



# THE LINE DRIVE

February 1, 2016

VOLUME 4

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**Roger Schlieve**  
*D3 & D4 All-Star Coordinator*

## Message from the President...

Greetings from the WFSCA,

We are excited for this year's clinic held at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Cindy has, once again, put together a great clinic for our members. We want to thank her for all her hard work. We also will be starting our awards banquet off with a

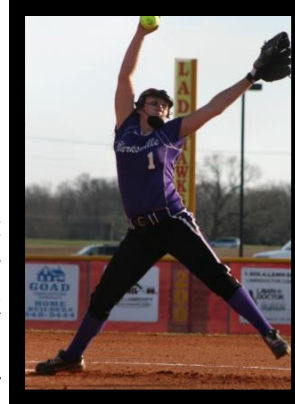
social this year for all Hall of Fame members. Jeff Agnew has done great work bringing this together. His work promises to make the Hall of Fame banquet a night to remember.

Once again we will be polling the varsity coaches on several issues during the clinic. This past fall a 5-division model passed the WIAA Board of Control. In 2017 we will use this tournament format. At the State Tournament softball will now bring 24 teams to state. This is currently the number of teams that advance in baseball with spring and summer tournaments. It also is the number of divisions girls and boys basketball have. It is less divisions than football and the same as baseball when you consider spring and summer. There will be changes at the State Tournament. Adding a 5<sup>th</sup> division will put some stress on the schedule but it is very manageable.

Finally I would like to thank all of our board members for the hard work they do to make Wisconsin High School softball great. We have made great strides as an organization in the past few years. We are excited about what the future holds for our organization, and for softball in our state.

Once again if you have suggestions we want to hear from you. Contact your district representative or myself with any suggestions on how we can grow as an organization. I look forward to seeing you at the clinic.

**Jeff Hodgson**  
WFSCA President



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## WFSCA Announces 2016 Hall of Fame Inductees

by Jeff Agnew, South Central District

The Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association would like to congratulate the 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee Class:

### Dave Keel – Homestead HS

Dave Keel has been the head softball coach at Homestead High School for 34 years. During that time, he has an overall coaching record of 528-186. Dave is only the third Wisconsin High School head softball coach to attain 500 career victories. He has won 13 Conference titles and 13 sectional Championships. Homestead has advanced to the State tournament 13 times and has been State Runner-up in 1983, 1988, and 2010.

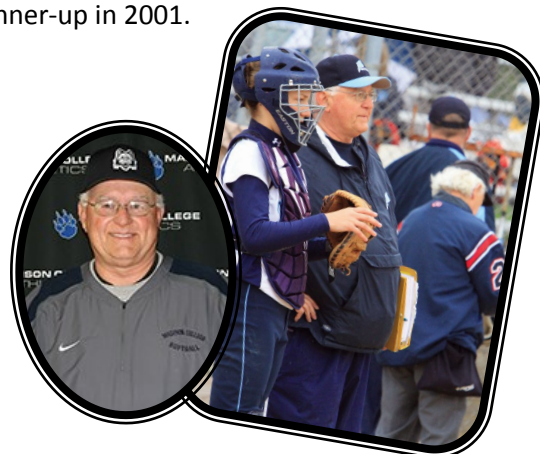


### Roger Schlieve – Horicon HS

Roger Schlieve has been a Coach at Horicon for 26 years. He has coached in 609 games in that time period picking up win 450 in 2015 and continuing with a record of 457 - 152. He has won 15 Conference Championships, 13 Regional Championships and 6 Sectional Championships. Horicon advanced to the State Tournament 6 times and has won the State Championship in 2002 and 2003, with a Runner-up in 2001.

### Jim Wickert – McFarland HS and Madison College

Jim Wickert was an Assistant Coach at McFarland High School for 27 years. In that time the Spartan's had over 450 wins, along with 8 conference championships, 10 regional championships and 2 trips to the State Tournament. For the past 7 years he has served as an Assistant Coach and Recruiter at Madison College.



