

The Northern Colorado Aqua Sox suffered a huge loss of one of their own earlier this month.

Pete Bartkowski (#4) was a sure-fire catalyst both on and off of the field over the course of the Aqua Sox inaugural 2025 season. The team was formed as a group of perfect strangers, the result of a surplus of players in the 45 division player pool early on in the season. Shortly after the team was formed, Pete was appointed a Co-Captain as he was a major contributor in getting the Aqua Sox up and running.

Pete was extremely passionate about ensuring the team's successful upstart at the beginning of the season. The Aqua Sox team was struggling in getting commitments from players early on in the season in part due to the large expense of getting the team outfitted in uniforms and various other upstart costs. Seeing a need to be filled, Pete generously paid for the teams initial uniform expense out of his own pocket and further, went so far as to independently seek out sponsorships for the fledgling team. Pete found a way to shrink the cost for individual team members by more than a third than was initially anticipated, and was also able to get the team outfitted by the first game of the season due to his selfless commitment to his teammates.

Further, Pete was also responsible for all of the team's media, often bringing in professional photographers and also wore a helmet camera to document the ups and downs of their first season. Teammates anxiously awaited Pete's photo and video edits, which always turned up shortly after game days.

Pete Bartkowski was a dependable key player for the Aqua Sox throughout the first half of the season. He was an outfielder and hit lead-off for the team, effectively leading the charge for his teammates, proving to us old guys that we could still play this young man's game..

When asked to be the first ever lead-off batter for game one of the season, Pete answered the call without hesitation. One pitch and one swing into the season, Pete soared an up and away pitch to right center to collect the team's first hit, a double. He was also asked to take on a variety of positions throughout the season, but embraced his role in the outfield whole-heartedly, often putting his body at risk by his aptly named "Beached-Fish" layouts in an attempt to haul in fly balls. Sometimes he got there, other times he missed, but Pete's efforts to be a leader and a contributor for the Aqua Sox will not soon be forgotten.

Long live #4! Your teammates are all thankful to have known you Pete Bartkowski. We know you are hitting the long ball and spurring the biggest bull you can handle up in Heaven, breathing deeply, feeling healthy and able once again. It was an honor to play baseball with you, Rest Easy Teammate.

#4

