

COBOURG & DISTRICT SPORTS HALL OF FAME
P.O. Box 45, Cobourg, Ontario K9A 1M8

HONOURED MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION APPLICATION

Date Received

Nominee: BURNHAM AL
Family Name First Name Middle Initial

Address: COBOURG

Postal Code:  (W)

Email Address

Birth Place: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Day Month Year

Place/Date of Death: N/A

Year Lived in Cobourg and/or District: ALL HIS LIFE

If nominee is deceased, please provide name, address and phone number of next of kin.

SPORT ACHIEVEMENT

Nomination For: Athlete (X) Builder () Athlete/Builder ()

Sport (s): FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

SPORT	TEAM	ROLE/CAPACITY	DATE

Championship Teams: (Please provide dates):

SEE ATTACHED LIST. (EXHIBIT "A")

Individual Awards/Citations: (Please provide dates):

SEE ATTACHED LIST (EXHIBIT "B")

*Indicate if awards/honours are Local, Provincial, National or International

Associations/Organizations/Clubs with whom nominee is/was associated with (local, provincial, national, international etc.)

If possible, please provide a summary/description of any other additional information that would describe the nominee's outstanding contribution to sport.

PLEASE SEE EXHIBIT "G". TEAMMATE LARRY BODASHEFSKY (ISC HALL OF FAME 1997) SAID AL BURNHAM "THE ICEMAN" WAS THE BEST RBI MAN HE EVER PLAYED WITH.

Newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, photos or sort memorabilia will assist in supporting the application.

SUBMISSIONS WITH INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN THE NOMINATION FORM BEING RETURNED TO THE NOMINATOR BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE.

Additional Information/Comments:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE ABOVE FACTS ARE TRUE, AND I ENDORSE THIS APPLICATION FOR INDUCTION INTO THE COBOURG AND DISTRICT SPORTS HALL OF FAME

NOMINATOR: PETE HARRISON

ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

PHONE #: [REDACTED]

DATE: 11-11-08

Please return completed form to:
Cobourg & District Sports Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 45
Cobourg, Ontario
K9A 1M8

At one time or another most children pick up a ball and a bat and at some point, as they grow towards adulthood, many of them progress to playing in a local house league. In those formative years some of them advance their skills to such a degree that they are fortunate enough to be chosen to play on a Rep team that travels out of town to compete against the best players and teams from other towns throughout the province.

A very select group of these players are lucky enough to star on a Provincial championship team.

Far fewer still one day will have their names attached to a Canadian championship team.

And the rarest of all players are those able to say that they were part of an international championship team.

Al Burnham was such a player.

Born on August 31, 1952 in Cobourg and raised on the Burnham Family Farm, located on Hwy #2 between Cobourg and Port Hope, like many children of the time, Al was first introduced to bat and ball in elementary school during the recesses and lunch hour that helped to break up the day. Coincidentally, the Cobourg Legion Minor Softball Association was formed in the late 1950's, and Al like many of his schoolmates were part of that first group of youngsters who were signed up.

"It seemed like all the kids in town were playing ball", Al remembers today. "My Dad signed me up for ball, and my parents (Dick and Louise) drove me into town for all the games and practices. I guess I just fell in love with the game."

For Al Burnham this was the beginning of what would become a two decade long playing career that saw him become one of the top Fastball players; in the area, in the province, in Canada, and in the world.

A product of the "Golden Age" of local Fastball in the 1960's and 1970's, Al, who had been a member of the Cobourg Juveniles that won an Ontario "B" championship in 1971, was one of many players who participated in the numerous leagues that thrived in the area, such as the Port Hope Town League, Cobourg Town League, Haldimand League, Cobourg Industrial League, and the Hamilton Township League. Each of these leagues were well led, very organized and highly entertaining, drawing huge crowds, especially at playoff time, and not only in Cobourg or Port Hope, but also in the surrounding villages like Bewdley, Harwood, Baltimore, Plainville, or Cold Springs.

