



Steve Gonsiorowski

2015 Inductee



Steve was 4 1/2 years old in 1949 - his mother, father and Steve were hit by a drunk driver. His father was hospitalized. The following week Steve had a high temperature. Because of the accident he was taken to the Hospital. Steve developed a high fever and the doctor's diagnosis that Steve had early signs of Polio. Steve's right leg became crippled after several months in the hospital. The Dr's decided on surgery on his right leg, a healthy tendon was successfully transplanted for the

paralyzed one, which they noticed his right leg hadn't grown with the rest of his body, and he limped badly. "His personal doctor said Steven had to exercise his leg, he needs to compete in sports, and hopefully it will strengthen his right leg" and his mom said "I'm certain that competing in sports is what did it." If it wasn't for the AUTO accident, Steve could have been another Polio victim. Steve began playing baseball at the age of 8. His favorite player was Yogi Berra and so he wanted to be a catcher. He was not very fast at running at the time. He caught and pitched from 4th grade through Carlmont High School. Coach John Noce recruited Steve for 2 years at College of San Mateo as catcher and infielder. He played 3 years of semi/pro baseball in the San Francisco area up to Humboldt Crabs. At all levels of baseball Steve always carried a high batting average. Steve started playing in MSBL as a Dodger for 1 year, Cubs for 2 years, and then moved to the 40's and 50's with the Phillies for 12 years. He managed a team in Arizona. He also won 2 World Series as a Solon in the 50 & 70 year old divisions. Steve was very active in the communities in South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County as a coach. In South Lake Tahoe he coached two Senior Babe Ruth teams to qualify two teams to Utah and Pasadena for the Western Regional Finals. He also coached Babe Ruth League for 4 years. In El Dorado Hills Steve coached varsity baseball at Oakridge High School for 4 years. MSBL was having problem getting fields to play on; Steve got permission to use Oakridge High School field for weekend Open Leagues. Steve prepped the field every week for the MSBL Open League for two years. I am not through playing or coaching. I will help my son David, coach my grandsons (Zack and Gannon). I hope to play as a grandfather in the "father and son games" this October. As Yogi Berra says "The game's isn't over until it's over". I Love all of my baseball brothers and their families - especially the women that put up with us. Thanks to my wife, Janine, who cheered for me at almost every game. Great Times!!!

It is an honor and a privilege to be inducted into the SMSBL Hall of Fame!