

Charles “Chuck” Maxwell



When his barber learned that Maxwell played for Bob Gates' 1952 Holy Name baseball team, he offered the young player a spot on his Benson Merchants fast pitch team. That conversation eventually led to a softball career that spanned 52 years.

Player-coach Maxwell formed his first team in 1965, a club that eventually won 10 city championships. After his 12-year playing career ended due to injury—he slipped discs in his back picking up his two-year-old daughter—Maxwell managed men's fast pitch teams for another 40 years. By his count, Maxwell figures he had close to 800 athletes play for his teams.

For 34 consecutive years, Maxwell's Westside Chapel team was one of the top clubs in the state. The "Chapel" teams competed in 23 Amateur Softball Association (ASA) regional tournaments and participated in the ASA Class A national tournament in 1976.

In the early 1970's, Maxwell drafted a proposal to include the use of a designated hitter in the fast pitch game. He presented it to ASA Commissioner Carl Kelley who eventually took it to the ASA national convention. In 1975, the ASA added the "DH" rule to its playing rules.

Maxwell's teams compiled a won-loss record of 1291-560-26, won 35 league titles and 10 city championships.

Maxwell said he never recorded the number of tournaments his teams won, "but when we moved to a new home in 2002, we tossed out over 260 trophies and crate full of team championship pictures.

"The hardware may be gone," Chuck says, "but the great memories remain."