

LEDUC SPORTS
HALL OF FAME

Debbie Sonnenberg

Born and raised in Leduc, Debbie Sonnenberg dreamed of being a professional softball player. Her parents, Karen and LeRoy, had both been softball players, and they supported and encouraged Debbie.

Debbie played with Leduc Minor Softball as a catcher until she was 17, when she switched to pitcher. She attended Alabama's Huntingdon College, where she set numerous Huntingdon and NAIA records for both season and career wins and strikeouts. She was a four-time NAIA All-American and was named the 1992 conference scholar athlete of the year. Her team ranked third in the nation in 1992 and 1994.

Debbie played for the Canadian national women's team from 1993 to 2000. At the 1994 World Championships, she helped Team Canada qualify for the Atlanta Olympics.

Debbie was a six-time gold medallist at the Canadian National Championships. She also won five silver medals and six bronze, pitched back-to-back perfect games at the 1993 championships and was a two-time MVP, three-time Top Pitcher and seven-time All Canadian Performer.

A severe auto accident in 1998 could have ended her career, but she taught herself how to throw again and returned to the field the next year. She led the Manitoba Smitty's to national championships, then returned to Alberta to pitch for the Calahoo Erins. Since 1989, Debbie has participated in 20 national championships, medalling in 17 of them.

Debbie now resides in Georgia with her daughter, Faith, where she continues to work as a coach and consultant.

