



HOMETOWN

Stephenville
Crossing

LOCAL ASSOCIATION

Corner Brook
Baseball

PERRY ALEXANDER

2022 Hall of Fame Inductee

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE BNL HALL OF FAME?

My first feeling is a sense of great privilege to be among the few selected and included into this special group of players. There is something special when you think of the long list of players who played over a long period of time.

I feel very grateful to be considered as someone worthy enough to be selected for this prestige award.

It really feels surreal to be in the BNL Hall of Fame thinking about the many great baseball people who played and especially the history of the game on the Island, the west coast and BSG area. I feel proud to be able to represent my Hometown, Family, past Teams and Teammates.

I'm thankful to be recognized for my time and dedication to Baseball and as someone who really loved the game.

I also feel extremely lucky and honored that my Induction occurred on the 75th Anniversary. This makes it even more special.

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT BASEBALL GAVE TO YOU?

Baseball has given me a lot to be thankful for and really has been one of the most influential factors in shaping my life and who I am today.

If I have to pick the most important single thing I would have to say the "Opportunity to Travel". Baseball has given me the opportunity to experience, and play baseball throughout the entire country from St. Johns (NL) to Vancouver Island (BC).

Growing up with Baseball, I was lucky to be able to travel and play in a lot of places in Newfoundland like Stephenville Crossing, Stephenville, Corner Brook, Pasadena, Gander, Grand Falls, Mary's Town and St. John's.

It also gave me an opportunity to experience life off the Island. Baseball gave me an opportunity to travel and to see other beautiful places such as PEI, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. It really helped my development as a young player and development as a young person.

Even at an older age in my life, Baseball still continued to give me an opportunity to travel and see beautiful places in British Columbia. During those 8 years there, I continued to play baseball and I travelled to tournaments throughout British Columbia like Kelowna, Trail, Vernon, Enderby, Vancouver, Coquitlam, and Vancouver Island.

Travelling to play baseball provided me opportunities to experience new places and was very educational. Overall, I would consider this as most important factor in my development as ball player and in shaping my life.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE BASEBALL GAME, TOURNAMENT OR MEMORY?

There are a lot of good memories and highlights such as the following:

- Team NL - 1985- (Canada Summer Games)
- Team NL -1988 - (Canadian Senior National in Corner Brook) - Barons
- Team NL - 1992 - (Canadian Senior National in Windsor -ON) - (Barons)
- Team BC - 1994 - (Western Canadian Senior Baseball Playoff in Kelowna)
- Team NL - 2014 - (Canadian Senior National in St. Johns) - (Barons)

My most favourite memory in Baseball would have to be playing for and representing a province at a National Baseball Tournament. I was lucky enough to play in 5 National Tournaments and also lucky enough to be able to represent 2 provinces (NL and BC). I represented Newfoundland (1985, 1988, 1992, and 2014) and British Columbia (1994).

The most memorable tournaments and highlights would have to be winning a Bronze (3rd) at the 1992 Canadian Senior Championship for Newfoundland in Windsor, Ontario. The second would be winning a Silver Medal (2nd) for British Columbia at the 1994 Western Canadian Championship in Kelowna, BC.

These tournaments were special for me because it gave me the opportunity to compete and play against players at the highest level possible. I felt pride in representing the province and enjoyed the competitive ball and highly skilled level of play.

WHO WAS THE TOUGHEST PLAYER (OR COUPLE OF PLAYERS) YOU'VE EVER FACED AND WHY?

Darren Colbourne & Frank Humber

I have had the privilege to play on the same teams with both Darren and Frank throughout the years including Provincial Tournaments and National Tournaments. In 2006, the Bay St George Mets folded and I joined Darren and Frank's Hawks Team in the CBBA League. We played 14 years together on that team. There were a lot of championships and a lot of great memories over those years.

But earlier in my baseball life we competed against them and our paths crossed many times over a 25 year period. The competition always involved my Bay St, George Team versus the Corner Brook Teams (Bantam, Midget, Junior and Hawks) which was lead by Darren and Frank.

