



Softball 11 News

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NORTH DAKOTA STATE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2011

Tharaldson elected to National Hall Of Fame

Super sponsor recognized for Decades of Dedication to softball

Gary Tharaldson has been named to the ASA National Hall of Fame as a sponsor. The induction ceremony will take place at the conclusion of the ASA National Council meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in early November. Tharaldson joins the late Duane “Tiny” Schafer and the late L.R. “Tarz” Timm as the only North Dakotans in the national shrine. Schafer was the state commissioner for over 36 years while Timm was a well known and popular umpire.

While Tharaldson’s recognition comes as a result of his many years as a sponsor and supporter of softball, he built an impressive resume as a player, coach and manager as well. His accomplishments on the field include pitching over 1,000 games while maintaining a batting average of over .500.

He participated in 45 state tournaments, 15 regional tournaments and 15 national tournaments. He competed successfully at all levels of ASA play from Class A, B and C through all levels of masters and seniors

play. His teams won state championships 20 times, won regional titles 6 times and claimed 2 national titles. A measure of his athletic ability can be judged by the fact that he was still competing as a pitcher on a Class A slow pitch teams at the age of 49.

Among his many sponsorships have been teams in the Junior Olympic program for both boys and girls and in the JO fast pitch program for girls.

In addition, he sponsored teams in adult Co-Ed slow pitch, Master’s and Senior’s slow pitch and men’s and women’s slow pitch. It can be truly said that his sponsorships have provided opportunities for hundreds if not thousands of people to play the game of softball. His sponsorships included not just league fees but uniforms, equipment, tournament entry fees and travel expenses.

Tharaldson’s support of softball has been the greatest sponsor of team sports in North Dakota over the past thirty years not only financially but by his personal involvement

and leadership. When he moved the headquarters of his business enterprises to Fargo, he financed the building of a fourth softball field to complete a complex in Valley City and also upgraded the other fields in the complex with new dugouts and scoreboards. He also funded the construction of a youth baseball complex in Fargo which provides youth baseball opportunities as well as girl’s fast pitch programs.

In addition to all his other sponsorship activities Tharaldson has also provided all of the team trophies and banners for each division of state tournament play in North Dakota including Junior Olympic and all adult divisions of play. He sums up all of this financial support with one simple statement “I donate to causes I believe in”.

His induction into the National Hall of Fame is well earned and well deserved and North Dakota softball is proud of him and his many accomplishments and his generous support of softball in North Dakota



Gary Tharaldson

Bismarck will host Northern National ASA Men’s Class C play over Labor Day

Bismarck will play host to it’s tenth national softball tournament over the Labor Day weekend as Class C Men’s teams from a twelve state area meet to decide the Northern Territory champion. The Northern Territory extends from the Dakotas east all the way to Kentucky and Indiana and teams from throughout that area are expected in the Capital city to compete.

Tournament manager Tim Kuntz and Assistant tournament manager Naomi Erdahl have assembled a local organizing committee to handle the myriad details involved in hosting this national event.

The tournament kicks off on Thursday, September 1 with team registrations, an umpire clinic and manager’s meeting followed

by a brief opening ceremony and the opening round of games. Games continue on Friday, September 2 beginning at 9:00 in the morning and concluding at 9:00 that evening. Saturday will also be a full day of games from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The tournament wraps up on Sunday with trophy presentations at approximately 5:00 p.m. All times are tentative at this time and will depend on the number of teams participating in the event.

Tournament committees include Hospitality/Volunteers; Facilities; Administration; Special Events; Game Operations and Umpires.

The National Office of ASA has assigned Dick Gulmon of Valley City as the Official ASA Representative to the tournament. His duties are primarily to insure that all teams

and individuals are registered ASA teams and are properly classified as Class C players and teams.

Mike Wolf of Bismarck has been named Umpire in Chief and will be responsible to assigning, scheduling and evaluating umpires throughout the tournament.

Tournament headquarters and umpire hotel will be at the Ramkota Best Western at 800 South Third Street in Bismarck. Team entry fee will be \$350.00. Admission for adults will be \$3.00 on Thursday and Sunday and \$5.00 on Friday and Saturday. A tournament pass good for all games will be available for \$10.00



Tim Kuntz
Tourney Director



Naomi Erdahl,
Assistant Director

Red Willow Lake Resort

Off Hwy #1, 25 miles North of Cooperstown • 30 miles south of Lakota

ATTENTION! Coaches, Mom's n' Dad's: Yup, we're attempting to keep kids having fun by physically enjoying life - so bring all your 15 & Under, 12 & Under, 9 & Under boys & girls teams to RWR for fun, and attention - another reason - who will furnish us all those "Super Special" softball players we've enjoyed the past 65 years? They're going to disappear completely!

