

Shannon Simpson
Kissimmee, Florida
Player Category
Inducted November 2003

I have played softball since I was eight years old. Mostly, year round NSA tournament ball, then fall and spring leagues. Throughout the 10 years I played NSA I participated in 8 World Series all along the east coast. I was awarded the 1999 18 & under Miss NSA at the same complex I played my first World Series. It was a great honor and is something I shared with my family and friends. If it weren't for them and their support I might have never played as long as I did. In 2003 I was inducted into the NSA Hall of Fame as the first youth women player. I attended the National Convention to receive my ring and plaque. These were incredible gifts given to me not for being the best player on the team but for the love I had for the game. I would play until my team was eliminated and then stick around tournaments and help my dad hand out trophies and makes sure games were on time. Even now when I don't play softball anymore, I still help my dad with tournaments.

Softball has given me something no one can take a way. I have gained lifelong friends. They are girls that will be in my wedding and a part of my life forever. It also made me learn important facts about life at a young age, winning isn't everything and sometimes life doesn't always go your way. These are just a few I learned. When I got older I learned that softball could be a means of going to college and when the time came I received a scholarship to play. That meant the game I loved to play gave me a chance at a better education. It gave me the first step to becoming the first person in my family with a college degree. During my freshman year of college I was given a great opportunity to play in the 2000 Indoor World Cup in Leon, France. Going over to another county and playing indoor softball with girls from all over Eastern Europe felt like the Olympics to me. This gave me the chance to experience softball in a whole different way.

Softball took up a lot of time in college and I realized that I had to start focusing on getting my degree, so I semi-stopped playing that is tournament ball. I still played co-ed softball with intramurals, which gave me a chance to be a part of the game. After college I came home and was offered a teaching position at a local high school. This job allowed me to become the assistant High School varsity softball coach. It was a great experience; I got the chance to teach kids my skills and love for the game. I believe coaching is my way to stay a part of this game.

I love softball and it has given me precious things no one can take away. I know wherever I'm at in my life; softball will always be a part of it and I will always be a part of softball.

For Shannon's skill, love and devotion to the game of softball she became the 1st female player, 1st female in any category and the 7th player overall to be inducted into the NSA Hall of Fame in November of 2003.