



Karen (Marlowe) Campbell Sports

Video
highlights of
Inductee's
Profile



Karen graduated from CHS in January 1958. Despite contracting polio at the age of four, her physician believing she would never walk again, she achieved remarkable athletic success. She was extremely self-conscious about her stunted left leg and, perhaps, overcoming this malady explains why she became such a competitive and driven person. At CHS Karen was inducted into the National Honor Society, graduated fifth in her class and was voted Most Athletic in her class.

Following graduation from CHS, Karen attended Erie Community College and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1977 with an Associate Degree in nursing. She was president of her class. She was hired as charge nurse for a mixed med/surgical unit at Buffalo Children's Hospital. While working at the hospital she earned her bachelor degree in nursing from Damien College, graduating Magnum Cum Laude in 1985 with the added honor of being listed in the Who's Who in US colleges. Karen also often served as the encampment nurse for her daughter's Girl Scout weekend camp trips. When she and her family relocated to Venice, Florida she worked in the oncology ward at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. While at the hospital, she had the unique and pleasurable experience of meeting Dik Browne, writer of the comic strip Hagar the Horrible. She finished her nursing career in 2000. She helped caring for her ill husband who passed in 2006 after 48+ years of marriage.

Early on it was evident that she loved playing softball; first on the streets of Cleveland, then to the playgrounds, and then on to the softball fields. She was on the winning district team from Castalia playground on Cleveland's East Side. While in Buffalo she played on bar league teams for many years. Out of over 200 teams, her team finished as high as third place. She played on a men's travelling team in North Carolina for two years through which she discovered the Freedom Spirit of Florida team.

Now at 75 years young she is playing women's slow pitch softball as a member of the Freedom Spirit of Florida's women's 75+ travelling team. The team has competed all over the USA and holds the distinction of being the first 75+ team to play competitively. She acknowledged that her best game was last year when she knocked in the winning run (with two outs and two strikes on her) in the last inning of a game---a "Walk off Win". She was the MVP for that game. Overall, Karen has earned five national gold medals and a silver and bronze medal for softball. Her team has six members that have been enshrined in the National Softball Hall of Fame.

In July 2015, Karen's team participated in the 2015 Senior Olympics held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was one of over 10,000 people in this national competition. Although her team had several missing players, it finished winning the Bronze Medal. Karen was instrumental in the team's success.

Karen's competitive spirit is an inspiration to all who know her and will no doubt propel her into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.