**Tim Pederson Amherst 2015**  
**Bob Sulser Madison Memorial & Beloit Turner 2015**  
**Marv Youngbeck Mayville 2015**  
**John Schroeder Beloit Memorial 2014**  
**Glenda Smith Tigerton 2014**  
**Don Vruwink Milton 2014**  
**Dale Buid Monroe 2013**  
**Paul Olson Fort Atkinson 2013**  
**Jim Turner Altoona 2013**  
**Kris Allison Westosha Central 2012**  
**Mike Regner LaCrosse Central 2012**  
**Del Schneeberger Johnson Creek 2012**  
**Jim Haines Pepin 2011**  
**Steve Ryan Waunakee 2011**

**Steve Schmikla McFarland 2011**  
**Diane Yager DC Everest, Seneca 2011**  
**Greg Lampe Oak Creek 2010**  
**Bob LeCaptain Denmark & Green Bay West 2010**  
**John Malin Kimberly 2010**  
**Russell Shaub Middleton 2010**  
**Bob Tomlinson Poynette 2010**  
**Rod Wilterdink Cedarburg 2010**  
**Tory Acheson Whitnall, UW-Parkside & Tennessee Tech 2009**  
**Phillip Adam Ashwaubenon 2009**  
**David and Mary Lou Jones Platteville 2009**  
**Pete Kopplin Marshfield 2009**  
**Darrell Laschen Loyal 2009**  
**Debbie Malueg Marion**

## The Decline of the Educator-Coach

by John Ruffolo, South East District

As a student at Kenosha Tremper High School in the 1980s, I walked among iconic coaches as they stood outside their classroom doors. Talented educators who had built powerhouses in their sports, they were revered not only in their school, but in the entire community.

A decade later, I became their colleague. As an aspiring educator-coach, I witnessed firsthand how much time and commitment it took to be an effective teacher and coach who could build and sustain a winning athletic program. And I continue to marvel at the powerful impact they had on the lives of their student-athletes.

Now that I'm in my third decade of teaching and coaching, I wonder if the new generation of educator-coaches can ever become the community icons that were once so common in high schools around the state. Like their predecessors, they will deal with parent problems, troubled athletes, and the ever-present pressure to win. But as they begin their careers, they must cope with one obstacle that my mentors never faced: a teacher evaluation system that fails to recognize the contribution of coaches.

Summary Year. PPG. Self-review. SLO. Upload artifacts. Teachscape. Pre- and post-evaluation meetings. Consider the hours that teacher evaluation requires of all of us. Now, think about what life was like as a new teacher—when you didn't have that filing cabinet full of lesson plans and years of curriculum planning under your belt. Remember what it was like to be on evaluation for three consecutive years? It was not only stressful, it was time-consuming. And even when Teachscape isn't crashing every other minute, the forms are soul depleting. Who has time or energy left to coach?

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*It is not an exaggeration to say that today's teacher evaluation system has become a disincentive to coach.*

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If the next generation of teachers do commit to coaching, where exactly will their efforts be rewarded on the four domains of the Danielson evaluation model? None of the 20+ components in the four domains explicitly recognize coaching contributions (at best, one component mentions "service to the school" and "volunteers" who contribute to "some aspect of student life"). In effect, our contributions as coaches have little or no bearing on our evaluations. It is not an exaggeration to say that today's teacher evaluation system has become a disincentive to coach.

For many of us, our willingness to contribute to extra-curriculars was essentially a prerequisite of our hiring. A varsity softball coach who I assisted told me that her first teaching job was solely dependent upon her agreeing to coach either swimming or softball—her choice. Every administrator that I have known has preferred to have teachers in the building on their coaching staffs. For decades, principals sought teaching candidates who were willing to contribute positively to the culture of the school by leading extracurriculars, such as athletics, beyond the school day. Is that still the case?

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### *Who is advocating for the educator-coach?*

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Increasingly, it is not—at least based on conversations that I have had with colleagues from around the state. With school budgets stretched beyond the breaking point, administrators are under extraordinary pressure to cope with dwindling funds. "Your coaching is killing me," a frustrated building principal told one varsity softball coach who I know because he is unable to afford the cost of in-house substitutes when the coach travels with his team to away games. When another softball coach talked to her district superintendent about the pressures that she is feeling due to teacher evaluation, her superintendent suggested, "Maybe you should quit coaching." How times have changed.

