



Hobson, Stewart inducted into Idaho State Hall of Fame; Camp, McIndoe, Buckenberger receive special awards

Rich Hobson and Chuck Stewart, two former Spokane umpires in chief, were inducted into the USA Softball of Idaho Hall of Fame on Feb. 10 at the association's state meeting in Spokane.

Hobson was Spokane UIC for five years (1989-93) before joining the Amateur Softball Association national staff in 1994, where he served for 10 years, conducting schools and clinics from Alaska to Florida and in Germany as an often-requested instructor.

He started umpiring in 1980 and has served several positions on the Spokane Softball Umpires Association board, including president for two terms. He's currently its treasurer and uniform dealer.

Hobson, a USA Softball Elite umpire in fastpitch, has worked multiple national championship tournaments and served as UIC at 19 of them. His honors include being a member of the USA Softball National Indicator Fraternity, the Inland Empire Softball Hall of Fame and the Washington Officials Association Meritorious Service Award. He has also umpired at the Division I college level and in numerous state high school tournaments.

Stewart followed Hobson as Spokane UIC and served for 16 years, retiring in 2009 as the longest-servicing UIC in the Northwest at the time. He started umpiring in 1984 and was also the local association president. He was UIC at seven ASA National Championship tournaments, including the Women's Open Slowpitch in Lancaster, California, and was UIC at 51 State and Regional ASA Tournaments.

Stewart's honors include numerous local association awards, the ASA Region 15 Award of Excellence, the WOA Meritorious Service Award and he is a member of the Inland Empire Softball Hall of Fame and the USA Softball Region 9 Hall of Fame.

Also at the Idaho state meeting, two other local umpires and longtime former Commissioner Fuzzy Buckenberger were honored.

Jeff Camp, an umpire for 12 years who has worked seven USA Softball national championship tournaments, including three at the elite youth gold level, received the Larry Musgrove Award. It's given annually to an umpire who best represents the ideals of umpiring that the late former Idaho UIC embodied.

Nic McIndoe, a 14-year-old first-year umpire who attends St. George's, was given the Bob Martin Award in memory of the late former Idaho UIC and goes to an up-and-coming umpire. McIndoe was an SSUA Rookie of the Year recipient in 2017.

Buckenberger received the Red Halpern Lifetime Achievement Award in memory of the late former longtime Idaho commissioner from Coeur d'Alene.

Spokane has been a district under the Idaho umbrella since 2015 when the then-ASA did some nationwide reorganizing. The ASA has since also been rebranded and is now USA Softball.