

## JOE CASTRODALE



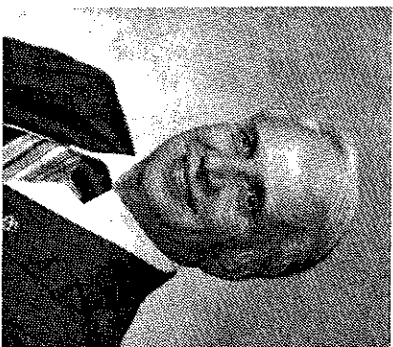
Castrodale will long be remembered as one of the most successful managers in ASA fast pitch history. Twelve times Castrodale managed teams that competed in national tournaments taking Burch Gage and Nothdurft Tool to the nationals five times each.

Castrodale's Burch Gage team played in the 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964 and 1974 nationals taking the coveted national championship in 1964 at Sunnyvale, California and finishing second in 1961 at Clearwater, Florida. When Castrodale switched sponsorship to Nothdurft Tool, he picked up where he left off leading Nothdurft to national tourneys in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1975. His team finished runner-up in the 1970 national tourney. He also managed Lincoln Heat in 1956 and Days Sanitary of Pontiac in 1977 taking both to the Nationals.

Castrodale's softball career began in the Marines and continued upon his discharge when he played in the West Side Courier league for the Clair-Freeman Pontiac and Fort Pontiac teams.

He has managed more national tournament wins than any other ASA fast pitch manager (55) and was selected to manager in many national all-star games. During his great managerial reign, Castrodale has developed and coached some of the greatest players in softball history including national Hall of Fame pitcher Bonnie Jones.

## FELIX MICHAELS



The sign over Michaels Van Dyke sports enclave still reads: "Michaels Lounge - Home of all sports champs".

That single proclamation sums up the enormous contribution Felix Michaels and other generous sponsors following his lead have made to the sport of softball. Without his sponsorship, many great Detroit teams may never have had the chance to strive for the top while competing.

Michaels has sponsored amateur athletics for more than 25 years and teams bearing the Michaels's Lounge logo have won championships in softball, basketball, bowling, football, volleyball and hockey. His 1966 Michaels Lounge team captured the National ASA men's slow pitch title in Parma, Ohio - a tournament considered by many to have been the classic ASA national showcase.

Team pictures line the wall of the lounge and read like a who's-who of softball history. Two of his former players are in the National ASA Hall of Fame, Bill Cole and Tex Collins. Eight additional players are in the Metro Detroit ASA Hall of Fame.

Whether they were national champs or local also-rans, athletes of all ages and abilities will fondly remember post game camaraderie at Michaels Lounge. Michaels and his lifelong companion, wife Valerie, have three children - Sue,



## JIM PUCKETT

Jim Puckett established himself as one of the greatest home run hitters in softball history during his prolific career which included participation on three national championship teams and a host of individual achievements.

Among his many honors were two national tournament home run records set in 1971 with 16 and in 1973 when he banged 20 round trippers. Puckett's national championships came in 1958 with East Side Sporting Goods, 1966 with Michaels's Lounge and in 1970 with Little Caesars. Manager Roy Lombardo called the fiery Puckett "one of the great long ball hitters in the history of softball" and rated him along side of Long Island (New York) legend Jim Galloway.

Puckett was a first team All American selection in 1962, hitting .587 and slugging 10 home runs; in 1971, when he hit 700 with 13 home runs and 26 RBI's and again in 1973 when he batted .561 with 18 round trippers and 33 RBI's. Puckett was also selected as a second team All American twice and has received numerous all-star awards to round out his spectacular career. Jim Puckett's induction is a fitting tribute to this Detroit great.

### METRO DETROIT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL A.S.A. HALL OF FAME

**JOHN SPRING** - Spring won 483 games and lost only 62 games as a pitcher during his fast pitch career. Spring was named All-American 10 times with eight first team selections and also appeared in 17 consecutive National tournaments compiling a 44-13 record. He was inducted into the National Hall of Fame in 1970.

**CHARLES JUSTICE** - Justice won 863 games against 92 losses in a career spanning three decades. Justice struck out all 21 batters eight times (seven inning game) and hurled six perfect games. He was inducted into the National in 1974 becoming the 47th player so honored.

**BILL COLE** - Cole was selected as the first Michigan slow-pitch inductee into the National in 1982. During his outstanding career, Cole had a .600 plus batting average and more than 1000 home runs. He was selected All-American four times and played on two national championship teams.

**BONNIE JONES** - Jones was selected to the All-American team six times and named the National MVP three times. Jones won 1300 games and lost 125 games. He had 180 no-hitters and 60 perfect games. Jones was selected to the National in 1984.

**MAACK PHILLIPS** - Phillips was selected to the National ASA Hall of Honor in 1985. He once played with the famed Briggs-Beutyware team and made tremendous contributions to amateur sports as a sponsor (East Side Sporting Goods) which captured the National slow pitch championship in 1958.

**CARL "TEX" COLLINS** - "Tex" will become the most recent addition to the National Hall of Fame as he will be inducted this summer. Collins was selected All-American four times. One of the most prolific home run hitters in softball.