

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2018



**FRANK (FRANKIE) GRIFFIN** – Male Player

Frankie has been playing USSSA softball for over 26 years. Some friends asked him to play on a Men's "E" team, and that year his team took second place at "E" State, and Frankie was named the Defensive MVP. This exposure brought his name to the attention of one of our top teams in the state, at that time, and the next year Frankie was playing at the "A" level. Through the years he has played almost entirely at the "A" or "B" level of play, and his team won the "B" State Championship in 2009. His bat is feared by almost every opponent he has ever faced, and his ability to place the ball wherever he chooses is known by any pitcher that has played the game at the upper level of play. His individual awards are far too many to try and list here, but suffice it to say that he is known as one of the best hitters to ever play in the northwest. He is known for his sense of humor, and his ability to keep his teammates focused on their goals.



**JON ORAM** – Male Player

Jon has been playing USSSA softball for 20+ years (retiring 15 times). He started playing in 1997 fresh out of pro baseball in the Cleveland Indians organization. He started playing with a bunch of friends at the "D" level. With HSNW they won 83 straight games and in 2000 won the "D" state title. He was a USSSA "B" World Champion with Northwest Combat/Trojans in 2009, Multiple USSSA State Champions from "D" to "B" including 3 years in a row at the "C" level where he was MVP each year, 2015 Men's "A" All World Team, 2009 Men's "B" All World Team and in 2008 & 2009 multiple All Tournament teams. His on the field accomplishments are plenty, too many to list here, and his commitment to the game is still ongoing with promotions and coaching of the youth. Jon was very gifted as a player, but his greatest "gift" was his unselfish, humble attitude. With Jon it was ALWAYS team and friends first. Many times he received awards and then would give them to a player he felt was more deserving or someone the coach overlooked. Jon plays because he loves the competition, his teammates and just the joy that is at the ballparks.



**TAMMY BLAIR-HIGGINBOTHAM** – Female Player

Tammy started playing softball as her fast pitch career came to an end. As Tammy moved into the adult portion of her life she found the fellowship and friendships that she had loved in fast pitch could exist in slow pitch, and she fell in love with the game. Tammy's ability, personality and willingness to learn the game of slow pitch quickly got her invited to play on some of the best teams in the northwest. Through the years she has been named to over 35 All Star teams and 9 All World teams. She has been a major part of 5 Mixed World Championship teams. She was named the "Defensive MVP" of the Over 35 World Championship team, and her team, Derby Girls/Combat won the 2015, 2016 & 2017 World Championships. Tammy was named to the inaugural Major Players list in the USSSA Women's Program. She has earned the respect of her fellow teammates, opposing players and coaches due to her skills and determination to be the very best. Tammy says that she has been blessed to have amazing teammates, coaches and sponsors over the years. "Softball has allowed me to travel to places I would have never went to, and to meet people

I would have never met. It has been, and will always be, an amazing part of my life".

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2018

## **NASH BISHOP** – Special (Not pictured)

Nash is an individual that the majority of ball players and Directors have probably never heard of. Nash had coached his daughter's team for many years and has finished second at their respective State Championships twice. What Nash has done for Washington USSSA and the Women's program over the years has undoubtedly gone unnoticed by most. Since the early 1990's Nash had attended and kept notes on every Women's Classification meeting that had been held. He had supplied the State office with the minutes from each of these meetings, and had created and kept up to date records for each and every team in the Women's program that has participated in the tournament program. If you have a question pertaining to a team in the Women's program, you merely have to contact Nash Bishop for the answer. Nash had been a tremendous asset to Washington USSSA for almost 20 years! Nash passed away on April 30, 2017.



## **MOE KON** – Umpire

Moe began umpiring in Snohomish county over 25 years ago. He switched to USSSA in 2001 and quickly became recognized as not just a skillful umpire, but one that cared about the game, and the players. He has received the Chan Chilton Award, which recognizes one umpire each year that exceeds the expectations of excellence that is required to be a standout umpire. Moe has worked the men's "D" World Championship in Orlando, Florida, and has worked numerous NIT's and State Championships through the years. He enjoys the camaraderie of being an umpire in USSSA, and wants to see the game improve and give back to the players and teams.

## **CLARENCE COPELAND** – Manager (Not pictured)

Clarence has managed USSSA Women's and Mixed teams for years and has been a good representative of USSSA. He is a respected coach and exemplifies the standards and behavior deserving of a HOF nomination. He was awarded Coach of the Year by the Women's Program in 2014.



## **DON LEKNESS** – Sponsor

Don started playing USSSA softball in 1979 after playing ASA for many years. He had the pleasure of playing for Hall of Famer Gary Smith for many years and played with or against many of the inductees of the Hall of Fame. When his playing days ended in his 40's, he took some time off, but was still interested in USSSA softball and still went to games. When his sons Ryan and Kyle asked him to sponsor a tournament team up at Meadowdale, he jumped at the opportunity and that is where the fun started. They won that tournament and qualified for State at the E level. They were the 64<sup>th</sup> seed and drew the number one seed and beat them, then went on to place 4<sup>th</sup> in the Tournament. Since then, D R Drywall has sponsored Men's, Women's and Coed League and Tournament teams, all in the same years. His teams have advanced levels almost every year, starting at the E level and now is part sponsor of a Major Conference team, NEWBREED. His teams have won many tournaments and league Championships including 2008 Men's E State, 2013 Men's B State, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Place in 2016 Men's Conference Championships and 2016 Women's A State Champs as well as 2014, 2015 & 2016 Men's Kings of the NW Champs. As a sponsor, it is so much fun to watch and have players appreciate your effort of giving them a chance to compete at all levels of play and to meet and talk to so many people every weekend at softball fields. We ALL love the game!