rather he pitched with native New Zealand national team in ISF World Championships in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada

1989 season with CR Teleconnect but team did not play in state tourney due to automatic entry in ASA nationals by virtue of fourth place finish in previous year national tourney

## Michael White: Dwight Gooden of New Zealand softball

By J.R. Ogden  
Cedar Rapids Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA — Michael White says countryman Kevin Herlihy is to New Zealand fast pitch softball what Nolan Ryan is to American baseball.

If that's the case, then White must be the Dwight Gooden of New Zealand softball.

The 23-year-old White, who many say is one of the top five active pitchers in the world today, is playing in the United States for the fourth time in five years, this time with Vigortone of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

And, with a personal 20-5 record and 0.55 earned-run-average (as of June 24), White thinks his latest team has a good chance at a national title.

"Anybody has a chance to get in the finals," the 6-foot, 185-pound White said. "You need a lot of luck and need to get a lot of breaks.

"We've really come one. We've shown we're capable of beating the best pitching. It all depends when you peak."

I'm looking forward to this year," said White, who moved to Cedar Rapids in November, making him eligible for the ASA tourney. He has a main goal of qualifying for his first Amateur Softball Association National Tournament.

"Hopefully, we'll get the breaks. I'm hoping to pitch in the ASA, because I've never pitched in it before."

White has won several honors in New Zealand, and that's why he likes coming to the United States to face more challenges.

While in New Zealand, White has been a member of six national championship teams and an all-star team that won a "mini-World Series" against Japan, Canada and ADM of Illinois.

White will be honored in Cedar Rapids for his contribution to the Northwest Softball Association.

"I was picked for an under 14 age group team and we didn't have a pitcher," White recalled. "So I decided to do it."

But while his pitching has brought White a lot of attention in New Zealand and this country, there was a time in his young career he thought about hanging it up.

"I liked coming over here for a while, then I really started to get tired of it," he said. "My pitching was getting lethargic."

He first came to the U.S. as an 18-year-old in 1980 and joined the Saginaw MI Bolters. It was that next year he didn't return to the U.S. and started having second thoughts about a softball career.

But after a year away he spent the 1982 season in Dallas with the Texas Kings then had two successful seasons in Bakersfield. White has come to Cedar Rapids with a new attitude.

"I think my best year was 1982 in New Zealand," he said about the year he went three months without surrendering a single run. "I think I'm getting back to that form."

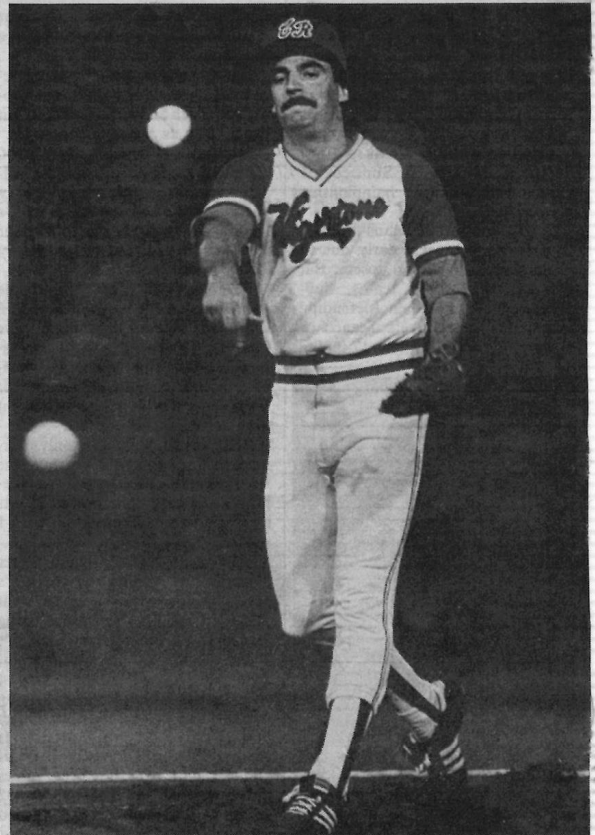
"That year off has done me a world of good. My attitude has changed.

"I'm pretty pleased with my start. My control is pretty good and all my pitches are working."

In 177 1/3 innings this season, he has allowed just 75 hits, 14 earned runs and 23 walks while fanning 306 batters. He has recorded 13 shutouts and has fanned a game-high 19 batters on two occasions.

And, that attitude White talked about has been partially helped by his stay in Cedar Rapids.

"It is definitely different from Bakersfield, because we never had competition during the week," he said. "I like the Midwest because you have the (Major Open) league to keep you in shape."



MICHAEL WHITE: Looking forward to pitching in first ASA National Tourney this summer.

In the tough Major Open alignment, which also includes the nationally-ranked GRL Iowans, White leads in pitching with a 4-1 record and a 0.58 ERA. He has

fanned 84 batters and walked just five in 36 innings of work.

"Hopefully, I'm going to stay here," he added. "I probably would stay if it wasn't for the win."