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Bill’s field of dreams is having water problems,
but Vernis just refused to quit, so keep coming back in 2012”*

Coed Tourneys
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**Gals, find 6 guys – no problem
– they will be ready!**

**Win individual
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a few surprises!!**

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Men’s Tourneys
3 Game Guarantee or RR
July 23 & 24 – III & IV24 teams
July 30 & 31 – III & IV16 teams
Aug. 27 & 28 – Open12 teams

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Sept. 4-5 – Open24 teams
“Reiles Transfer” from Fargo won last year!

Baseball
3 Game Guarantee or RR
July 8 – 9 & Under T-Ball
July 9 & 10 – 15 & Under (Filled)..... Babe Ruth
July 16 & 17 – 12 & Under (Open) Cal Ripken

**For Information call:
Vernis Haines - 676-2061**
Guys & Gals, God loves you and so do I!

President's Report

The summer issue of the NDASA newspaper reminds us all that another softball season in North Dakota is passing by rapidly. We would like to send our best wishes to all our friends of softball in the Minot and Bismarck region who have been dealing with the flood of 2011. We hope that softball in some small way has been able to take peoples minds off the daily struggles of the flood, and the dramatic affect it has had on family's homes and businesses.

The flood of 2011 also had a significant affect on the annual McQuade Charity Softball Tournament in Bismarck/Mandan this year. Early entry numbers appeared to be another record of 485 teams until the Missouri River flooded and placed 22 diamonds in jeopardy in Bismarck. The loss of these diamonds left the McQuade board of directors with no other choice but to scale back the tournament and cut 250 teams out of the event in 2011. The McQuade board of directors are very dedicated to the

tournament and work all year planning for this annual event. Their decision was gut wrenching at the very least, but the right one for the benefit of public safety. This year was to be a special year as the USA Men's Slow Pitch National Team was invited to play two exhibition games during the tournament. However, the exhibition games did go on as scheduled on Friday night, and the games were great. An estimated crowd of 2500 was in attendance and I think the fans really enjoyed themselves as well. We hope the USA National Team will come back again under normal conditions. The ASA National Office in Oklahoma City also sent Craig Cress, Director of Membership for ASA as well as Chris Sebre, Asst. Director of Membership to accompany the team and handle all the necessary arrangements. We were delighted to have Craig and Chris at the tournament, we just wish they and the USA team were able to see a normal McQuade and witness the "Woodstock of Softball" under

normal conditions. My special thanks to the McQuade BOD and tournament directors Mike Wolf and Jack Jones for all their work this year. It was not easy for any of them and we look forward to a better year in 2012.

State Tournament time is around the corner as the Classification Committees for WSP and MSP have met and determined the final team classes for 2011 and their respective State Tournaments. A new rule this year in the NDASA is allowing two (2) pick up players for State Tournament. We hope that this new policy in NDASA will assist teams and reduce cancellations of State entries. See your league representative for details and pickup forms to complete. A form can also be obtained from the NDASA web site.

In 2011 teams will also have a great opportunity to participate in ASA National Championships in our region. MSP C, Bismarck, North Dakota Labor Day weekend. WSP C&D in Bloomington, Min-

nesota Labor Day weekend, Coed Open, C & D in Bloomington 8/25-28, JO Slow Pitch 10U-18U in Wattertown 7/28-31 and JO GFP B 10U & B 18U in Rochester, Minnesota 8/4-7. These are great opportunities for adult and JO softball right in our back door. Take advantage as each of these communities have experience in running these national events and will provide your team and fans with an experience of a life time. On a local note to our MSP teams in N.D., take advantage of the MSP C National Tourney in Bismarck this year. It will be a very competitive tournament and enjoyable to all softball players and fans. Tim Kuntz, Naomi Erdahl and their staff has been planning for this event for several months and will provide a quality event for all to enjoy. Don't miss it.

Special thanks again this year to Gary and Connie Tharaldson and Tharaldson Enterprises for sponsoring the State Tournament trophies and banners in 2011. This is a significant contribution to our program



Dick Gulmon

and we appreciate it. Thank them when ever you have the chance.