A hamlet, just north of Camborne, Cold Springs would probably qualify as the unlikeliest place to spawn a provincial Fastball powerhouse, but that was what happened at the dawn of the 1970's, when after years of competing locally, the Cold Springs Cats, seeking a better level of competition approached the Peterborough City League in the winter of 1974 seeking admittance, and despite misgivings about their ability to compete, Cold Springs was reluctantly added to the league in time for the 1975 season. A subsequent first place finish on the league and the OASA Intermediate C title put those initial doubts to rest.

The following season, 1976, saw the "Cats" repeat as Ontario Intermediate "C" Champs and then four years later, in 1980, the "Cats" added the Ontario Senior "A" fastball championship to their ever-increasing trophy case.

Al Burnham was a strong part of this legendary team's nucleus ... so strong in fact that Larry Bodashefsky, the first Canadian player to ever be inducted into the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame in 1997, wrote upon his induction that "I'd like to recognize a teammate from Cobourg, Ontario whom I played a number of years with. Al Burnham ("Iceman") stayed under the radar wherever he played but was by far the best R.B.I. man I've had the pleasure of competing with.

From 1984 to 1992, Al Burnham was an integral part of five more Senior "A" Ontario championship teams, 4 Canadian Senior A championship teams, and in 1987 and 1988 he was named to the All-World second team both years at the International Softball Congress championship, and in the 1991 ISC championship, held in Sioux City, Iowa, and playing for Owen Sound, the World Championship runner-up, he was named All-World first team ... the culmination of a lifetime spent on the diamond all the way from Cobourg to the World Championship.

AL BURNHAM

Prepared by Préparé par	Initials initiales	Date
Approved by Approuvé par		

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES				TEAM	YEAR(S)	
1	1	OASA JUVENILE "B" CHAMPIONSHIP				Cobourg	1971
2							
3							
4	2	OASA INTERMEDIATE "C" CHAMPIONSHIPS				Cold Springs	1975 1976
5							
6							
7							
8	6	OASA SENIOR "A" CHAMPIONSHIPS				Cold Springs	1980
9						OSHAWA	1984
10						OWEN SOUND	1988
11		(SEE EXHIBIT: F)				"	1989
12						"	1990
13						"	1991
14							
15	2	OASA SENIOR "A" RUNNERS UP				NEWMARKET	1985
16						OWEN SOUND	1992
17							
18							
19	3	CANADIAN SENIOR "A" CHAMPIONSHIPS				OWEN SOUND	1989
20						"	1990
21						"	1991
22							
23	1	CANADIAN SENIOR "A" RUNNERS UP				OWEN SOUND	1988
24							
25							
26	2	CANADIAN SENIOR "A" THIRD PLACE				OSHAWA	1984
27						OWEN SOUND	1992
28							
29							
30							
31							
32							
33							

EXHIBIT "A"

AL BURN DAM

Prepared by Prépare par	Initials Initiales	Date
	Approved by Approuvé par	[Signature]

CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

TEAM

YEAR

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
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1	1	ISC WORLD FISHERY CHAMPIONSHIP	OWENSOUND	1991
2		RUNNOR UP		
3				
4				
5				
6	1	ISC WORLD FISHERY CHAMPIONSHIP	OWENSOUND	1998
7		THIRD PLACE		
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EXHIBIT "A"

AUBURNHAM

	Initials Initiales	Date
Prepared by Préparé par		
Approved by Approuvé par		

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

1

ISC WORLD FACILITY CHAMPIONSHIP
ALL WORLD FIRST TEAM
(ALL STAR)
FIRST TEAM

1991

EXHIBIT "C"

2

ISC WORLD FACILITY CHAMPIONSHIP
ALL WORLD 2ND TEAM
(ALL STAR 2ND TEAM)

EXHIBIT "D" 1987

EXHIBIT "E" 1988

EXHIBIT "B"

INTERNATIONAL

Fast **SOFTBALL** *Pitch*

CONGRESS

ALL WORLD-FIRST TEAM

INFIELDER

1991

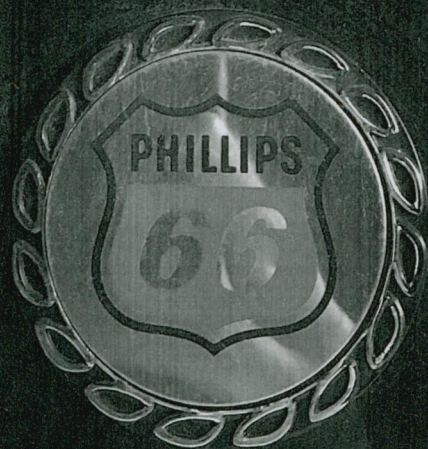


EXHIBIT "C"



