



World Whiffleball Championship Hall of Fame



Loosely patterned after a sandlot league played in the early 1970s at Mishawaka, Indiana's Strike's Field, the World Whiffleball Championship was formally organized in 1980. The following people have been acknowledged, chronologically, for their outstanding efforts as players and/or for their contributions to the game of whiffleball:

1. Jim Bottorff (Chicago, Ill.)

In 1980, founded the game and the tournament; devised its rules and dimensions. Organized Mishawaka, Indianapolis, Seymour, Ind., and Eugene, Oregon tournaments. Power hitter in his early career. World Champion 1980, 1982, 1983. Member of the World Whiffleball Commission. Commissioner 1980-83, 1985-94, 2002-present. Named Commissioner Emeritus 1994. Charter member inducted in 1990.



2. Larry Grau (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Co-founded the tournament in 1980. Power hitter and reckless defender. World Champion 1982, 1983, 1984. Member of the World Whiffleball Commission. Commissioner 1984. Named Commissioner Emeritus 2001. Like the NBA's Jerry West, Grau's silhouette is the game's logo. Charter member inducted in 1990.

3. Steve 'OB' Obren (Mishawaka, Ind.)

Whiffleball pioneer in the 1970s. Great clutch home run hitter and crafty pitcher for three decades. 1980 World Champion. Charter member inducted in 1990.



4. Scott Ermeti (Barcelona, Spain)

Barefoot aerialist outfielder was a singles hitter in early career, home run hitter in later career. World Champion 1981 and 1986. Member of the World Whiffleball Commission. Organized Baltimore and Barcelona tournaments. Named Commissioner Emeritus 2001. Charter member inducted in 1990.

5. Mark 'Gator' Waumans (Carlsbad, Calif.)

The all-time mythical home run champion. Organized regional tournaments in Baltimore and Southern California. Put the tournament on the World Wide Web in 1995 and continues to serve as webmaster. World Champion 1981 and 1986. Member of the World Whiffleball Commission. Commissioner 1996-1999. Named Commissioner Emeritus 2001. Charter member inducted in 1990.



6. Jim Wiesjahn (Mishawaka, Ind.)

Great power hitter, pitcher. World Champion 1982, 1983, 1984. Charter member inducted in 1990.

7. Dave Steinhilber (Midland, Mich.)

Played every position well and, legend has it "he never made an out." Home run great. World Champion 1982 and 1983. Player of the '80s. Charter member inducted in 1990.



8. Perry Baert (South Bend, Ind.)

Feared slap-hitter. World Champion 1982 and 1986. Member of the World Whiffleball Commission. Commissioner 1995. Named Commissioner Emeritus 2001. Charter member inducted in 1990.

9. Mike Schuster (Mishawaka, Ind.)

Excellent hitter, pitcher, consistent power. World Champion 1985 and 2007. Charter member inducted in 1990.



10. Keith Hadary (South Bend, Ind.)

The defensive master. Charter member inducted in 1990.

11. Dave Reed (South Bend, Ind.)

Most potent power hitter of his era. Excellent defender. World Champion 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1993. Co-Player of the '90s. Charter member inducted in 1990.



12. Dan Reed (South Bend, Ind.)

Great home run and singles hitter. World Champion 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1993. Charter member inducted in 1990.

13. Christopher 'Skip' Wright (South Bend, Ind.)

Feared power hitter and pitcher. World Champion 1992, 1998, and 2001. Inducted in 1991.



14. Scott Shroyer (South Bend, Ind.)

Tough defensive pitcher and home run hitter. World Champion 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1993. Inducted in 1992.

15. Tony Swihart (Mishawaka, Ind.)

Inspirational boy leader of the 1981 World Champions. Inducted posthumously, 1994.



16. Andy Schoettle (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Flawless left fielder and clutch home run hitter. World Champion 1994. Inducted in 1998.