Good luck to all the teams who will be participating in the NDASA State Tournaments and have a great rest of the 2011 softball season.

Dick Gulmon
NDASA President

From Behind the Catcher

As I write this the longest day of the year is tomorrow and of course we all know what that means: from that day on we head inevitably toward winter. How's that for a dreary start to a column. Actually it seems unfair that we are in the final week of June without having anything close to Spring. For the third year in a row we have had windy, overcast, rainy and cool weather. My wife who keeps track of such things when she isn't keeping track of me tells me that the last two years we have had lousy weather until the weekend of the McQuade tournament. And here we are just a few days from the 36th annual McQuade Charity Tournament and what a different event it will be this year. The tournament Board has had to cut back on the number of teams from what was projected to be 478 to about 230. The cut-backs were mandated when the Board was advised by Emergency Management people that it would not be a good idea to bring several thousand softball players, families and spectators into the south side of Bismarck where twenty two of our most popular diamonds are located. As many of you know, Bismarck is in the midst of it's first flood since the Garrison Dam was finished in the mid-50's. Much of the south side of the city has been impacted by the rise of the Missouri river and the Clem Kelley Softball Complex and the Cottonwood Softball Complex are both near the flooding sites.

The decision was made to eliminate all four of the Recreation Divisions in the men's tournament and to use only the four diamond McQuade Softball Complex on

North Washington street and the four diamonds at Scheel's Softball Complex located on north 19th street as well as the two diamonds at 16th street. The women's divisions will play at McQuades and Scheels and the Master's Wooden Bat men's division will play at the 16th street diamonds. By the time anyone reads this, the McQuade tournament will be over so we will know how the madshift schedules worked out. We're hoping for the best and praying that the weather gives us a break and that the tournament goes on without any major difficulties.

In addition to the McQuade tournament, Bismarck will also play host to the Men's Northern National Class C tournament over the Labor Day weekend. Tournament Director Tim Kuntz of the Bismarck Parks and Recreation Department and his assistant Naomi Erdahl have put together a committee of knowledgeable softball people who will be responsible for handling the many aspects of a national event. This will be the tenth national tournament hosted by Bismarck so there is plenty of experience available. The tournament is scheduled to be played at the Clem Kelley Softball Complex and hopefully the flood situation will be over by that time. Dick Gulmon of Valley City who is the NDASA state president has been assigned by the National office as the official ASA representative for the tournament and Mike Wolf, NDASA State Umpire in Chief has been selected to be the Umpire in Chief of the tournament.

Since the last issue of this paper, the North Dakota Amateur Softball

Association held it's annual Hall of Fame Banquet and induction ceremony for six newly elected members to the state shrine. They are Randy Anderson of Turtle Lakes, Ray Brew of Dickinson, Rick Fryhling of Fargo, Gail Ingwalson of Grand Forks, Paul "Otto" Ferrie of Fargo and Harold Wilkens of Center. My congratulations to each of them for their contributions to the game and to state softball. The banquet was the largest held since we renewed the tradition of holding an annual dinner and induction ceremony.

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee is urging all members of the Hall of Fame to make an extra effort to attend the banquet next Spring to celebrate the 55th year of the establishment of the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame.

On a sad note, I was notified last week of the death of an old and dear friend who umpired for many years in North Dakota and was well known and liked by players around the state. Jim Cieminski, known affectionately as "The Judge" passed away in the Minneapolis area following a fall and a serious head

injury. He was in his early 80's and had been very active until just the past couple of years. Jim was one of my deputy Umpires in Chief when I was the state Umpire in Chief and he was the most dependable guy on the staff. If I needed an umpire anytime and anywhere I could call Jim and he would be there. He would work one game or ten games if I asked him to do so without a quibble or complaint. He served as a District Judge in Valley City for a number of years and after his retirement moved to Colorado where he continued to umpire softball and baseball and officiate other sports. When I had a long layover in Denver on my way to any softball event, I would let him know and he would come over and have coffee with me and visit about the old days. He was a good umpire and a good friend.

Finally, on a personal note, I am umpiring a couple nights a week. Mostly women's recreation leagues and enjoying it as much as I always have. I now have to wear an inside chest protector since I had my pacemaker replaced in April and the doctor didn't think it would be a good thing to have a foul tip



Walt Stack

hit me in the chest. I had already been wearing a light weight mask to protect several dollars worth of dental work I had done last fall so now I am in the unique position of wearing more equipment to umpire slow pitch than I ever wore while working adult fast pitch. Of course in my fast pitch days, we hid behind the catcher. Did I mention that my reflexes may not be as good as they once were.