Who is advocating for the educator-coach? Neither the WEA nor the WIAA have effectively altered the political climate that has led to incredible pressures on educator-coaches and the Wisconsin education system as a whole. As a result, our destinies as coaches are solely dependent upon the level of support that we may—or may not—receive from our building administrators and the community. The system itself is stacked against the educator-coach.

Inevitably, the result of the pressures will be an increase in CNLTs (Coaches not Licensed to Teach) and non-classroom personnel filling coaching positions that were once held by teachers. One softball coach in a rural district reported that before 2011, every varsity coach at his school was a teacher in the building. Now, fewer than half are. The days of the iconic educator-coach who stood as a pillar in the community may soon be a relic of the past.

# 2016 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 20<sup>th</sup>—21<sup>st</sup>

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

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**SPEAKER:****Rick Pauly**

***2015/2016 USA National Team Coaching Pool***  
***ASA Mens Major Fastpitch All American***  
***College Pitching Coach***  
***High Performance Pitching Clinician***



A former Men's Fastpitch ASA All American, Rick has spent a lifetime studying pitching. His help in developing several elite level pitchers is a testament to his knowledge of this art. Rick's fastpitch roots go back to his playing days with his home town team in Wisconsin the Menomonie Blues and progressed through his days of playing with the nationally recognized and ASA National Champion Madison Farm team.

As a player, Pauly competed in 11 ASA or ISC National and World Tournaments and additionally competed with his Madison Farm teammates at the US Olympic Festival Games in 1987 & 1991. While still competing Pauly was also a State ASA Fastpitch Player Representative in Wisconsin and was also instrumental in the formation of The Western Wisconsin ISC Travel League.

Since the completion of his playing days he has been involved in coaching fastpitch at all levels of the game. Focusing primarily on pitching he has coached at the 14U, 16U, 18U, & 18Gold levels of travel ball spending many years with the nationally ranked Lil' Saints of Phoenix, Az. He has assisted two nationally ranked high school programs in Phoenix, Az. and recently was the head coach at Spartanburg Methodist College where he guided the team to the Junior College World Series in 2008 and 2009. In July of 2009 he accepted the job as the Pitching Coach at the University of South Carolina and moved to the University of South Carolina Upstate in the fall of 2011 to become their pitching coach. After a very brief retirement Pauly became the Pitching Coach for the University of Georgia Bulldogs in the fall of 2014.

In his efforts to service all levels of the game, Rick has served as the President of the Fastpitch Division of the Mountain Pointe Little League Association and also as the President of the Fastpitch Division of the Ahwatukee Little League Association. in Phoenix, Az.

Pauly is a high level softball pitching clinician and through his individual teaching has helped many pitching students progress to the collegiate level.

In May of 2014 Pauly was selected to the USA National Team Coaching Pool. He will be assisting several other high level coaches select and develop the players that will compete on our National Team and Junior National Team in 2015 and 2016.

Speaker information from: <http://www.paulygirlfastpitch.com/>

# 2016 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 20<sup>th</sup>—21<sup>st</sup>

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

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## **SPEAKERS:**

## **Emily Allard and Kristen Scharkey**

Emily Allard and Kristin Scharkey created Be The Momentum in November 2014 after graduating from Northwestern University, where the pair hit back-to-back in the Wildcat lineup for four years. A dynamic duo, they stepped on Northwestern's campus as freshmen in 2009 and earned 139 wins during their careers together in purple. In 2012, the slappers led the 'Cats to an appearance in the 2012 NCAA Regional in Austin, Texas. After redshirting during the pair's senior year, Allard went on to play her final season of eligibility in 2014, leading the 'Cats to an appearance in the 2014 NCAA Regional in Seattle, Washington.



**Emily Allard**

Currently a member of the National Professional Fastpitch's Chicago Bandits, the 2015 NPF Cowles Cup Champion, Emily Allard graduated from Northwestern in 2014 as the school's all-time record holder in stolen bases. A four-time NFCA All-Region and All-Big Ten selection, Allard boasted a career .402 batting average that included a single-season record-breaking .491 average during her sophomore season. After being named the 12<sup>th</sup> overall pick in the 2014 NPF draft, the Northern California native was named to the All-NPF team as a rookie. In 2015, Allard was awarded the Rally Spikes Award for the most stolen bases and currently holds a career batting average above .350 in just two seasons. Allard is now the Manager of Marketing for the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, as well as the Director of Marketing and Partnerships for the Chicago Bandits.



