



FAST PITCH SOFTBALL RESUME OF STEVE FAGEN

Steve started his playing career in 1966 while still in high school at Grand Junction Iowa. He played on the town team but his skills even as a novice drew notice. The Boxholm Swedes asked Steve to fill in on their team during his high school years. Boxholm was led by Darrell Zumkel and Bill Hendricks. Steve played third base and credits Zunkel with motivating him toward a career in open class softball.

In 1968 Steve joined Everett Long's Boone Merchants. He played third but also did some catching for the likes of Lou Linger, Bill Martin and Dick Tenhouse. He was joined on that team with a future HOF teammate Tom Peterson. He remained with Boone thru the 1970 season.

From 1971 thru 1975 Steve played for a strong Palmas team in a very competitive Ames league. Some of his teammates were Gene Olson, Stan Oppedahl and Dave Temple. Others in the league were Gus Guydon, Al Rausch, Denny Linderbaum, Craig "B.J." Bjorgran and Tom Peterson to name a few.

Steve answered the call he got from Bill Peters Des Moines Bombers in 1976 and would be a mainstay of that team until retiring from active open play in 1986. With the Bombers (Reames in 1981) Steve would capture 3 State Titles, a Regional Title, 9th in the ASA Nationals and play in a World Tournament.

In 1990 Steve started playing in the Masters 40 and over Tournament and was a member of the 4th place team nationally for 3 straight years 1991-92-93. He was named to the 2nd All American team in 1992.

Two highlights of Steve's career from an individual stand point were his game winning home run against the defending World Champions Clearwater Bombers at Bomber Park and catching Dean Olson's perfect game against the New Zealand National Team while with Reames in 1981.

Steve recounted many memories and team highlights from his active career but stated that he always felt that the people he played with and the pitchers he caught were the main reasons for his success. He was an above average hitter averaging in the high 200's over his career. He could hit with power and was noted for hitting towering home runs. He was an excellent base runner with good speed. His aggressive base running and head first slides earned him the nick name "Dirt Dobber".

Notwithstanding all of the above Steve was an excellent fielder when playing third or second but his most outstanding skill was catching. To a man the following esteemed mounds-men have been quoted as saying Steve was the best catcher they ever threw to.