ALL WORLD

2ND TEAM

INFIELDER

1987

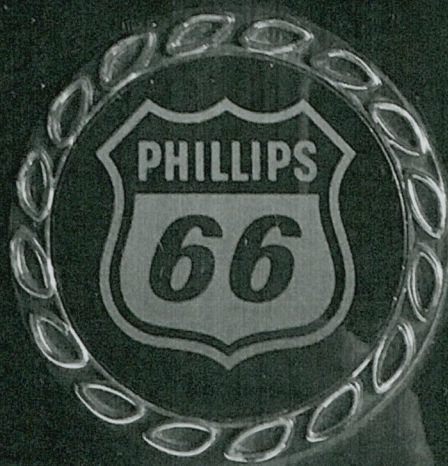


EXHIBIT '04

INTERNATIONAL

Fast **SOFTBALL** *Pitch*

CONGRESS

ALL WORLD

2ND TEAM

INFIELDER

1988



EXHIBIT 1 E 2

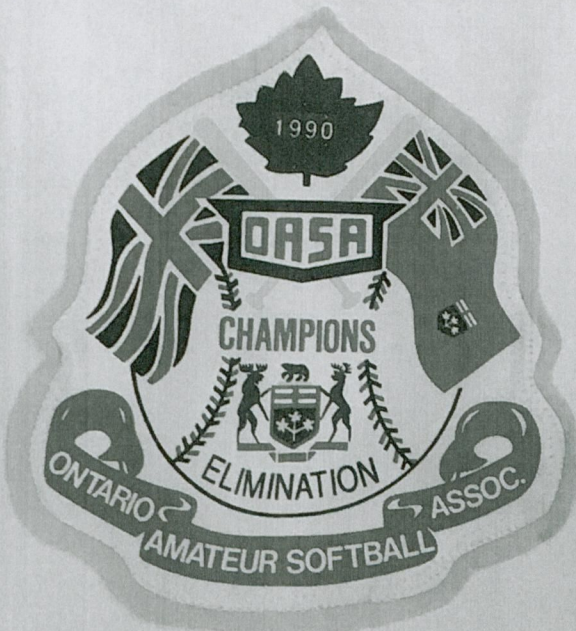


EXHIBIT F

Larry Bodashefsky - HoF - 1997



It's now been almost ten years since I was inducted into the I.S.C. Hall of Fame in Victoria in 1997. Before my memory fades I better write something down. I am not comfortable writing about myself but nobody else stepped up to the plate.

I started playing fast pitch softball at age 11 in an Oshawa Park League and immediately fell in love with the game. I soon figured out that speed was my game. Bunting and base running were how I could best contribute offensively.

As a "lefty" you are somewhat limited to defensive positions. After playing first base and catcher it became obvious that I was an outfielder. By the time I was playing junior fastball I was a fulltime outfielder and I thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of the position. Unfortunately in my mid teens I fell equally in love with golf and therefore split my energy between two sports.

In 1977, after completing my junior career I began to realize I had potential. The Oshawa Tonys Senior "A" Fastball Team that I idolized wanted to sign me in 1978. I was unsure about joining such an elite ball club and elected to gain more experience by playing a year of senior "B" fastball for Oshawa. In hindsight this decision was critical in my development and confidence. Our "RH Cabinets" team won the provincial title.

Oshawa was a fastball hub (the City & District Fastball League still exists today) and I grew up watching powerful fastball teams like the Oshawa Tonys & Gale Lumber, perennial senior "B" champions. My idol was and still is Pete Landers ("hook"). The big left-handed pitcher from South Porcupine Ontario is one of only three softball players in the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame. In my first senior "A" year I joined the Oshawa Motor Carriers (formerly Oshawa Tonys) and had the honour of playing with Pete Landers for three years. "Hook" was as great a person & team player as he was a pitcher and today still gives back to the game.