**Kristen Scharkey**

Hailing from Southern California, Kristin Scharkey graduated from Northwestern in 2013 as an NFCA All-America Scholar Athlete and Big Ten Distinguished Scholar. Ranking seventh in school history for career stolen bases, the center fielder hit over .300 her last two seasons playing one of the toughest schedules in Division I and ended her senior year just two triples shy of the school's single-season record. Jensen hosted a blog, Schark Bytes throughout her time as a Wildcat and currently works as an editor for Firebrand Media in Orange County, California.

*Speaker information from:*

<http://www.bethemomentumsoftball.com/>

# 2016 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 20<sup>th</sup>—21<sup>st</sup>

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

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## **SPEAKER:** Tammy Williams

Chicago Bandits softball star Tammy Williams brings her unique skill set and loads of playing experience to the Blue Demons as the program's newest assistant coach for the 2014 season.

A former Northwestern All-American, Williams has continued her playing career since graduating in 2009. She was selected in the second round of the 2009 National Pro Fastpitch Draft by the Chicago Bandits and recently completed her fourth season with the team by leading the Bandits to a regular season NPF title.

Named All-NPF as a shortstop in 2013, Williams finished third in the league with a .362 batting average while collecting 55 hits and five homers.

A member of Team USA softball, Williams also brought home championships at the 2010 World Cup of Softball and ISF World Championships. During a 2009 run to the Pan American Games Gold Medal, Williams had a team-high eight doubles and committed zero errors at shortstop.

Her remarkable pro career has roots in Chicagoland, as Williams starred collegiately at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. During her four seasons (2006-2009) as a Wildcat, Williams started every game at the shortstop position and broke the school's all-time home run record with 57 career bombs.

One of the all-time greats at NU, Williams was a two-time Big Ten Player of the Year and three-time NFCA First Team All-American.

An impact player from the moment she stepped on campus, she was selected the 2006 Big Ten Freshman of the Year and proceeded to shatter several Wildcat records. At NU, Williams holds the marks for longest hitting streak (24 games) and single-season records for hits (91), runs (73), total bases (155), batting average (.440) and on-base percentage (.538).

Williams is also recognized as a tremendous leader off the field, evidenced by her 2011 Female Achievement Award from Pop Warner - the nation's largest and oldest youth football, cheer and dance organization. The honor is presented annually to a woman who displays remarkable strength of character and leadership in attaining achievements in her life, while inspiring others.

The fifth member of her family to play collegiate athletics, she graduated from Northwestern in 2009 with a degree in human development and psychological services along with a minor in business institutions.



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Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

## **SPEAKER:** Carol Bruggeman

Carol Bruggeman, a long time NCAA Division I coach at Michigan, Purdue and Louisville, began her duties as the NFCA's Associate Executive Director on September 1, 2014.

Bruggeman represents the NFCA as the Division I staff liaison, while undertaking various roles with coaching education, recruiting issues, special projects and as a national speaker, clinician and educator.

Bruggeman is certainly no stranger to the Association having been an active member for 25 years while unselfishly serving the NFCA in numerous capacities. Included are a four-year term as president and stints as both the past-president and fourth vice president on the NFCA's Board of Directors, as the board's Division I Representative and as a featured instructor at numerous National Fastpitch Coaches College courses throughout the country. Over September 12-13, 2014, in Lexington, Ky., Bruggeman will again lend her expertise to the NFCC by serving on the staff of Course 406: Coaching Dynamic Team Practices.

She has also been a featured speaker at more than 125 national softball clinics and professional business organizations. In 2013, she wrote a chapter entitled "Understanding Today's Player" for the NFCA book, *The Softball Coaches Bible, Volume 2*, and co-wrote a chapter entitled "Warm-up Drills for Softball" included in *The Softball Drill Book*, which was published in 2007. In 2002, Bruggeman penned a chapter entitled "Competing with Class" for the NFCA publication, *The Softball Coaches Bible*. She served as the color analyst for Fox Sports Chicago's television coverage of the 2002 Big Ten softball tournament. Bruggeman also co-produced Level 1 and Level 2 instructional DVDs on softball specific athlete development and has also produced instructional DVDs on base running and defense. In July 2011, Bruggeman traveled to Australia as head coach of the college team that won a gold medal with USA-Athletes International. She also traveled to the Czech Republic in 2009 in the same role.