See you around the diamonds.



Softball News

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Editor: Walt Stack

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Commissioner's Column

Welcome to summer- At this time of year, most softball teams have played at least, if not more then half of their schedule. Classification meetings have been held and now it is time to plan for state tournaments. It is hard to believe that many teams have not begun to play due to the harshness of weather conditions.

For many, softball is not even in their mindset due to the terrible flooding our small and large communities have endured. I would like to express to the people in these communities the sadness we feel about the seriousness of their losses. As a person, who in 1997 in Grand Forks, I experienced the terrible damage inflicted to our community and to my family. I have tremendous empathy, especially to those living along the Mouse and Missouri River systems. At present, one does not really know what to do, but recovery will come and in the end, a period of time, your

communities will grow and prosper much greater than in the past.

Because of the severe flooding in Minot, the MSP Rec. II West has been moved to Mandan on August 6th and 7th and the MSP Rec. III has been moved to Bismarck on August 13th and 14th.

The national MSP C Northern will be held, as planned, in Bismarck over the Labor Day weekend. Other national tournaments to be held in the Minnesota and South Dakota areas will be held as scheduled: WSP C and D in Bloomington, MN August 25-28, JO GFP 10U-A and 10U-B and the 18U-B in Rochester, MN August 4-7 (I will be the ASA representative), and the 10U-18U in Watertown, SD July 28-31.

For North Dakota teams to be eligible for the MSP C Northern and the WSP C and D in Bloomington, you must play in our designated state tournament.

In 2012, Mandan has been

awarded the Master 35 National Tournament. Make plans for that tournament.

A new rule to be used for our state tournaments in 2011 will affect all of our adult teams. The rule state teams may pick up players for state tournaments. Teams may pick up a maximum of two players. A maximum number of players per team including pick-ups is 12 players. Players must be from your team's classification or lower and from teams not drawn into the bracket. Other changes also have been made so check our website: www.ndasa.org.

JO GFP state tournaments (all groups) will, this year, be held in Bismarck on July 23-24. Let's have good representation. Information and registration is through Bill Butterfield of Dickinson, the JO GFP State Commissioner or Brian Neuhardt of Bismarck, the JO GFP Assistant State Commissioner.

GFP teams may enter national

tournaments as long as they participate in their respective state tournament. The state will pay the national tournament entry fee of the state tournament winner in each class.

There is still time to do on-line registration for GFP and GSP. To enter our tournaments, teams and individuals must be registered. This is a tremendous bargain for \$8.00 per individual. The insurance gained is well worth the \$8.00. Presently, ASA is talking about raising the cost \$2.00 due to the loss cost.

At least one coach from each team must take the ACE certification test which is found on the ASA website: www.softball.org. All individuals over the age of 18 who are on the field must have a background check. To register, contact Bill Butterfield, Brian Neuhardt, or myself for information.

I want to remind you of the many changes that have happened. It is



Jim Hanley

the duty of your league representative and manager to know the rules and changes made. If you wish information, contact one of the executive committee members. Have a good summer.

Ump Chat

It seems as though the first part of 2011 was moving along nicely until it came to May and everything started to change. Many people throughout the state have been dealing with a lot of water related issues the past couple of months and it doesn't look like the end to the problems will come anytime soon. On behalf of myself and umpires throughout the state we want everyone to know that we sympathize with what everyone is going through and if there is ever anything I or we can do, all you have to do is ask.

In September, Bismarck will be hosting the Men's C Northern territory National Tournament over Labor Day weekend. We are expecting a good turnout for teams and our umpire crew of eighteen umpires has been assembled. This national tournament provides a great opportunity for C and D teams throughout the state to participate in a national tournament. A local organizing committee has been organized and we have already been meeting to make the necessary plans to make sure the tournament runs smoothly. For more information about the tournament, you can contact Tim Kuntz at Bismarck Parks and Recreation at 701-222-6455 or email him at tkuntz@bisparks.org. You can also find information about the tournament on their website at www.bisparks.org. Mark your calendars for Labor Day Weekend next year when Mandan will be hosting the Men's Masters 35 & Over.

