

Brent Strom #56



Brent Strom was named to his current position with the Astros on Oct. 22, 2013, for what is his third Major League stint as a pitching coach.

He was originally the Astros pitching coach in 1996, and then later joined the Royals Major League staff as pitching coach for two seasons (2000-01). In 2016, Strom led the Astros pitching staff to a franchise record 1,396 strikeouts, besting the Astros 2004 staff (1,282) that was headlined by Roger Clemens, Roy Oswalt and Brad Lidge. The 2016 bullpen corps led the AL in strikeouts with 617, which also marked a franchise record. In 2015, the Astros posted a 3.57 ERA, the best team ERA in the AL and the second-lowest produced by an Astros team since the club moved to Minute Maid Park in 2000. Prior to rejoining the Astros, Strom spent six seasons (2008-13) with the Cardinals organization, serving as their minor league pitching coordinator (2012-13) and as a minor league pitching instructor (2008-11). Strom first joined Houston's organization in 1989, serving as a minor league pitching instructor for seven seasons (1989-95) before being elevated to Major League pitching coach in 1996. Prior to originally joining Houston, he spent time as a minor league coach with the Los Angeles Dodgers (1981-86) and as a pitching coordinator with the San Diego (1997) and Montreal/Washington organizations (1998-99, 2002-06). His coaching career followed a professional pitching career that spanned from 1970-81, which included parts of five Major League seasons with New York-NL (1972), Cleveland (1973) and San Diego (1975-77). He also pitched two minor league seasons in the Astros system (1979-80). Strom holds the distinction of being just the second person to have Tommy John surgery (performed in 1978). Prior to playing professionally, Strom attended USC, where he helped lead the Trojans baseball team to two NCAA championships. In 1970, he was a First Team All-American in his final season at USC. His professional career began after he was drafted third overall in the secondary phase of the 1970 draft by the New York Mets. Strom is a member of the International Sports Group (ISG), a non-profit organization founded to grow the game of baseball across the globe, and has been participating in ISG clinics overseas for over 15 years. Brent and his wife, Carrie, reside in Tucson, Ariz. Carrie was crowned Mrs. America in 1979, representing New Jersey. The couple has two English bulldogs (Macie Mae and Bebe) and one French bulldog (Angus).

Stu Fritz



Since 1994, Hope College has won nine Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) championships and appeared in the NCAA Division III tournament four times under coach Stu Fritz.

Fritz has guided the Flying Dutchmen to MIAA Championships in 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2013. The nine league championships are tied for second most in MIAA history. The Flying Dutchmen have appeared in the NCAA Division III championships in 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2007.

Fritz's collegiate coaching record through the 2017 regular season is 529-400-2. His teams have won nearly two-thirds of their MIAA conference games (378-202, .651). He is also an assistant professor of kinesiology.

Fritz is currently a vice-president for the American Baseball Coaches Association. He will remain in that role until becoming the organization's president in 2020.

Fritz has chaired the NCAA championships national committee.

From 1996 to 1998 he coached a youth team through the Roberto Clemente All-Stars program in San Juan, Puerto Rico, during the summer. In the summer of 2001 he coached a U.S. youth all-star team in Australia. The 2007 Hope team played in the 26th annual "Prague Baseball Week" tournament in the Czech Republic.

Prior to coming to Hope, Fritz taught in the Humboldt, Iowa, school system. He was an elementary physical education teacher, the high school baseball coach and offensive coordinator for the high school football team.

Fritz is a 1988 graduate of Wartburg College where he lettered in football and baseball. He received a Masters degree in sports administration from the University of Northern Colorado in 1992. In 1998, his alma mater honored him as Wartburg's Alumni Coach of the Year.

His wife, Carol, is a member of the Hope College admissions staff. They have a son, Tucker.

Rick Steen



Rick Steen retired from high school coaching after 44 years after the 2014 season.

Steen, 71, retired from his head coaching duties in 2007 after 32 years at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, Calif., where they won the state section championship 3 times. He then took over the head coaching duties at DelaSalle High School Concord, Calif. in the 2009 season, a season in which the Spartans won the league championship, placed 2nd in the section and competed successfully in the National Classic tournament in Anaheim, Calif. Steen finished his career with a 4 year coaching stint with Athenian School in Danville, taking them to their first play-off appearance in the school's 40 year existence, in 3 of his 4 years. He also worked for 15 years as a coach/selector for the California State High School All Star program.

Steen started his work with International Baseball in 1995. For the past 23 years he has worked with Great Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, Belarus and Austria. He was the national coach for Team Ireland for 5 years, and has most recently served as the assistant national coach of Belgium, and served as an envoy coach and consultant for baseball in Switzerland.

During his 44 year tenure in high school coaching, Steen was named national coach of the year in 2002, California State Coach of the Year in 2004, Regional Coach of the Year 4 times, and is a member of 5 athletic/coaching halls of fame. He is married to wife Cathy, with two grown children, Kelly(41) and Andy(39), and five grandchildren, Marcella(19), Jamie(11), Danielle(9), Ava(6), and Ella(3).