

Built From Scratch

SBS (SOUTH BAY SATELLITE) SAN JOSE, CA

Submitted by David Jaber

In the fall of 1989, at the age of 18, David Jaber gathered a bunch of his close friends, with whom he played softball at a local park in Santa Clara, California, and joined an organized league at a local softball complex. This was his first experience with playing on a competitive level. During that time, David enrolled in an intermediate softball class in junior college where he met Jon Sear. David quickly noticed that Jon was the only student showing any glove and bat skills and subsequently invited him to play with his league team. The two became the best of friends over the next 21 years.

During that time, and through contacts made during league seasons, David and Jon began playing tournament ball in 1995. Picking up on throw-together type teams, they both found themselves on a very competitive team in 2002 where they met Ron Lazzaro, a former junior college baseball player. The trio soon wound up on one of the top Men's D teams in the country in 2003 with Anderson Sports, finishing fifth at the USSSA World Tournament in Dallas, Texas. With a generous sponsor, the late Doug Anderson, and a hard-nosed coach in Ron Allen, David and Jon quickly gained valuable experience about competing on a national level and organizing a successful team. After taking two years off during a difficult career change, David decided to sponsor his own team after his satellite dish installation business, South Bay Satellite (SBS), with Jon in charge of making all the player moves.

Building the Team

It was in 2006 that "SBS" was established and began tournament play in Northern California. After two tournaments and a 1-4 record at the 'D' level, it was time to rethink the strategy. In 2007 the team was re-classed to the 'E' division. With the addition of middle infielders James Boucher and Greg Cirimele, the team started winning games. In July of that year, without a tournament victory under their belt, SBS ran off eight straight wins in over 90-degree heat in Martinez, California to win their first event of the year. This was after losing the first game of the tournament. "I learned at that moment that I had some special players with an unmatched determination to win," says Jaber. "We needed to take this team to a higher level of play."

In September of 2007, SBS made the trip to Denver, Colorado and won the USSSA Men's E West World Tournament. It was the first time playing on a national stage for most of the team and they came through in a huge way. "I can't believe we are World Tournament

Champions," cried first baseman Mike O'Neal. "It sounds so cool to say that." It was at that moment that Jaber knew that he wanted to pursue more of that feeling and continue to compete for World Championships. In December of 2007, SBS finished fifth on another national stage in Las Vegas. "We knew then that we were built to play at this level of competition," said Jon. However, in 2008 SBS was bumped up to the 'D' level and learned that things would not be so easy.

Playing in both USSSA and NSA events, the team ended up losing more games than they won in 2008. "You can't just throw together a bunch of good players and think that you're going to win. It doesn't work like that. Even with the right chemistry, players still need to understand their roles on the team and play within themselves," explains David. Having to make a decision on which World Tournament to play, SBS chose the NSA Men's D World Series in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2008. There was still the matter of qualifying for the event. And so it was on the last weekend of sanctioned tournament play that SBS earned their berth. The team was not expected to perform well, but finished fifth, making it into Sunday and surprising many of the Northern California teams. "It was another learning experience for us with better competition," said Jon Sear. "We will get better."

The Road to Repeat

The 2009 season was dedicated to building the foundation of a World Champion caliber team once again. With three early season tournament victories under their belts, SBS rolled into Detroit, Michigan for the USSSA Men's D World Tournament with some confidence. But key player injuries and just plain bad luck cost the team a 3-2 tourney result, with both losses coming by one run each. "That's a bitter pill to swallow," said pitcher Gil Barrioz. "We deserved a better outcome than that. We could have been playing on Sunday for the whole thing." David and Jon agreed and approached 2010 with a different attitude. With the mindset of winning a World Championship in 2010, SBS put together a tournament schedule that featured playing in some upper tournaments with much better competition. "Playing against 'B' and 'C' teams was the best thing for us. It showed us that we could compete at a very high level. It was the best way to prepare for Worlds," says David. And it paid off big for SBS in this year's USSSA Men's D World Tournament in Florida.

