



MINNESOTA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME
NOMINATION FORM



2023

Nominee Romon Gawreluk Birth date 1-24-41

Address 3113 - 116th Ave NW City/State Coon Rapids MN Zip 55433

Softball Community where major accomplishments were achieved Coon Rapids area

Is that softball community's program currently affiliated with the MSF, the MN Softball Hall of Fame Administrator/Custodian? ☐ Yes ☐ No Not sure

Home Phone () Cell Phone (763) 370-3745 Don

Email Address srgawreluk@hotmail.com

Check the Nomination Category:

☒ Superior Performance

☐ Meritorious Service

☐ Pioneers of Yesterday

Check all that apply:

☐ Player

☐ Manager/Coach

☐ Promoter

☐ Administrator

☐ Umpire

☐ Sponsor

Check all that apply:

☐ Fastpitch

☐ Modified Pitch

☐ Slowpitch

Nominated by Marly Glines Date of Nomination 1-27-23
(If a relative, must have a seconding nomination by non-relative)

Address 9989 - 145th Ave SE City/State Becker Zip 55308

Home Phone () Cell Phone (218) 320-4188

Email Address mpglines@outlook.com

Seconding Nomination Name John Dietz

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Romon Gawreluk-Coon Rapids Nominated by Marly Glines

Romon Gawreluk was a pitcher for several fast-pitch softball teams in a career that spanned from 1963-1978 with a curtain call in 1987-1988. During that time he pitched for nine different teams (Local 359, Cozy Bar, Shortstop, Playhouse Toys, Midwest Patrol, Byerly's, Wayzata Sheet Metal, Elk River Legion and Oak Park Church).

Gawreluk appeared in many state tournaments and figured he won about 90% of his games. His best season saw him sporting a 31-1 record with the only loss coming in the state championship game.

His rise ball and changeup were his best pitches. He was influenced by his brother, Tom, who was also a pitcher. Bruce McKeever, his catcher while playing with Wayzata Sheet Metal and Byerly's was his best teammate.

His greatest softball moment came when pitching for Byerly's. He defeated Eddie Feigner's King and his court 7-2. He was voted his team's Most Valuable Player several times.

During his long career, Gawreluk was regarded as one of the best pitchers in the state. He spent hours working on his control until it got to the point where he could put the ball anywhere he wanted it to go.

Romon Gawreluk's Hall of Fame Playing Career



Romon Gawreluk
Baudette, Minnesota
Pitcher

Best Pitch: Changeup and Rise ball

1963 - 1978 and 1987-88

Career Record: Didn't keep track of records in those days, but estimates that he won 90% of his games in his "heyday" - had a 31-1 season with his only loss coming in the State Championship.

Born in 1941 and currently lives in Coon Rapids with wife, Sharon. He has 4 grandkids, still is an avid outdoorsman and helps play in an oompah band that entertains at local senior centers.

Played Fastpitch Softball for many years

- *Local 359 - his sheet metal worker union team
- *Cozy Bar
- *Shortstop
- *Playhouse Toys
- *Midwest Patrol
- *Byerly's
- *Wayzata Sheet Metal
- *Elk River Legion
- *Oak Park Church

Biggest Influences: His brother, Tom, who also pitched in downtown Minneapolis leagues. Romon's initial goal was to beat his brother, which he did, because he thought his brother was "too much of a hot dog!" Also, LeRoy Samuelson was a big influence on his career along with umpire, Ed Byers.

Greatest Teammate(s): Bruce McKeever, his catcher at Midwest Patrol & Wayzata Sheet Metal and Byerly's along with special memories of his Elk River Legion team.

Greatest Softball Moments: Romon was Team MVP several times, defeated Eddie Feigner (The King and his Court) 7-2 with Byerly's, hit his only homerun at Hamel and played on a team with his 2 sons, Dave and Don, for Oak Park Church at the end of his career

"I practiced to the point where most guys hadn't seen that type of speed. I would practice my wind up in the basement and pitch outside to a net for hours. I worked to have pinpoint accuracy so that I could put the ball anywhere I wanted it."

"A top notch pitcher out of St Paul taught me how to throw the rise ball. I threw against his team later in my career, but couldn't beat him. No one could beat him. There was also a top notch pitcher out of Minneapolis, but I beat him. It's been so long and I can't remember their names."



Elk River Legion, 1978
(Romon Gawreluk, Back Row, Far Right)