



CARL "TEX" COLLINS
Catcher

The late **Tex Collins** was one of the great home run hitters in softball history.

Four times during his career he was named first team All American as a catcher: 1967, 1969, 1971 and 1973.

In Little Caesar's 1970 National Title victory, Tex was instrumental, batting .624 with five homes and 6 R.B.I.s. Four of the H.R.'s he hit in that tournament came in the championship game against Copper Hearth of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Tex as a perennial All-Star, along with several of his team mates at the prestigious Stroh's Invitational Tournament in Springfield, Ohio. This annual tournament invited only the top slowpitch teams in the country. Little Caesar's put together a 36 consecutive game winning streak in the Strohs, winning it six years in succession. Tex also played in the first Slow Pitch National All-Star Series held in Parma, Ohio. During that event, Tex won a home run derby competing against the top players in the country. When Tex really got hold of the

ball, there was no doubt that it was gone. The only things left to wonder about were: will the ball ever stop and how long will it take him to get around the bases?

Tex Collins was a true gentleman on and off the field and one of the colorful players that make softball the great game it is. Enshrinement in the M.D.A.S.A. Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to this great player who left his mark on us all.

Mike will be remembered for his contributions to the game of softball in more areas than one. As a player, he was both exceptional and consistent. As a hitter he had few rivals, being able to hit for both power and average.

After a very successful college career at Eastern Michigan University where he captained the basketball and baseball teams and earned seven letters, he turned his attentions to softball. In 1964 Mike joined the East Side Sporting Goods team which finished fifth in the A.S.A. Nationals. In 1966, Mike played with the Michael's Lounge team that took the National Championship. Mike was named All American that year for the first time. In 1967 Michael's Lounge took a second place finish in the Nationals and Mike again was named All American. His outfield play and consistency at the plate was a key part of the Little Caesar's team that was to dominate the Michigan softball scene for the next half decade. Little Caesar's took a third place National finish in 1969



MIKE GOUIN
Outfield

which was to set the stage for their championship run in 1970. In Southgate, Michigan, Mike rose to the occasion for the home town fans being named All American and Most Valuable Player in the tournament as L.C. took the title.

Little Caesar's continued to dominate softball both locally in the powerful Major Metro Travel League and nationally; placing near the top in the A.S.A. Nationals in 1971, 1972 and 1973. In 1973 Mike was again named All American for his fine performance.

Mike has also made a valuable contribution to softball in his profession as Recreation Superintendent in Canton Township after several years with the Wayne Recreation Department.

Mike was married in 1964 to Doris Ann Bailey and they have two children, Lori Beth and Sheri Lynn.

Incidental to Mike's selection to the M.D.A.S.A. Hall of Fame is his outstanding record as a professional softball player which is worthy of note.

As the Little Caesar's amateur dynasty came to an end, they began a new one in Pro Softball. Mike played with the Detroit Caesars where he was instrumental in their back to back World Series Championships in 1977 and 1978. Mike was named to the All Star team both years.



GEORGE CALOIA
Shortstop

national second place teams.

Caloia also played for Briggs Beautyware in fast pitch when they won the national championship in 1953. In all, he played in 15 National Tournaments.

Caloia was inducted into the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame on October 9, 1979.

George Caloia played fast and slow pitch softball for over 39 years. Between the two sports, he played on 75 championship teams. During his career, he won eleven batting titles and was considered a master of baserunning and sliding.

Caloia was selected All American Fast Pitch shortstop and second baseman in 1960 and 1961 respectively while playing for Briggs Beautyware. In 1963, he was selected slow pitch All American shortstop while playing for East Side Sporting Goods, thereby attaining the singular distinction of being the only man voted All American in both fast and slow pitch softball.

During Caloia's career, Michigan witnessed its most successful slow pitch regime, of which he played a key part. Caloia played for East Side Sporting Goods in 1958, Michael's Lounge in 1966 and Little Caesar's in 1970, when each of these teams won the national championship. Including a stint with Rip's All Stars, he played on four national

Longtime softball enthusiasts who are seldom able to agree when it comes to naming the best players to come out of Detroit are able to agree on one man, **Bill Cole**. Quite simply, Bill was one of the finest pure hitters to have ever played the game.

Bill's accomplishments speak for themselves. Twice during his 14 year career, he played for national championship teams. In 1966 with Michael's Lounge and in 1970 with Little Caesar's. In addition, he played on three national runner-up teams: East Side Sporting Goods in 1962, Michael's Lounge in 1967 and Little Caesar's in 1971.