With a first round bye, SBS rolled off six straight wins to advance to the winner's bracket final against another team from Florida. Overcoming injuries and the loss of first baseman Tim McCormac (who had to fly home early Saturday morning to witness the birth of his first child) the team played with heart and soul. "It's only a three team tourney from here on out," said David. "We are so close now." But a tough West Shore Pizza (Tampa) team had other ideas and beat SBS 6-2. "All we had to do was put up a crooked number in one inning and we had those guys," said left fielder Brad Medina. After losing Sunday morning to an equally tough Rochester Athletic Club (New York) team, SBS finished in third place. "I would have loved to have repeated as World Champions in a higher division," said David, "that would have been a great achievement for this team."

With an impending national bump to the 'C' division, SBS will be looking to earn a trip to next year's World Tournament. "The way I see it, winning a World Championship is a two-year commitment. Gain all of the experience

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

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you can in year one, then go win it all in year two. After all, any top-five finish in a World tourney and you're guaranteed to get bumped up another



David Jaber, Manager/Sponsor

division," says David. "We went from 'E' in 2007, to 'D' in 2008, and now to 'C' in 2011. We're doing it the right way. I figure we can take another serious run in 2012, but don't count us out for next year just yet."

The Players

David Jaber, Manager/Sponsor

The heartbeat of SBS, David works as an authorized dealer and technician for Hughes Network Systems installing HughesNet broadband satellite dish systems. He is also an authorized dealer for DirecTV in the San Jose, CA area. Holding two college degrees from San Jose State University (B.S. in Finance and a Masters Degree in Business Administration), David enjoys nothing more than being self-employed. Nearing his 40th birthday, he has found personal enjoyment and satisfaction in playing with a great group of guys who understand that team

chemistry is more valuable than individual performances.

Jon Sear, Co-Manager

Graduating with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from San Jose State University in 1993, Jon was a member of the men's tennis team. He picked up the game of softball at the age of 20 while in junior college and became a dominating force on several league teams in Sunnyvale, California. Jon is the driving force behind SBS. He essentially started the team and is responsible for the core players that continue



Jon Sear, Co-Manager

to succeed today. Also earning an M.B.A. from Santa Clara University, Jon lives in Folsom, CA with his wife Tess, and their two boys, Carson and Kyle. At this year's USSSA Men's D World Championship, Jon earned All-Tourney honors to go along with his 2007 USSSA All-Tourney award.

Greg Cirimele

Greg was an All-Conference junior college baseball player at De Anza College in Cupertino, California. He played Division I baseball at San Jose State University and



Greg Cirimele

finished his career at Menlo College. One of the best short-stops in Northern California today, Greg was part of the original SBS team in 2006, and was selected to the 2007 USSSA Men's E World Tournament All-Tourney team. Greg works in business development for an online marketing firm and has a 1-year old daughter named Isabella.

James Boucher

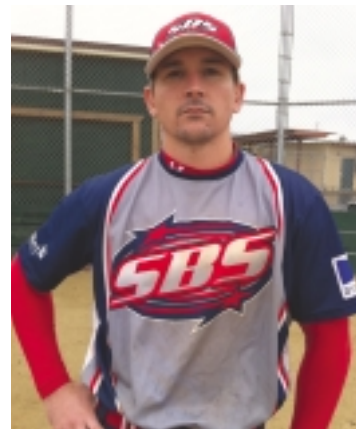
Born and raised in San Jose, CA, James played baseball at De Anza and Menlo Colleges. He was named Division III NCAA Rawlings All-American First Team All-West Region at third base in 2003. In 2008, James batted .842 at the NSA Men's D World Series in Las Vegas. He is one of the best infielders in Northern California with incredible range, soft hands, and a rifle arm. James earned 2007 All-Tournament at the USSSA Men's E World Championships.

