

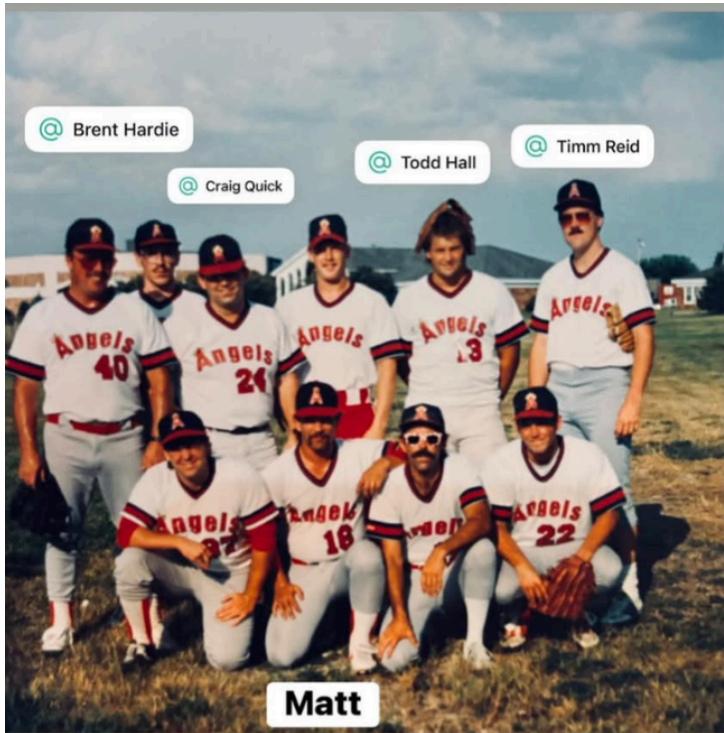
# Hardie - 5/9/2026

Thankful for this group of men I had the privilege of being with so many years ago. Still linked with several of the gentleman to this day. Matt George saw that my Little League days didn't do much for my skill acquisition and he would take me out along with a handful of guys to put in extra practices; fielding, catching hitting etc...

In 1989, I determined to give a go at playing on the Church softball team. The skill wasn't quite there, but, the heart was encouraged by this uniquely formed group. I started out playing outfield, where I had always been placed in my childhood debut. Generally with the gift of a lazy eye, I would occasionally meander under a pop fly until I would then proceed stopping the ball with my head instead of my glove. Regarding Matt George, I will always think back on with thankfulness. He worked with me in multiple practices, making me more reliable than my past encounters with baseball. He saw my left-handedness as a reason to try me out on first base. Less time to misjudge the ball, reasonable observation, right. Truth be known I found a new home, first base. I think Matt came up with the name Spring Man. If I didn't catch it, at least I would use a part of my body to prevent the ball from going anywhere. Ace, was the nickname of a very good player with a cannon for an arm, I think they recruited him. He played right field, He always told me if the ball was hit to him he may try to throw to first. I was always a bit nervous at every pitch, thinking, gotta catch it. Once our Adelphi Angels played against Salyorsville Baptist. Danny Degraff, a year ahead of me in school, who lived down the road from me my growing up years, stepped up to the plate. I thought I must get him out!!! I must be ready. Sharp hit down the third base line. I stretched out to catch the ball. I caught the ball and also caught Danny's cleats in my forehead. I laid there on the ground quite dazed. Matt was hollering he was out!!! He was out!!!!. Danny was called safe on first.

I guess I had a bit of a reputation for throwing my bat. When I got a old of that slowpitch softball, in my excitement, the bat would occasionally go aloft. I think the Umpire was John (from Faith Baptist Bible College), he would call me out. All in all I still treasure those memories and thankful for those, like Matt who had more confidence in me than I had in myself.

For Nannette, Matt, Todd, Tim, Johnny Weaver, Ace, Jimmy, Craig, .... and our cheerleading section, thanks for the memories. Christ was working through Adelphi, my brethren, and the body of Christ. For all those remaining that partook with me during that season of time back in 1989. May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ remain first and foremost in our current daily lives. God Bless



@ Brent Hardie

@ Craig Quick

@ Todd Hall

@ Timm Reid

Matt

July 1989