

LEDUC SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Stan Kern

Born and raised on a farm just outside of Leduc, Stan Kern started playing fastball as a third baseman but transitioned to being a pitcher. He went on to become one of the best fastball pitchers of all time, legendary for his powerful throw.

Stan played first with Fredericksheim and then with Rollyview. Then he was with Leduc for two years before moving into Edmonton to play for the Edmonton Playboys.

In 1969, he was picked up by the Calgary Power Chiefs to play in the Canadian Senior A Men's Championships. He was named the Canadian Championships Top Pitcher, and Calgary brought home the bronze medal. Stan played a total of five times in the Canadian championships with Alberta teams — the Edmonton Playboys, Betta Well Riggers, Calgary Power Chiefs and the Edmonton Sun Life Red Sox.

Stan moved to Victoria, B.C., in 1973 and played for seven successful years with the Victoria Bates. All seven years the team made it to the Canadian championships, winning four times in a row. At the 1976 World Fastball Championships, the Bates were named co-winners with New Zealand and the U.S. when the championship was rained out.

After retiring, Stan turned to coaching. He coached his son's Bantam A team in Victoria, which won a Western Canadian championship, as well as teams in Abbotsford and Vancouver.

Stan was inducted into the Softball Canada Hall of Fame in 1980, the Softball BC Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Softball Alberta Hall of Fame in 2008.