Kurt Bontrager

The father of two girls, Vanessa Rae, 10, and Alisa Lynn, 7, Kurt is a Santa Clara, CA native. Vanessa is already following in her Dad's footsteps playing in Arizona for the girl's 2010 fast-pitch 10UB Nationals. Kurt has been playing competitive softball since 2002 with Anderson Sports, APS/Vanguard, APS/Ripstick, APS/PAS, and SBS. He currently anchors third base and occupies the second spot in the batting order. His favorite saying at the 2010 World Tournament: "the next game is so HUGE!"

Mike O'Neal

Mike's mother got him into playing baseball when he was a kid. He played T-Ball and some little league until he was eleven years old. Having never playing in high school, Mike joined a Co-ed team in 1990 and from there people asked him to play in league and tournament games. He's



James Boucher



Kurt Bontrager



Mike O'Neal



Brad Medina

been playing ever since and loves the slow pitch game more than anything. He hopes to be playing into his 60's.

Brad Medina

Brad played junior college baseball at Mission College in Santa Clara, CA and another two years at Culver Stockton in Missouri. He went on to the NAIA College World Series in 2000 and his team finished third. In 2008, Brad's team, Bully's, won the NSA Men's C World Series. In 2010, Brad was a key addition to

the SBS lineup batting in the three-spot all season and securing left field.

Jeffrey Twigg

"Twigg" is a 20-year veteran of the slow-pitch game. He shares some of that experience through coaching at the high school



Jeffrey Twigg

level. Joining SBS in the spring of 2010, Twigg is a tremendous hitter with incredible gap and homerun power. His "Barry Bonds-like" presence in the lineup has a profound impact in game situations. Jeffrey was instrumental in the 2010 success of SBS and will be a key contributor for the team in 2011.

Ron Lazzaro

At age 45, Ron's softball resume is impressive. He earned All-Tournament honors at the 2003 USSSA Men's D World Championships in Dallas, Texas. Ron led Anderson

Sports in batting and fielding that weekend. In 2007, he was selected as Tournament MVP in the USSSA Men's E World Tournament in Denver, Colorado. Ronnie's greatest quality as a teammate is his ability to loosen up a dugout. His constant jokes and one-liners bring



Gil Barrioz

laughter to otherwise tense games. He has truly been a valuable part of the SBS team.

Gil Barrioz

The toughest position to play on the softball field is pitcher, and nobody plays it better than Gil. Joining SBS in mid-2009, Gil quickly took on a leadership role and solidified the middle of the diamond. His 20-plus years of experience playing softball have served him well, pitching in some big World Tournament games for several teams over the past decade. In 2010, Gil



Tim McCormac

was named to the USSSA Men's D All-Tournament Team for his outstanding pitching performance and nearly guiding SBS to the World Championship.

Tim McCormac

Locking down the first base position for the past two years, Tim brought on power at the plate that SBS had been lacking prior to 2009. His team-first spirit and mental fortitude make him one of the best teammates to have in the dugout and on the field. During the 2010 World Championship tournament, Tim's wife went into labor on Friday night. After going 8 for 11 in the first three games (including the game-winning hit in game two), Tim hopped on the first flight back to California on Saturday morning and made it back home in time to witness the birth of his little boy.

Nick Larson and Chris Lopez

Mid-2010 season pickup Nick Larson has been nothing short of spectacular in center field for SBS. His gazelle-like speed and cannon arm changes the game for opposing base runners. Nick batted over .700 at this year's USSSA Men's D World Tournament and earned All-Tournament honors for his performance.



Nick Larson

Chris joined SBS just before the player addition deadline as a 12th man, but proved to be extremely valuable to the team when injuries forced him into the starting lineup. With great speed and a strong arm, Chris demonstrated that having a bench is critical to the success of any team. Nick and Chris are both starting outfielders for another top Northern California NSA C team, Junkies, headed for the 2010



Chris Lopez

World Series in Oklahoma in October.

SBS NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS: 2007 NSA Men's E Western World Series - 2nd Place; 2007 USSSA Men's Class E West World Tournament - Champions; 2007 USSSA Men's Class E Las Vegas Nationals - 5th Place; 2008 NSA Men's Class D World Series - 5th Place; 2010 USSSA Men's Class D World Tournament - 3rd Place.