



## Dave Lewis

### 2012 Inductee



Dave Lewis has played baseball in the MSBL since the second year of the league's inception, but unlike many of the players in the league, his early athletic career did not include very much organized baseball. Instead, Dave's high school days was centered around being one of the Sacramento area's elite track athletes, excelling in the pole vault. In 1971, he took his talents to the University of Oregon, where he lettered as a freshman on the nationally ranked Duck track team. His teammates and friends included Olympians Mac Wilkins and Steve Prefontaine.

Dave finished fourth in the Junior National Meet later that year and then transferred to CSU Fresno. He competed for three seasons as a pole vaulter, long jumper, 4x100 relay man and decathlete. He was a mainstay on his team, winning many of his meets and finishing second in the PCAA Conference meet his senior year. He narrowly missed the Olympic Qualifying standard of 17' 1" in the pole vault in 1976. In 1982, Dave moved back to Sacramento to live. When the opportunity arose to play baseball in the MSBL, Dave embraced the challenge of a new sport. Fortunately, his new team, the Phillies, had several players--Bob Oliver and Don Hammit--who were professional players who taught baseball skills to Dave. As time went on, he learned to hit a curveball and his speed enabled him to stretch hits and run down balls in the outfield. Today, he is the all time Phillies leader in many Phillie categories including hits, doubles, and RBIs. Most telling, his track speed made him the king of Phillie triples. More importantly, playing as a Phillie for the past 26 years has created lifetime friendships and memories for Dave. The Rich Williams, Steve Gannons and Doug Hiltons of this world are hard friends to find. Most importantly, the longtime coach of the Phillies, Jerry Karnow, was a friend and the main reason that Dave stayed in the league and enjoyed himself for so long. Jerry created the Phillie way of friendship first that earmarked his teams and kept everyone's egos in check. In a sense, this is really what the MSBL is all about: an opportunity for anyone to participate and enjoy the friendships and memories created on a baseball field.