

# Bob Holness

1996 Inductee - Athlete

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Bob Holness is widely regarded as the greatest Canadian softball shortstop of his era, a player whose defensive excellence, competitive consistency, and championship success helped define men's fastpitch softball in British Columbia and on the international stage.

Holness was a cornerstone of the legendary Victoria Bate Construction Fastball Club, later known as the Victoria Bates dynasty, one of the most dominant teams in Canadian softball history. During the mid-1970s, the club captured multiple British Columbia and Canadian Senior "A" men's championships, with Holness playing a vital role in their sustained success. His skill, leadership, and reliability at shortstop anchored one of the strongest infields the sport has ever seen in Canada.



Internationally, Holness was a key member of the 1976 Victoria Bate Construction team that earned Co-World Champion honours in Wellington, New Zealand. Due to severe weather, the tournament final was canceled and the title was shared among the semifinalists. That team holds a unique place in softball history as the last club team ever to win a world championship, marking a significant moment in the evolution of international fastpitch competition.

Holness' excellence also extended to national team play. He represented Canada at the 1979 Pan American Games, where the Canadian men's softball team captured the gold medal, further cementing his status as one of the elite players in the sport.

Renowned for his defensive brilliance, quick instincts, and leadership, Holness set the standard for the shortstop position in Canadian fastpitch. His ability to control the infield, make game-changing plays, and perform consistently in championship competition earned him the respect of teammates, opponents, and softball historians alike.

Bob Holness' achievements and lasting impact on the game have secured his place among the all-time greats in Canadian softball and as a distinguished member of the Softball BC Hall of Fame.