We have several umpires from North Dakota that have been chosen to umpire national tournaments this summer. I have been working with UIC's form around the country to exchange umpires for national tournaments. This has been a great opportunity for not only our ND umpires, but umpires from other regions of the country to showcase their talents outside of their local areas.

Congratulations to the following umpires who have been chosen to work national tournaments this year: Lyle Rader--Wahpeton--Men's 23U Fastpitch National in Mankato MN, Dale Elfman--Grand Forks--Men's C National in Fresno, CA, Gerald "Shorty" Payne--Grand Forks--Men's A National in Oklahoma City OK, Terry O'Clair--Bismarck--Major Coed in Bloomington, MN. Craig Hahn--

Women's A Fastpitch--Salem, OR. The Following umpires will be umpiring the Men's C in Bismarck--Marchel Kreiger--Jamestown, Ryan Gellner--West Fargo, Paul Beech--Wahpeton--Mark Sondag--Bismarck, and Chad Mears--West Fargo. The remaining thirteen umpires coming to Bismarck will be coming from several other regions throughout the country.

The McQuade tournament is in the books and it was a very challenging year to say the least. Because of flooding issues and safety concerns in the Bismarck/Mandan area, we had to make the tough decision to scale back the tournament for the first time in the tournaments history. We had a record 478 teams registered for the tournament this year. After meeting with officials from the Emergency Operation Center in Bismarck, there was a concern for the safety of players, fans, and residents of south Bismarck in the event there were an emergency with the the levy or ground water and an evacuation had to take place. It was the toughest decision the Board has ever had to make and it was the last thing we wanted to do since we knew the impact it would have on players, fans, and the charities. For the most part everyone was very understanding of the decision but there are always a few who don't seem to see the big picture. The McQuade Board would like thank everyone for understanding and support after the tough decision was made to cut some divisions.

However, we were still able to hold several divisions at the McQuade and Friday night and Saturday were absolutely beautiful days and everyone had a great time on the field and in the stands. Then came Sunday and the rain and lightening prevented us from completing the final rounds and for the first time since 1986 we had to determine division winners by drawing cards. We decided against a coin flip since one manager would not be able to have a chance to call the coin flip. So, we took one suit of cards numbered 2-10 and each manager had a chance to draw a card and the highest card was the winner. Again, thanks to all of you for your understanding when it came time to make another tough decision to have to call the games. Other than two upper league teams

and one women's team, everyone was very understanding and it proved to be the right decision since it rained all day long.

Around 3,000 fans and players came out in force on Friday night of the McQuade to watch Team USA play two exhibition games against the Gene Werre All-Stars. Gene Werre had volunteered at every single McQuade Tournament since it started in 1976. Gene passed away over the winter and so the all-star team that was assembled from players in the Men's A/B division was fittingly named the Gene Werre All-Stars in honor of Gene and his great dedication to the tournament for 35 years. Gene's wife Leona threw out the honorary first pitch to kick off the exhibition game and the 36th Annual McQuade Charity Tournament.

Game one was low scoring and was tied at four runs each until the bottom of the fourth inning before Team USA put up twelve runs to take a 16-4 lead after four innings of play. Team USA added six runs in the over the next two innings as the Gene Werre All-Stars were unable to keep up with Team USA as they went on to win game one by the final score of 22-11.

Game two was much different through the first three innings as the Gene Werre All-Stars came out strong and built a ten run lead over Team USA 16-6. However, things changed dramatically in the top of the fourth inning after Team USA sent 28 batters to the plate and put 24 runs on the board which turned their ten run deficit into a 30-16 lead for Team USA.

The Gene Werre All Stars were not able to come back after the big inning by Team USA and the game ended with Team USA winning by the ten run rule 37-24 which was called after six complete innings. Team USA put on quite a performance and didn't disappoint the fans in attendance. Team USA was a great addition to the McQuade Tournament and we appreciated the fact that they wanted to come to Bismarck/Mandan for the exhibition game. Head coach Steve Shortland said that Team USA enjoyed their time at the McQuade and coach Shortland appreciated the opportunity to get the team on the field in some game situations before they take on Team Canada in the Border Battle. You can watch

the Border Battle game live on ESPN on Saturday July 23rd.

I would also like to thank all of the umpires that worked the McQuade and who donated most of their games back to the tournament so those funds can be used to support the charities that benefit from the McQuade. A lot of umpires worked fourteen games over the weekend and it is amazing the amount of games they work for nothing. Hats off to the umpires who take all the grief on the field, but few know that they are out there working for nothing just for the benefit of the charities! Thanks again to all of the umpires for their dedication and commitment to the McQuade Tournament!!!