Playing Senior "A" Fastball in the Ontario Fastball League meant one thing, commitment to league first. A 40-60 game schedule on weeknights was the norm. Later in my career when playing for Owen Sound it took me over 3 hours to get to a home game. As a ball player I had the opportunity to play for three of the most solid franchises in Ontario fastball history. They were Oshawa, Newmarket, and Owen Sound. Each team had a great left-handed pitcher, Pete Landers, Bill Lunney, and Brad Underwood respectively. I believe I am the only ball player fortunate enough to have played on a club team with these three great Ontario lefties. As we all know without pitching & great ball organizations it is impossible to be successful. To be successful in anything you need timing and a little luck and I have certainly had my share of it.

In 1977, the Oshawa Tonys featuring Pete Landers represented the O.F.L. in the I.S.C. Tournament in Phoenix Arizona finishing third. I remember hearing stories of this tremendous tournament in the United States around the ballpark in Oshawa. I believe the Oshawa Tonys high finish that year started the drive for an Ontario team to win the I.S.C. Tournament. In my era (1978-1990) ball teams continued to pursue the I.S.C. dream. I believe Ontario teams had three third and one second place finish before the Toronto Gators captured the 1993 & 1995 I.S.C. World Tournament.

Nobody wanted to win and promote the I.S.C. World Tournament more than Glen Verge of Newmarket and Bill Simpson of Owen Sound. I owe so much to Glen Verge. He coached and or managed me in Newmarket, Oshawa, and Owen Sound. He created an atmosphere that demanded a commitment to excellence. He led by example with his hard work and love for the game. Glen drove and maintained our bus in Newmarket, recruited and signed players, raised money, donated money. You name it he did it. I wanted to win more for Glen than for myself. Once I asked Glen if I could miss a tournament to be my brother's best man in his wedding. Glen replied, "Death in the family is the only acceptable reason". My wife still reminds me of a few weddings I missed.

I played in my first I.S.C. Tournament in 1979 in Bakersfield California for the Oshawa Motor Carriers. From that point on I had only two goals in mind, going back to the I.S.C. World Tournament as many times as possible and of course a Canadian Fastball Championship. In Ontario however, a return trip was never a guarantee. An example of the strong parity in Ontario fastball was that from 1978-1987 (a 10 year span) eight different teams were Ontario champions. Another route to the I.S.C. Tournament was through a qualifying tournament, but

EXHIBIT "G" (OVER)

there was always Brad Underwood to go through. So I learned to cherish every trip to the tournament.

Fortunately for me Owen Sound picked me up in 1983, 1984, and 1987 while I was playing for a different club team. By 1988 Brad Underwood in Owen Sound was the "ticket" and players mysteriously gravitated to the shores of Georgian Bay. Dynasties like Owen Sound and the Toronto Gators developed in search of I.S.C. glory. Good or bad for softball? You decide. Anyway, I was very blessed throughout my career and played in a total of seven I.S.C. Tournaments. In 1990, while playing for Owen Sound, we captured the Canadian Fastball Championship. For the record, I'd like to recognize a teammate from Cobourg Ontario whom I played a number of years with. Al Burnham ("iceman") stayed under the radar wherever he played but was by far the best R.B.I.-man I've had the pleasure of competing with.

My last at bat in the I.S.C. Tournament was in 1990 in Victoria against Michael White & his Aurora Coors Silver Bullets from Aurora Illinois. After whining about a 3-1 pitch at my shoulders, I hit my patented two-hopper to second for an infield single. Career over. I played as hard as I could for as long as I could at the level I demanded of myself. I am proud that I played for the love of the game. But looking back, what I really enjoyed was the "journey". Traveling, meeting people, competing, and the life long bonds and friendships that developed that only a ball player could understand.

Fast pitch softball survives solely because of people who never step on the field. The executives, managers, sponsors, fund-raisers, fans, and anyone else behind the scenes that unselfishly promote our game are the real hall of famers. I took from the game; these people give to the game.

Note: Larry Bodashefsky was the first Canadian player to be inducted into the ISC Hall of Fame. He was named ISC All-World 4 times in 1979, 1984, 1987 and 1988.

(SEVO) ID 11/10/83