17. Jason Zolman (South Bend, Ind.)

Relentless pitcher/defender and dangerous home run hitter. World Champion 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2003, and 2005. Co-Player of the '90s. Inducted in 1998.



18. Terry Snyder (Granger, Ind.)

Tenacious right-fielder, clutch power hitter. World Champion 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2002. Inducted in 1999.

19. Kerry Snyder (Granger, Ind.)

Consistent left-fielder and stellar home run hitter. World Champion 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, and 2002. Inducted in 1999.



20. Mike Weber (Bristol, Ind.)

Flawless defender and wicked batsman known for his quiet leadership. World Champion 1992, 1998, and 2001. Inducted in 1999.

21. Ken Humphrey (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Player-manager known for versatile bat and great fielding. World Champion 1992, 1998, 2001. Inducted in 2002.



22. Rich Carrasco (Mishawaka, Ind.)

Home run hitter late in his 23-year career. Member of the World Whiffleball Commission. Commissioner 2000-2002. Named Commissioner Emeritus 2003. Organizer of the current tournament, 2005 to present. Inducted in 2003.

23. Ben Downey (South Bend, Ind.)

Power hitter and stellar fielder. World Champion 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2003 and 2005. Inducted in 2004.



24. John Arndt (New Carlisle, Ind.)

Flawless leftfielder and power hitter for nearly two decades. Captain of the 2000 World Champions. Inducted in 2008.

25. Mark Obren (Mishawaka, Ind.)

The oldest of the four wiffleball playing Obren brothers, helped pioneer the game now played in the World Whiffleball Championship. In the early 1970s, the brothers devised both rules and field dimensions that were the forerunner of today's game. A pre-tournament era player, known for his aggressive base running and power stick. Inducted in 2009.



26. Tim Obren (Mishawaka, Ind.)

Helped pioneer the game now played in the World Whiffleball Championship. In the early 1970s, he and three of his brothers devised both rules and field dimensions that were the forerunner of today's game. Played in three World tournaments in the 1980s, leading his team to the final four in 1988. Was known as a lights-out pitcher and dangerous longballer. Inducted in 2009.

27. Tom Obren (Mishawaka, Ind.)

Helped pioneer the game now played in the World Whiffleball Championship. In the early 1970s, he and three of his brothers devised both rules and field dimensions that were the forerunner of today's game. Played in four World tournaments in the 1980s. Known as a fearless outfielder and often challenged Hall-of-Fame brother Steve for pre-tournament era annual home run titles. Inducted in 2009.

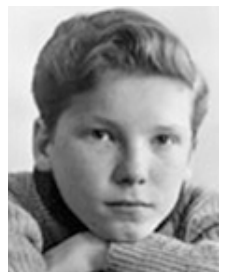


28. Chris Montgomery (Indianapolis, Ind.)

This late bloomer began his career in his 30s in 1988, his squad defeating the best team of the era, Dud's Gang, in their very first game. A dominant player for another 20 years and counting, this ageless wonder continues to fly under the radar into his 50s, still hitting home runs like he is 17. Inducted in 2009.

29. Nathan Barcus (Mishawaka, Ind.)

A complete whiffleballer for more than a decade, this stellar outfielder and hitter almost single-handedly led his team to a World Final in 2000. He now prowls the outfield for the seven-time champion Blue Ribbon Builders. World Champion in 2005. Inducted in 2009.



30. Mike Baniak (Chicago, Ill.)

Joining Club Ripped in the late '90s, he is now the tremendous leftfielder for one of the game's elite teams and is known for his clutch power hitting. Chicagoland Champion 2008. World Champion 2004 and 2006. Inducted in 2009.

31. Nate Hansen (Munster, Ind.)

Making his debut in the early 1990s, his team of 12-year-olds lost all four games their first year. Now the leader of one of the game's power clubs, he dominates on the mound and in the batter's box. Chicagoland Champion 2008. World Champion 2004 and 2006. Player of the 2000s. Inducted in 2009.

