

Bob Waldron

Waldron played baseball at Omaha Central through 1982 and at Bellevue University through 1987, where he was a four-year all conference outfielder and a three-year honorable mention pitcher.

At the same time, in 1980, he started playing softball in a work league for Hinky Dinky. He retired from competitive softball in 2006 but still plays with the St. Roberts team in the Catholic Men's League.

"Conservatively, I'm pretty sure I have played over 1,500 games," he said.

In 1986, he began playing competitive slow pitch softball and in 1991, he joined Wahl Optical, one of the area's top teams.

For the next 16 years, he earned a reputation as one of the best third basemen in the state while playing on a team that competed in Omaha's top league and qualified for numerous Class A regional and national tournaments.

"In 1996," Waldron said, "we were unable to recruit a third baseman. I volunteered to play and never left the infield after that."

"He had a strong arm and played great defense," said Bob Wahl, the team manager for Wahl Optical. "He was just fearless. I don't know how many hundreds of times he used his body to knock down a ball. I began to wonder why he wore a glove. By the end of the season, he looked like a dart board.

"He always hit around .700. As a team we didn't really keep track of home runs, but I know he hit a ton of them. But what really set him apart was his unbelievable intensity and passion for the game."

