

ROLF SYNOGROUND - - ROCHESTER/AUSTIN

Nominated by Dave Tollefson

Rolf began his softball career at the age of nine pitching in a boys' league. Age fourteen found him pitching in the church league. He took the mound at sixteen in the La Crosse Men's Classic League. He pitched in the state tournament that year losing both games 1-0. The next two years he pitched for Quality Lumber returning to the state both years. His record for those two years was 28-6. After pitching in La Crosse the next stop was pitching for the U. S. Army in Missouri.

Rolf came to Rochester at the age of 21 to pitch for North Star Bar. He won 164 games and lost 28 during the four years he pitched for North Star Bar, averaging 10 strikeouts a game. During that time they won ten invitational tournaments, won the city league, and appeared in four state tournaments. They were state runner-up twice. In 1963 Rolf won 55 games with 5 losses. In the following years he pitched for Hollywood Bar and Golden George's. In his years with George's he won 72 games with 12 losses. During his last year in Rochester, he also pitched for the Moose in Austin helping both teams win their league.

The following year he moved to Austin playing the next four years with the Moose. They won the league each year moving to state tournament play. Rolf finished his career managing Charlie's Supper Club.

The next stop in his softball career was coaching his daughters. While he was their pitching coach at Austin High School, the Packers won 50 straight games and two state titles.

Rolf finished his career as first, the assistant, and then, the head coach for eight years at Austin Community College. In his first year Austin was able to win the region and played in the National Tournament. His coaching record was 155 wins and 88 losses. Many of those wins were pitched by his daughters.

Please join us in welcoming Rolf Synoground to the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame this evening.