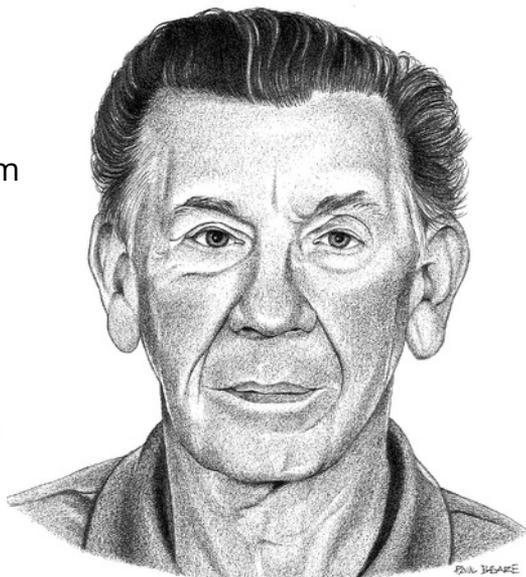


Rick Finlay

BUILDER

The name Rick Finlay has become synonymous with girls softball in Scugog and beyond. Rick started coaching girls' softball when his daughter's team couldn't secure a coach. He stepped up for the job. He was Head Coach with the Pickering Heat from 1976 to 1992. In Pickering, he led his Midget squad to Provincial and National Championships in 1982 and in 1983, his Junior team to Provincial and National Championships in 1985 and his Senior team won Ontario Provincials and Nationals in 1991.

In 1992 Rick was asked by Softball Canada to assemble and coach a team to represent Canada at the World Softball Championships in Beijing China. Rick put together a team that included 10 of his scholarship players who were playing for U.S. colleges and five of his players from Seneca College, within the five day deadline, to compete at the world tournament. In 1996, the Summer Olympics held in Atlanta, Georgia included women's softball for the first time and the inaugural Team Canada included three of Rick's softball players. Rick was also Head Coach of the girls softball program at Seneca College from 1986 – 2016.



Rick Finlay

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While at Seneca College he coached three OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association) Top Batters, five Top Pitchers and dozens of All Stars that benefited from his expertise and approach to student-athlete development. Port Perry Angels Softball founder Don Hurst asked Rick to become President of the club in the 1992 season. A role he continues to hold in 2023. Rick's impressive coaching resume with the Angels includes three Eastern Championships, two National Championships and seven Ontario Provincial Championships. Under Rick's mentorship four players from the Angels were selected to play for Team Canada at the 2000 & 2004 Olympic Games and 13 girls have played for Team Ontario at World Softball Championships. Rick has coached Team Ontario five times, winning three Gold and two Silver medals. Rick has worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to showcase female softball players, travelling to Myrtle Beach annually to attend the Rising Stars tournament, introducing players to university and college coaches locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally. He strives to create opportunities for all girls of all ages playing softball. Many of his Angels have received Division 1 scholarships to US schools. He has mentored coaches and players teaching them the importance of a safe environment, leadership and passion for the game. He has worked diligently in the roles of coach, treasurer, fundraiser, equipment manager and at times a one-person field crew for tournaments. All to ensure girls' softball thrives in Scugog. There appears to be no sign of him slowing down as he has fielded up to 10 teams on Scugog ball diamonds over the past few years engaging girls of all ages. Quoted from the nomination submitted "When you say the word Port Perry Angels one name comes to mind and that is Rick Finlay and when you say Scugog Sports Hall of Fame no one is more deserving than Rick. At the young age of 78, this would be a Grand Slam of his achievements".