

Bob Otto, Yucaipa, CA



Bob Otto grew up on a farm near the village of Wanamingo, MN and at the age of 15 in 1964 was introduced to the local Wanamingo Fastpitch League. He immediately fell in love with the sport and began pitching in the league. That fortunate encounter led him to embark on a 52-year career, first as a pitcher, then 29 years as a photographer and journalist. Bob Otto became the ISC World Tournament official photographer in 1995 when ISC Executive Director, Milt Stark, created the position.

Otto was asked to join the organization in order to photograph the World Tournament providing photos for the ISC World Championship Guide, media outlets such as newspapers, websites, the ISC Hall of Fame, and other needs the ISC deemed

necessary to promote the ISC to the public. Otto served as the official photographer through the 2000 world tournament. During those six years, and until retirement in 2017, he expanded his role and began writing and reporting on the sport, both for the ISC as well as covering and reporting on tournaments in Southern California, and in states across the country for the North American Fastpitch Association (NAFA), the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), and the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC).

Due to the advancement in live coverage on the Internet of the various organizations, national and international tournaments, Otto was able to cover many of the tournaments by computer. He wrote game stories, previews, and wrapups and then published them on his blog entitled, "Otto In Focus." Otto published hundreds of photos and over 2,000 stories on his blog that he established in 2008. His stories and photos appear on social media such as Facebook. were also published in Al Doran's "Al's Fastball," website; Jim Flanagan's "Fastpitch West," website; Bob Tomlinson's "The Fastpitch Chronicle," monthly news tabloid, and "Softball West," magazine.

And continuing today, Otto's photos often Otto also wrote two books entitled, "We Play It Fast," and "NAFA Men's Fastpitch." He expressed gratitude to the late Milt Stark for his role as managing editor for "We Play It Fast." The book includes ISC, NAFA, and ASA photos and stories of players, managers,

teams and fans from the U.S., Canada and Japan that make those organizations - and the sport in general - the success it has achieved through the decades.

His love affair with fastpitch began at the age of 15 in 1964 and lasted as a player until 2000 when he retired. But the passion for the sport continued in the reporting and photography realm for another 17 years, of which, he says, "photographing and writing about fastpitch was a privilege, honor and joy. The sport is great, on all skill levels, and I am so happy to have contributed in letting people know about it."