

# Jason Darling

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## Playing Career

- Winterset A's (Winterset, Iowa): 1994 – 2002
- Albaugh, Inc. (Elkhart, Iowa): 2003 – 2010

## Accomplishments

- 1999: 23U World Champions – Winterset A's (**ISC?**)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-World (**ISC 23U?**)
  - Tournament Most Valuable Player
- 2006 Runner up ASA Major with Team Florida
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-American (**ASA**)
- Multiple time ASA Open State runner up with Winterset A's ("**A**" **State right?**)
- Multiple time ASA State Class A Champions- Albaugh, Inc. and Winterset A's
  - Named to multiple all-tournament teams
- Placed Top 5 in ISC World Tournament with Albaugh, Inc. (2009)
- 2013: NAFA AA- Major Runner up, Winterset A's (Came out of retirement to play)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-World (**NAFA?**)

## Other information

- Lead off or 3<sup>rd</sup> hitter for Albaugh, Inc. for several years
- Lead off, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> hitter for Winterset A's for several years
- Career .400+ batting average for all years played (**???**)
- Career 500+ stolen bases (**???**)

I have been around men's fastpitch softball since I was a kid. My dad played fastpitch softball for a lot of years so I spent many summers at the ballpark. When I was younger, my friends and I always talked about the day we would start playing fastpitch softball for Winterset. I started playing fastpitch in 1994, directly after my high school baseball season ended and played every summer until 2010. Needless to say, fastpitch was a huge part of my life for many, many years.

I learned to play the game of fastpitch while playing for the Winterset A's. Fastpitch softball is a much different game than baseball, which I was accustomed to playing. Gary Christensen, manager of the A's, taught me the ins and outs of the game and gave me the opportunity to travel and play against quality competition. He also has become one of my closest friends. We had a good core of young, athletic talent, mixed with veteran pitchers Steve Corkrean and Keith Winey, which allowed us to begin to compete at a high level. In 2003 I had the opportunity to join an up and coming team, Albaugh, Inc. out of Elkhart, Iowa. With Albaugh, I had the chance to compete against the best competition in the world on a weekly basis. Player/manager, Tom Owen, was able to assemble a team that was arguably the best in Iowa for several years and consistently competed against the best teams in the world. During this run, Albaugh had three, top 5 finishes in the most prestigious fastpitch softball tournament, the ISC World Tournament.

I have a lot of fond memories associated with my playing days. When I was younger, nothing was more exciting for me than playing ball with the Winterset A's on Wednesday night travel league and on weekends. One memory that sticks out for me was having the opportunity to play in the outfield with my identical twin brother, Matt, and my dad, in Salt Lake City at a NAFA national tournament. The best part of fastpitch softball for me, though, is the relationships that were developed. I am still very close with some of my teammates and have memories that will last a lifetime!