We were very honored that Craig Cress and Chris Sebrén from the national office in Oklahoma City were able to attend the McQuade Tournament this year and get a feel for the tournament even if it was scaled back somewhat this year. Craig said they would be back next year and we certainly appreciate the support we get from ASA. North Dakota is 100% ASA and we wouldn't want it any other way!!

The McQuade Tournament is also still trying to raise money specifically to help flood victims in Bismarck, Mandan, and Minot. We are accepting donations of any amount, but for a \$20 donation you can get a "Here's to the Hero's" cap, or visor or for \$50 you can get a "Here's to the Hero's" T-shirt and a cap or visor--quantities of each are limited. If you are interested in helping out flood victims, you can



Mike Wolf

send your donation of any amount to the McQuade Tournament, P.O. Box 1196, Bismarck, ND, 58502. Let's all do what we can as ASA members to help those affected by flooding.

I really appreciate all of the calls and emails I get concerning plays that happen on the field and other questions people may have. I receive several calls and it is great to know that umpires, players, and managers care enough to make sure they understand the rules.

I look forward to seeing a lot of you at the upcoming state tournaments. Let me know if I can be of assistance in any way. You can contact me via email at wolfdn8993@yahoo.com or call me on my cell at 701-400-2100. Stay safe on and off the field and have fun the rest of the summer--after everything that has been going on, we need to have some fun throughout our great state.

Tournament Changes

Due to extreme flooding in Minot, the following tournaments have been changed:

- Men's Slow Pitch - Rec II-West has been moved to Mandan on August 6 and 7
- Men's Slow Pitch - Rec III-West has been moved to Bismarck on August 13 and 14.

These are the same dates as originally scheduled, only the site has been changed.

Politician/Pitcher earns early Hall of Fame

Robert Byrne was in first induction class

Among the first seven softball players inducted into the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1957 was a politician with a love of fast pitch softball. Robert Byrne was born August 1, 1886, became active in softball in Bismarck during the 1930's while active in Republican party politics. Byrne was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives in 1917 and served until 1920 when he successfully ran for the North Dakota state Senate from 1921 to 1924. He went on to win election as the Secretary of State where he served from 1924 through 1934

Meantime, he was active on the softball field where he is credited as starting softball in the Capital City. He obtained rule books from the national office of the Amateur Softball Association in 1928 and served as state softball Commissioner for five years from 1929 through 1934.

Records of softball activity in



Robert Byrne

those years are sketchy but it was noted on his Hall of Fame proposal that he pitched for a number of teams in Bismarck.

In addition to his duties as Sec-

retary of State, Byrne also was a director of the State Historical Society.

An interesting anecdote from the files of the Bismarck Tribune was the following story about Byrne's actions during the fire of December 28, 1930 which destroyed the old state capital building:

Secretary of State Robert Byrne was the only casualty of the fire which destroyed the capital building. Breaking a window to get into his office he opened the vault and emerged with the original copy of the state of North Dakota Constitution. Fire singed his hat and his fingers were cut by glass as he made his hurried exit from the burning building through the broken window.

Byrne was elected along with six other softball luminaries in 1957 as one of the initial class of Hall of Fame inductees. He died December 31, 1967.

Beyer named to executive committee

Wayne Beyer, Wahpeton Director of Parks and Recreation and NDASA Hall of Fame member has been named to the Executive Committee of the state Softball Association by state Commissioner Jim Hanley of Grand Forks.

Beyer has a rich background in North Dakota softball and was one of the stalwarts on the title winning teams sponsored by Chuck's Off Sale. He has also been very active in administration with the Wahpeton-Breckenridge Slow Pitch Association, Three Rivers Old Pro Softball and as the NDASA league representative for the Wahpeton association. He has also been a tournament manager for several years and has been a registered ASA umpire.

In his playing career, he appeared in 23 state tournaments and played for six teams which won state championships. He was a prominent member of the team from Chuck's Off Sale which was the first North Dakota team to win the Class AA Men's Northern Re-



Wayne Beyer

gion Tournament which had been dominated for years by teams from Minnesota. He was known for his aggressive swing while at the plate with an approximate batting average over his career of .530

He brings to the Executive Committee a wealth of softball knowledge and administrative experience.

