



Like most softball dads, Norm Kujawa got involved in coaching softball because his daughter's team needed a coach. Norm took his coaching career from the baseball diamond and hockey rink to the softball field in 1997, first coaching in the SGS Fall League, followed by the Whitmer High School summer team in 1999. Norm's coaching in the fall league continued for several years, culminating in the High School Gold division championship in 2005.

In 2002, Norm volunteered to become the first 23U coach in the Toledo area, managing his first SGS Magic Blue team to a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at the 2002 USSSA 23U World Series. Norm's Magic Blue team followed that season with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the USSSA World Series in 2003, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in 2004, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in 2005, winning 32 out of 44 games in the 18 & Over division. Norm's teams also won a number of USSSA Ohio state championships and state runners-up awards.

Norm left SGS after the 2006 summer season and joined the FAST-Wizards organization where he became the first head coach of the Wizards 18 & Over team, accumulating a record of 40-21-1 over two seasons. "The best part about my run as an 18 & Over coach was that six girls played for me for six years. That means the world to me and really served to justify my coaching philosophy."

In 2008, Norm joined the board of the FAST-Wizards organization and still serves in that capacity today, being re-elected in 2009. In addition, Norm has served as the head coach of the Wizards 16U Elite team since its inception in August 2008.

Norm began his high school coaching career at Mason High School in Erie, MI coaching junior varsity in 2003 and 2004. In 2006, Norm was hired as the JV coach at Central Catholic High School, and eventually became head coach at Central in 2008. In October 2009, Norm was hired as the head coach at Notre Dame Academy in Toledo. "One of the special things about my high school coaching career has been coaching with my son and assistant coach, Norman III, or, as everybody calls him, Junior. It's been a lot of fun and he is turning out to be a very good coach."

Norm is one of the few coaches in Ohio to have earned the designation of Four Star Master Coach by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, is ACE certified by ASA, as well as certified by the National Federation of High Schools and the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Norm is a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and the Ohio High School Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association.