



Gary Kleinfeld

2014 Inductee



Gary began his baseball career in 1964 playing with the Jaguars at the age of 7 years old in San Jose, CA. He continued playing in San Jose's Branham Hills Little League for the next 9 years. He played on the all-star team at age 12 and at age 15. His Branham Hills senior league all-star team fell just one game short from qualifying for the World Series. He played his High School ball at Pioneer High School in San Jose and his College ball at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. Gary was a three sport athlete in high school, playing baseball, football, and basketball.

Some of his best High School accomplishments were winning his final 17 games in his high school pitching career with a 0.58 ERA.

He also pitched a complete game 18 inning shutout against their crosstown rival Willow Glen to secure the league championship. While hitting a triple in the top of the 18th inning and eventually coming in to score the game's only run. Gary was elected to the first team all-league every year in High School including a league MVP honor his senior year. He was also elected to the first team All Northern California team in that year and was proudly honored on the field during pre-game ceremonies at a San Francisco Giants Game. In college his most memorable moment was as a freshman throwing a complete game 2-1 win over perennial powerhouse Fresno State.

Gary did not play any more baseball for a couple years after college. Then he heard about a semi-professional league in the bay area. He began playing again at the age of 23 for two more years. He was eventually approached by some scouts who, when they found out his age, just about tripped over themselves trying to get away. That was it for baseball until Gary joined the Sacramento MSBL in 2001. Gary tried softball off and on for several years, but couldn't get his much needed baseball fix.

"I consider myself very lucky to have gotten involved with the Sacramento MSBL, and with Ken Chavez especially. Ken is a great manager and a great person as well. It is because of him I began playing in the first place." Gary has been involved in Ken's Tribe tournament team since 2001, part of a great team and a great group of guys. The Tribe has reached the finals of the World Series for nine consecutive years while winning seven championships. They have also won nine Las Vegas championships in the Kickoff Classic and the Las Vegas Open. "I hope to continue to play for many years to come, so long as my body holds out. And then I'll play some more."