

Josh Hojnacki



On January, 1st, 2006, New Years Day, our baseball community lost one of its favorite sons. Josh Hojnacki, “Hojo”, lost his life in a car accident while traveling back from the Oregon coast with a good friend and baseball alumni.

Josh will always be remembered as one of the most competitive and talented players to grace our community and the leagues he played in. His infectious smile and love of the game raised every ones level when they were on the field with him.

After moving here from Minnesota, Josh made an immediate impact by helping Salmon Creek Little League go to the Regional Finals in San Bernardino, California. After a hard fought final, they lost to Long Beach, California who eventually went on win the Little League World Series. Josh was clocked at more than 70 miles an hour from 45 feet. That translates to over 95 miles an hour from the 60’6” we are all so familiar with on the bigger diamond.

In 1996, playing as 15 year old, Josh led the Hazel Dell Metro All Stars to the World Series in Lebanon, Missouri. In a loser out format, Josh’s unselfish play and significant contribution from multiple positions on the diamond earned him the Most Outstanding Player trophy, as Hazel Dell Metro became the World Series Champions.

Josh later went on to Hudson’s Bay High school where he took on the most difficult challenge as a player. He was the number one catcher and the number two pitcher. Never one to miss an inning of play, he contributed from everywhere one the diamond even taking on the challenge of becoming a switch hitter in order to be more competitive. Discipline and mental toughness will always be the hallmark of “Hojo’s” personality and presence on the diamond.

His funeral services brought many friends and family from all over the country. Draped by his picture was his favorite blanket...a quilt of all his baseball uniform jerseys made by his grandmother.