



Wally Widelski
Director of Pitching Development

19 years of coaching experience
2nd year with the Vipers

Former University of Notre Dame player and coach, Wally Widelski, returns for a second season as Director of Pitching Development for the Vipers baseball program. Widelski will continue to coordinate training and instruction of the Vipers pitchers throughout the offseason.

A 1993 graduate of Thornwood High School in South Holland, IL, Widelski was named to the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches All-State team in 1993, and was a member of Thornwood's 1991 Illinois Class AA state championship club which was ranked #2 in the nation.

A 1997 Notre Dame graduate, he helped lead the Fighting Irish to four 40-win seasons as a member of the pitching staff and a #1 national ranking (2001) and College World Series appearance (2002) as a member of the coaching staff.

Widelski was a three-year letter winner during his tenure with the Notre Dame baseball program from 1994-97, helping the Irish compile a nearly .700 winning percentage (171-74), along with three regular season conference titles and making two NCAA Regional appearances during that span. The crafty lefthander pitched in several capacities during his career, shouldering an expanded role as a senior in 1997, and responded by winning all three of his decisions, with 22 strikeouts in 36.2 innings pitched. Over the course of his Irish career, Widelski won all seven of his decisions while compiling 39 strikeouts in 69.2 innings pitched. His most noteworthy win of the 1997 season came at Purdue, logging seven innings while allowing six hits and two earned runs. As a junior during the 1996 season, he also picked up the win over then #20 Long Beach State.

After graduating magna cum laude from Notre Dame, with a degree in Communications, Widelski returned to his home state. He served as the pitching coach at Northern Illinois University while earning his Masters degree in Sport Management during the 1998 and 1999 seasons. Two pitchers from his tenure at NIU signed professional contracts.

Prior to rejoining the Irish baseball program as an assistant coach in the Summer of 2000, Widelski returned to Notre Dame in the fall of 1999 and worked in the athletic department's sports promotions office during the 1999-2000 school year, primarily coordinating and implementing the marketing plan for the nationally-ranked women's

basketball program. He also served, during that time, as the color commentator for Notre Dame baseball radio broadcasts.

Widelski's other coaching stops include Bethel College (2000, Mishawaka, IN), the Gary SouthShore RailCats of the Northern League of Professional Baseball (where he served as the pitching coach during the 2004 season), Concordia University-Chicago (2006), Moraine Valley Community College (2007), and Trinity Christian College (2008-present).

As an instructor, Coach Widelski is a firm believer in:

1. Helping student-athletes enjoy the game of baseball
2. Keeping student-athletes as healthy as baseball through the use of proper mechanics
3. Providing a means to allow student-athletes to be as consistently successful as possible by maximizing their individual strengths

Coach Widelski is married to the former Stacy King. The couple has two daughters: Charleigh and Scarlett.