

WELCOME TO FIFE



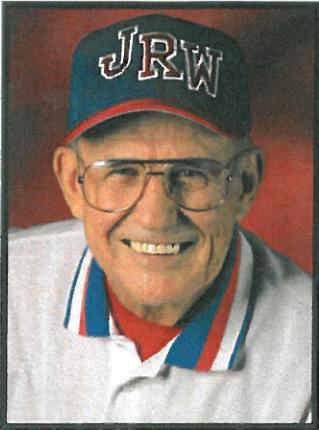
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Congratulations Jim Williamson “2011 ASA Northwest Region 15 Hall of Fame Inductee”



James Robert Williamson has an uncanny way of endearing himself with the players, coaches, umpires and other enthusiasts associated with fastpitch softball. Jim has earned the respect of all involved in the game. He has most definitely done more

than his fair share of promoting, expanding and keeping this game alive for all to enjoy. He is the unquestioned men's fastpitch historian. Jim makes connections with fastpitch people in some of the strangest ways.

Jim is a student of the fastpitch game. His involvement with fastpitch dates back to 1952, long before most of us were even thought of. He has earned championships both as a player and manager. But Jim's passion as an incredibly talented manager and sponsor will be his legacy and gift to fastpitch. His coaching career began in 1965 in the small township of Harrison, Pennsylvania. After moving west to Yakima, Washington his love for the game blossomed as he became a sponsor, manager, and editor of the "Jim's Gems" column that gave publicity to the sport we all love. Robert Nydick, a highly respected manager, referred to Jim's managerial ability with the following, "In life, there are people you have to work with and people you want to work with. You, my friend, are most certainly in the latter category."

His dedication to the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) can hardly be measured. His JRW & Associates team has competed in a combined 36 ASA regional and national tournaments. Bill Plummer, manager of the ASA National Hall of Fame Museum, referred to Jim as "One heck of a guy and a quality, first class person."

In 1993, when the focus of ASA shifted to youth fastpitch and the slowpitch levels of play, Jim along with Pat Bucknell and six other investors founded the North American Fastpitch Association (NAFA). Under their leadership, NAFA quickly became a partner with ASA and promoted and expanded fastpitch with a focus on the top levels of competition. Contributions like this are where Jim's character is truly defined. Dr. Dave Drotzmann, a highly rated men's pitcher, wrote about Jim, "You truly have been a champion for the game and needless to say, it may have died in numerous locations without you. Thanks for all you do for fastpitch."

The process of becoming a great manager also includes learning the rules of the game. Jim has always strived to know more than the umpires. He also has an innate ability to know when to argue and when to sit back and let the umpire stew on a bad call...which really gets into their heads. John Wright was quoted in his recommendation letter about Jim to the ASA Region 15 Hall of Fame, "Williamson has impacted my softball career both on and off the field. He can drive home a point with great finesse. One time, I blew a call so bad at first base that I wanted to walk off the field. Jim causally walked out of the dugout and quietly told me, "John, that's your mulligan," and turned and walked back to the dugout. I did not get any grief from any of his players because everyone in the park knew that Jim had just surgically chastised me but had done it with class and respect."

Jim lives by a creed, "Fastpitch softball is my love and I'll be around to help wherever I can." In his over 60 year career dedicated to this sport, he continues to earn the reputation of a hands-on operations man, rules wizard, a master of scorekeeping, a great coach and outstanding sponsor. Here is to you Jim, Keeper of the flame!

Edited comments from John Wright, ISF Umpire and Washington ASA Deputy UIC