

The coaching history of Coach Schropp (Schroppy)

Coach Schropp begins his coaching career as a teenager right out of high school. As a 19 year old he was tapped to assist in the coaching and training of a highly successful 150 member AAU swim club that traveled the Mid-West states of Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois. The next year he became the head coach of that club, a post he held for the next two years until he went off to join the U.S. Navy.

His coaching career was put on hold for several years as he pursued a path that saw him become a Navy diver and an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officer. While in the Navy he found time to coach a volley ball team and then one of the Navy's last Fastpitch Softball teams. He took that fastpitch team to the Navy District Championships two years in a row.

His first experience with fastpitch came while stationed at an ammunition base on the west coast. One of his friends came to him and asked him to play; he had heard that Coach Schropp played baseball in school. Coach Schropp's response was to ask what they were playing. When told it was softball (there was no fastpitch or slowpitch, only softball then), he responded that was a game for old men, because that is who he saw playing the game when he was growing up (they may not have been that old but seemed that way to a young person). His friend finally talked him into playing. That was all it took, he fell in love with the game.

For the next several years he played, coached and umpired softball between duty assignments for the navy. After retiring from the service he became involved with the Little League program, starting and becoming the first vice president of softball at Plaza Little League in Virginia Beach. At that time there were few travel fast teams in the Hampton Roads area at that time, in fact there was only one on the south side that started in the early to mid 1990's.

After leaving the Little League program Coach Standish called Coach Schropp and asked if he would like to be his assistant coach on a 16U Orion Hunter team. He of course said yes right away. After the first year, the Orion Hunter organization came on hard times and was close to folding. Coach Standish, Coach Schropp and a few other people got together to rescue it. Over the next several years, under the leadership of Coach Standish and Coach Schropp, the Orion Hunter organization was placed on a sound financial footing. The club during that time became a four team (12U, 14U, 16U & 18U and for a short time had a 10U team) organization. Coach Standish and Coach Schropp stayed together and moved up to coach the Orion Hunter 18U team. During that period the Orion Hunter 18U team was able to assist several of its players in receiving college scholarships to play softball.

Coach Schropp and Coach Standish decided to retire from softball in 2006 and give the leadership of the successful Orion Hunter Club to someone else. That retirement lasted less than six months. Coach Schropp's daughter said she wanted to start a 10U team and Coach Schropp had to help her. That team was the start of the Galaxy of Stars teams. In the meantime, Coach Standish found 13 girls that wanted to play softball but no one wanted to coach them. Coach

Standish and Coach Schropp were back together on the field; this time with a not very good 14U team named Galaxy Stars. Over the next few years, this group of girls moved through 16U ranks to the 18U level. They became good enough that every one of the seniors from that team went to college on a softball scholarship.

As that team moved on, Galaxy of Stars had two teams in its organization, a 14U and an 18U team, with nothing in between. Something had to be done, so it was decided to join forces with the Virginia Legends Fastpitch teams. For a while that was a successful union. Then came a time for a change; the Legends Elite came into being. As an aside, the Legends Elite is what is now known as Virginia Legacy Elite. (Once a Legend...Now creating a Legacy)

In the several years that Coach Standish and Coach Schropp have been together they have amassed a winning percentage of well over 75% while playing some of the best teams in the country. Their teams have qualified and played in several National Championships, including ASA/USA "A" and ASA Gold. But far more important than the tournaments played in and wins, is the number of girls that have played on these teams that have gone to college on softball scholarships. Some of these may be found on our website. Suffice it to say that every girl that played for one of Coach Schropp's and Coach Standish's teams that wanted to play softball in college has received the opportunity to do so.

To Coach Schropp the greatest joy is to help a talented ball player learn, improve, develop her skills to the point that very good college programs want her to come play for them. He has been fortunate enough to see so many of them receive that opportunity.

His guiding coaching principal has always been that the girls playing for him want to do their best, want to learn, want to become better and have a great deal of fun while doing it. He believes that the players want well organized and hard practices that help them to become better. He also believes that very few, if any of the girls want a coach that yells, hollers, screams, and berates them. He believes that all of his players deserve to be treated with respect and held to high standards. When they are searching to become the ball player and the adult they will develop into, it is his responsibility to help them learn the skills for the game and of life. To accomplish these goals, he feels it is incumbent upon him to keep his skills and knowledge of the game and coaching current and on the cutting edge. To this end, he is a long time member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) certified as a two star coach. He is also certified by the American Coaches Association, Accredited by ASA as Certified Coach at the Continuing Education Level. His library of books, tapes, CDs and videos is extensive, numbering into the hundreds. He subscribes to several softball and coaching blogs. He is always ready to listen to something new and apply those things that have value.