Both players were extremely talented hitters and that made it obviously tough to defence against. Both players could hit for power and average which made it a tough part of the line up for any opposing team. In addition, both were individually challenging as pitchers as they both threw hard and both had a lot of experience. Frank would later play college and drafted by the LA Dodgers and Darren was well established as one of the best players on the Island.

Personally, I found they were most challenging when they teamed up as a pitcher-catcher combo. Frank the pitcher and Darren the catcher. But what separated them from everyone else and made them so tough was their competitiveness combined with a high Baseball IQ related to pitch sequence and game plans. To be a good hitter and to have success you have to be aware of what a pitcher throws and also look for any patterns in delivery or in their pitch sequence. This was often a pointless venture when facing this combo.

We faced this combo every year in big games and I personally found it difficult to face them in this situation knowing that there was always some surprise waiting for me when I entered the batter's box. I knew it was pointless to look for a certain pitch or for patterns. At bats were always difficult and often that awaited surprise turned out to be a new variation on a pitch or maybe a totally new pitch. Either way there were times I would be on my way back to the dugout after being fooled and look out with a confused expression at Frank trying to figure out what was that last pitch thrown. I think there were several times I remember seeing a grin on his face sort of saying to me "you like that - I got you"

There was a reason Frank played at a professional level which was due to his skills and knowledge on pitching. The fact that Frank had Darren who was able to think along with him made them a very tough opponent and in particular difficult to hit against.

IS THERE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO THANK ?

I have been so fortunate to play this game that I loved for over 40 years which has been only possible due to the support of so many people throughout those years. I apologize for the long list but I couldn't pick only a few as everyone on this list played some part in my baseball life. At the risk of leaving someone out I will attempt to list all the people that I would like to thank and include them in this special honour.

Melanie (wife) - I've been able to play for a long time mostly due to the support of my loving wife Melanie who thank god was a bigger fan of Baseball than me. .

Dave Janes and BNL Hall Of Fame Committee - For taking the time to reach out to me and for nominating me for this award

Barry Bennett - My best friend and the most talented ball player I have ever played with and the most influential person in my development as a player and person.

Brothers (Dominic, Clarence, Randy, and Junior (Andrew)) - For getting me started in playing softball/baseball and teaching me the game at a very young age .

Mom (Mildred) and Dad (Charles) and sisters (Bride and Janet) - For being supportive along the way

Ken Mclean - For being a big part in my learning the fundamentals of baseball and importance to detail

Hayward Young and Brian Downey - For being very instrumental in my earliest developments as a ball player teaching me skills, competitiveness and dedication.

Reggie Miner - Coaching and teaching fundamentals of the game of baseball at a very early age

Ashley Skinner - For his friendship and the many discussions on hitting philosophy and approaches. Also for the opportunity to play alongside with him and probably with the best hitter ever to play on the Island.

Larry Thomas - The coach who selected me from Stephenville Crossing to play with the Stephenville Bantam team at the age of 12 which started my path in playing competitive baseball.

BSG Baseball Teams and teammates - Especially Gerard Hynes, Pat Carroll, Tom Boland, Stefan English, Glen Crib and Colin Wood, who were all equally talented and also shared the same love for the game.

Lonnie Young - For his tremendous support of our Bay St George Mets Teams

Hawks - Especially Fred Prosper, Cory Lockyear, Scott Mosher, Mike Brake who were great teammates and made it worth driving the hour to a ball game for some many years.

Car pooling Teammates (1 Hour Drive from Stephenville to Cornerbrook) - Especially Bruce Partridge, Chris Gaudon, Ian Griffin, Ryne Hepditch, and Chris Yeo for making that hour long drive with me so many years and for motivating me to keep playing for so many years.

Cornerbrook Baseball Association and Allan (Tex) Seaborn - For their support in playing for the many Barons Teams over the years.

Prince George Baseball Teams - During my 8 years in BC especially Frank Rossi and Rick Leroux who provided opportunities to play locally and provincially.

Baseball NL - For providing me the opportunities to represent NL for so many tournaments at an Atlantic or Canadian Tournament.