

GENE KNOP
5977 240th St.
Ida Grove, Ia. 51445
712-364-4370

PITCHING CAREER - 1948 -- 1981 33 yrs.
LIFETIME RECORD - 1980 WINS -- 165 LOSSES
LIFETIME ERA ---- 1.67

1948 -- 1958 RICKETTS FIREMAN, RICKETTS, IA. Pitched in State Tourney at age 14. In the 10 years appeared in 5 state tournaments, recorded 30 no-hitters, 15 perfect games. One perfect game recorded 21 K's. Pitched for Sioux City Harbeck's in 1957 Sioux Falls Invitational, won the championship game and it was fourth game pitched that day.

1959 -- 1961 DEDHAM MERCHANTS, DEDHAM, IA. Dedham, Ia. recruited Gene (a farm boy) from small Ricketts, Ia. During his first year he recorded one perfect game and five no-hitters. His ERA was .58 and he had 381 strikeouts. The team qualified for the State Tournament in 1959-1960-1961. In 1960 Dedhams first loss of the season came in the second round of the state tourney and they finished fourth that year. In 1961 Knop had 65 wins, 10 losses with 3 perfect games and 19 no-hitters. The season was highlighted with a battle with World Champion Aurora Sealmasters from Aurora, Ill.. Selected by the Boone Merchants to pitch in the Regional Tournament, Springfield, Mo., lost a hard fought game with St. Louis, Mo. 1-0 on a home run in fourth inning.

1962 -- 1964 BUD'S TAVERN, SIOUX CITY, IA. Won the Sioux City Metro league 1962 - 1963. Selected most valuable pitcher Sioux City Rivercade tourney 1962, most valuable pitcher-hitter Sioux City Rivercade tourney 1963. Also pitched in the State Tournament 1962 & 1963. Selected by Sioux City Gibson's Appliance to pitch in 1964 Regional Tournament, Springfield, Mo.. Gene defeated Manhattan, Kansas 3-0 in 15 innings.

1965 -- 1966 HAMMS BEER, CHEROKEE, IA. Pitched in State Tournament 1965. ERA for two years was .86, with two perfect games and 17 no-hitters.

1967 -- 1969 DANBURY SHAMROCKS, DANBURY, IA. Advanced to State Tournament play two out of three years. Finished three years with ERA of 1.15 with 28 no-hitters, 5 perfect games and 720 K's.

1970 -- 1974 GOMACO, IDA GROVE, IA. Reached State Tourney Championship game 1971, lost to Cedar Rapids Welty Way, Richy Stevens pitched for Welty. Also reached the final game in 1973 State Tournament, Gene had pitched victories over Ottumwa, 2-1, Webster City, 1-0, Ames Palma's, 6-0, and Ottumwa Millers, 2-1. In the final game lost to Clear Lake Butt'r Top in 8 innings. In 1974 Gene was picked up by the Ames Merchants for the State Tournament which was held in Cedar Rapids. He defeated the Des Moines Bombers 1-0, also defeated Cedar Rapids Maid-Rite 2-0 and was defeated by Clear Lake Butt'r Top.

1976 REAMES NODDLES, DES MOINES, IA. Gene joined Reames Noddles and during the year his team participated in 11 major tournaments, winning 1st at Webster City, 2nd at Ames 2nd at Cedar Rapids and 2nd at Mankato, Minn.. The team also won the Des Moines American League Championship and hosted the State Tournament at Birdland Park in Des Moines. The team finished 4th in the State Tournament.

1977 -- IDA GROVE GOMACO, IDA GROVE, IA.

1978 -- DES MOINES BOMBERS, DES MOINES, IA. This year was highlighted by reaching the finals of the Iowa State Tourney at Bomber field. Gene pitched the finals of the winners bracket and was defeated by Clear Lake Butter Top. The Bombers came back to the finals and Knop pitched a win over Clear Lake Butt'r Top 4-1 and came in relief in the final game.

1980 -- 1981 PENN CORP , SIOUX CITY, IA. Highlights of the 1980 year was the ISC National Tournament, Oswego, New York. Gene had decided to retire this year but was asked by Penn Corp to play in this national tournament. With two weeks to get ready, he traveled to New York and pitched the winning game against California. The 1981 year was highlighted by two National tournaments, the ISC World Tournament in Saganaw, Michigan and the ASA "A" Nationals in Redding, California.

1986 -- Gene was inducted in the Iowa Softball Hall of Fame.