In nine years at Louisville, Bruggeman helped build the Cardinal program into a perennial national contender. During her tenure at UofL, the Cards picked up three BIG EAST Conference titles, an American Athletic Conference crown and secured nine straight NCAA Tournament berths, while boasting almost 60 combined all-conference selections, 17 NFCA All-Region inclusions, eight NFCA

All-Americans and three conference player or pitcher of the year honorees.

During her coaching career, Bruggeman has been a part of over 700 victories, reaching that impressive personal milestone back on March 23, 2013, with a 4-1 triumph over Indiana. In 2012, she played an integral role in guiding a Louisville squad that won a school-record 55 games on the way to BIG EAST regular-season and tournament crowns and a top-10 national ranking.

Bruggeman came to Louisville from Purdue, where she started the Boilermaker softball program and served as head coach from 1994 to 2005. She guided the team to a 21-17-1 inaugural campaign in 1994, posting the best first-year record in Big Ten Conference history. Her squads posted 30 or more victories in nine of her last 10 seasons at Purdue. With Bruggeman at the helm, Purdue had 23 All-Big Ten selections, 24 NFCA All-Mideast Region Selections and one NFCA First Team All-American.

Prior to working at Purdue, Bruggeman was an assistant coach at Michigan from 1989 to 1993. During that time, the Wolverines won back-to-back Big Ten championships in 1992 and 1993. Michigan earned NCAA tournament bids both years, marking the first postseason trips in program history.

Bruggeman began her coaching career as a graduate assistant at her alma mater Iowa. As a player for the Hawkeyes, she earned All-Big Ten and All-Mideast Region honors as an infielder. She was also an Academic All-American, a three-time Academic All-Big Ten selection and received Iowa's Athletic Academic Medal of Honor. In 1997, she was inducted into the Iowa Softball Association Hall of Fame.



Speaker information from: [https://nfca.org/index.php?option=com\\_zoo&task=item&item\\_id=579&Itemid=249](https://nfca.org/index.php?option=com_zoo&task=item&item_id=579&Itemid=249)

## WFSCA Restructures All-District and All-State Selection Process

by Brad Ceranski, North West District

During the October 25<sup>th</sup> WFSCA meeting, the Board slightly revised the process for selecting the All-District and All-State teams that was put into place for last season. The change will be to simply carry the All-District model for the make-up of the team to the All-State Level.

Starting with the 2016 season, each twenty-four member All-District Team and all three All-State Teams will be broken down in the following manner:

- 2 Pitches**
- 2 Catchers**
- 5 Infielders**
- 3 Outfielders**
- 12 At-Large Selections**

The “at-large” selections will be players from any position. The other change from last season that will continue is allowing nominations of 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference for the All-District Teams. Several conferences select All-Conference players based on performance in conference games which may make up less than half of the season total. The changes make for a less restrictive model that will hopefully allow for the recognition of the top all-around players in our State.



Goodman Diamond, University of Wisconsin-Madison



*The state softball tournament was moved to Goodman Diamond starting with the 2002 season. Prior to that, Waukesha had been the home of the state softball tournament since 1977.*





# SAVE THE DATES!

- February 20-21:** Coaches Clinic
- March 14:** First Day of Softball Practice
- April 13:** Deadline to Register Seniors for State All-Star Games
- May 25 & 27:** D-1 Regionals
- May 24, 25 & 27:** D-2, D-3 & D-4 Regionals
- May 31 & June 2:** Sectionals for All Divisions
- June 2:** Deadline for All District Nominations
- June 9, 10 & 11:** State Tournament
- June 13 & 14:** Senior All Star Games, Wisconsin Dells
- June 15:** Academic All State Nominations Due  
Coaches Awards Due
- Mid-July:** Border Battle

