



Walter "Skeeter" and Shirley Severoff

Skeeter's first coaching position was coaching his wife Shirley on an adult team in Toledo City League. Shirley organized the girls softball teams and the Booster Club at Hawkins Elementary School in 1977 and Skeeter became the coach of

little 9-10 year old girls. They've both coached several sports over the years: Skeeter coached wrestling, baseball and softball and Shirley coached volleyball, cheerleading and softball. Skeeter, with Shirley as his assistant, coached girl's slowpitch softball for 12 years winning many City Championships. While traveling to tournaments with the Lady Hawks slowpitch teams, they won the ASA State Tournament and went to the Nationals in 1988.

Their first Lady Irish team was a 14U fastpitch team that was formed and coached by them. They had to learn the difference between fastpitch and slowpitch and in order to be effective and teach fastpitch properly, they contacted the University of Toledo softball coach for instruction. They attended many softball clinics at colleges and coaches clinics.

Shirley and Skeeter were asked to coach the Varsity softball team at Central Catholic High School in its 2nd year of fastpitch softball, and they went on to win the City League Championship. They reached out to many girls and coaches in their own community educating them in fastpitch softball by producing their own "Down & Dirty" fastpitch softball clinics from 1996 to 2000 with college and high school instructors teaching skills to girls of all ages.

They also created the Lady Irish Board of Directors for the Lady Irish travel teams and began expanding the number of teams in all age groups playing in the SGL league and traveling to ASA Softball tournaments. They held coaches clinics to instruct the Lady Irish coaches on the strategies and technologies of fastpitch softball. Shirley was instrumental in forming an adult women's fastpitch league for college players in our area for several years.

Since 1999 they have sponsored the Independence Day Tournament that is currently known as the JP Wilde Tournament, after the death of the Lady Irish President. With the help of his family, they created a softball scholarship foundation, the James P. Wilde Foundation Fund, which continues to grow while accepting donations for college scholarships. The scholarships are awarded each year to a recipient who is committed to College Softball.

Since they began in 1989, Skeeter and Shirley have funneled over 100 players in the college ranks. They continue to focus on player development and educating parents on how to be good stewards for their children and the sport of fastpitch.