Four times during his career, Bill was named All American at third base. In 1969, he hit .560 with 7 homers and 16 R.B.I.'s. In 1970, he hit .560 with 10 homers and 16 R.B.I.'s. He again made the honor squad in 1971, with a .500 B.A., 6 homers and 10 R.B.I.'s. In 1962, Bill was chosen as the Most Valuable Player while playing for runner-up East Side Sporting Goods, hitting a sizzling .758. A quiet guy, who led by example on the field and a gentleman's gentleman off the field, Bill epitomizes a Hall of Fame member. He learned the game from his father, Herb, a great fastpitch player in his own right.

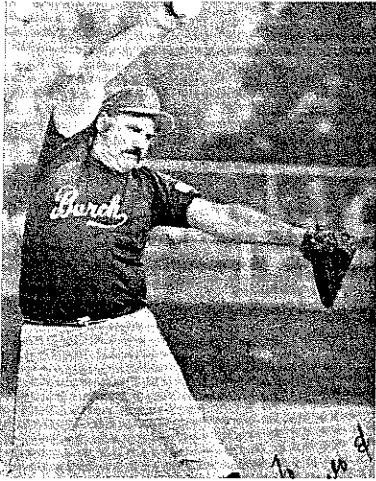
Bill, a Chrysler employee, has a wife, Frances and four children. During his career he carried a .600 plus batting average and has hit over 1,000 home runs. His ability to come through in the clutch and hit the homerun or single as the situation dictated is what he'll be best remembered for.

In January of this year, Bill Cole became the first Michigan slowpitch player and only the eighth overall, to be named to the National Softball Hall of Fame which is located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

He also is a member of the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame, being inducted in 1978.



BILL COLE
Third Base



BONNIE JONES
Pitcher

February 2, 1936 marked the birth of a man who was to dominate the sport of softball. **Bonnie Jones** ruled the mound for nearly thirty years compiling a string of records that are hard to comprehend. Bonnie started pitching major fast ball in Detroit in 1950. He became an instant star, pitching in area leagues and tournaments and making virtually every All Star team. Bonnie gained national recognition in 1961 being selected Most Valuable Player in the World Championship at Clearwater, Florida where he pitched his Burch Gage team to a runner-up finish. In 1964, Bonnie was again selected M.V.P. as he took Burch to the World Title in Sunnyvale, California. In 1970, Bonnie was named National Tournament M.V.P. for the third time as he pitched Nordruft Tool to a second place finish. In this tourney Bonnie set a record for most innings pitched in a National Tournament with 77-2/3 innings and tied another with eight tournament victories. He also pitched 46-1/3 consecutive scoreless innings to set another record.

All told Bonnie Jones was named to the A.S.A. Regional All Star Team fifteen times, to the All American Team six times and National M.V.P. three times. Even more incredible is his career pitching statistics: 1,300 victories against only 125 losses. Bonnie pitched 180 no-hitters and 40 perfect games; figures that qualify him for an eternal spot in softball history.

Bonnie was killed in an automobile accident on July 14, 1978, cutting short his amazing career. He was inducted into the Michigan Amateur Hall of Fame in 1975 and is a shoo in for the National Hall of Fame. The Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association is honored to have called Bonnie our own.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, **Sam Lombardo** had a 39-year career in fast pitch softball as a player, player-coach and manager. He began his softball career in 1937 with Briggs Beautyware of Detroit, Michigan and remained with them through 1944. Lombardo, an outfielder, played in eight National Championships with Briggs. They won one National Title in 1937. In 1939, Lombardo batted .389.

He joined the Ft. Wayne, Indiana Pistons in 1944 and played with them for 11 years. He played in three National Championships while with the Pistons and was their top hitter for six of these eleven years.

A colorful and vocal player, Lombardo was one of the top stars in the National Fastball League. In 1947, he hit .347 to lead the league in hitting and was a League All Star four years in a row from 1946 to 1949. In 1947, Lombardo also led the League in hits (55) and runs scored (36).

A fleet-footed outfielder, Lombardo batted .311 in 1949 and .394 in 1951 to lead the National Industrial Fastball League in hitting. Besides hitting, Lombardo also led the League in runs scored (22) and hits (26). He was 38 points ahead of the nearest competitor.

Lombardo joined Detroit's Burch Tool in 1955 and played in nine National Championships with them. They won the National Title in 1964.

Lombardo was named first-team All-American in 1961 and 1964. In the 1964 National Championship, he batted .400.

In October, 1981, Lombardo was inducted into the Michigan Hall of Fame.



SAM LOMBARDO
Outfield