## **TONI KOHONEN** Finnish baseball pitcher - Pesäpallo lukkari



Toni Kohonen, professional athlete was born in Kitee, Finland, (13. January 1976) Kohonen is one of Finlands most successful finnish baseball players of all time. He started playing in Kiteen pallo and played most of his professional career there.

His position in the field is a pitcher. Pitcher is part of inside team and one of the key players in baseball. Pitcher is the one who tosses the balls for other players to hit them and make a run in the field. Also he is the one who burns outside team with the other inside team. In finnish baseball, pitcher is required to have a very good sense of the game and to be able to read outside teams tactics. Basically pitcher is the "quarterback" of baseball. Kohosens throwing hand one of the toughest in the series. With up to 150 km/h speeds is a movers nightmare. Kohonen has a swing speed of 165-170 km/h. He has hit 47 home runs.

Kohonen has never played as a top athlete, but has brought in a whopping 453 runs in his career.



Kohonen plays in Sotkamo Jymy since 2011, but his finnish baseball career will continue next season in Lippo, Oulu. Kohonen and Oulun Lippo have signed a one-year contract. Oulun Lippo is not a stranger to Kohonen. He played 14 matches in Oulun Lippo 1996.





His family includes a wife, two children and dog named Otso. His 10 years old son Pyry, plays finnish baseball in Sotkamo Jymy in his father's footsteps as a pitcher.

2017 Kohonen was a guest in the Supertähdet (superstars) TV-show hosted by Teemu Selänne.

## His achievements:

Finnish Championship:

- 10 Gold: 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015
- 7 Silver: 1997, 2000, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2016, 2017
- 1 Bronze: 1998

22 East-West match: 1997-2018 Player of the year (3): 2001, 2005, 2014 Pitcher of the year (13): 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 Golden glove (7): 1999, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014