Hager named to executive committee

Women's slow pitch state Commissioner Mary Hager of Harvey has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the North Dakota Amateur Softball Association by state commissioner Jim Hanley of Grand Forks. Hager was named Women's state commissioner in January 2003 following the retirement of long time commissioner Mary Wadnizak of Fargo.

Hager has been active in the game for over 35 years in her home town of Harvey and on the state level. She played the game for 17 years in a variety of positions and batted over .450 in her career while playing for two teams which captured state championships. She was elected to the softball Hall of Fame in 2000.

Prior to her appointment to the Executive Committee, Hager



Mary Hager

served as Vice President of the Women's Slow Pitch Division and also served on the Classification Committee. She replaces retiring committee member Kathy Corbett of Williston.

Bismarck names new Recreation Director

Long time sssistant Randy Bina named

At a special meeting of the Bismarck Park Board on June 9, Commissioners voted to make long time Assistant Director Randy Bina the new director of Bismarck's Parks and Recreation Department effective July 1. Bina had been asked to serve as interim director following the announcement of the retirement of Steve Neu. During the meeting on the 9th, Board members discussed the feasibility of hiring a new director at a time when Bismarck is facing it's worse threat of flooding in over 50 years.

As a result of that discussion, Bina was deemed the best choice to take over the Director's spot since he has been assistant director for over 20 years.

Bina began his career in Bismarck in 1988 after serving as Parks and Recreation Director in Devils Lake. After the meeting Bina expressed his appreciation for the Board's support and his admiration of the retiring Neu saying "He is one of the best in his field." He also said that Bismarck has "a great system, great community support, a



Randy Bina

great Board and a great staff." Bina will decide on whether to hire an Assistant or to assign new duties to the present staff.

Bina is a native of Ardoch and earned a Bachelor Degree in Science from UND and a Master's Degree in Management from the University of Mary.

Salary range for the new Director will be discussed at a later date.

Record turnout for Hall of Fame banquet

A record crowd of 153 people attended the Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony for six new inductees into the softball shrine on Saturday evening April 16. For the past several years the event has been held in conjunction with the Spring meeting of the North Dakota Amateur Softball Association.

Randy Anderson of Turtle Lake, Ray Brew of Dickinson, Rick Fryhling of Fargo, Paul "Otto" Ferrie of Fargo, Gail Ingwolson of Grand Forks and Harold Wilkens of Center were formally welcomed into the softball Hall of Fame by state commissioner Jim Hanley of Grand Forks. The addition of the

six new inductees brings the total membership to 240.

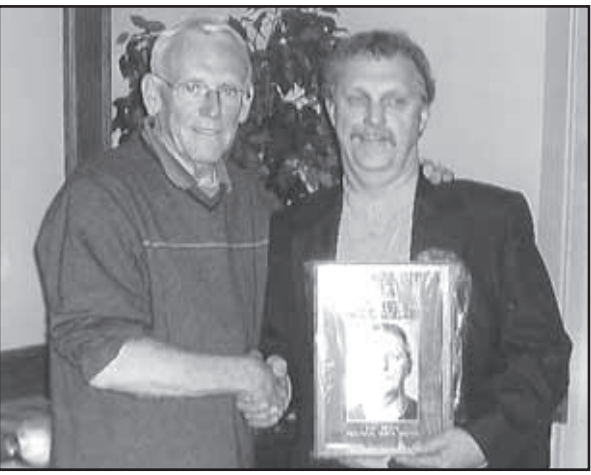
North Dakota was one of the first states in the Amateur Softball Association to establish a state softball Hall of Fame in 1957 and the first in the country to build a specially designed building to house material on Hall of Fame members.

Several state softball officials who attend the Spring meeting stay for the Hall of Fame festivities along with former inductees to the shrine. Among this year's attendees were: Bruce Delzer, Carlie Carow, Collette Folstad, Ed Laxdahl, Eugene Hayes, Jim Baum, Jim Han-

ley, Larry Dahlstrom, Leroy Olson, Lyle Halvorson, Mike Lyman, Pat Stockert, Richard Peterson, Sharon Morgan, Shirley Schafer and Walt Stack

Anyone interested in nominating someone for the Hall of Fame may do so by requesting an application from our state office in Jamestown. All applications must be submitted by December 1 each year to be considered by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee in January of each year.

The portraits of all the members are displayed in the entry of the Jamestown Civic Center.



Past Olympians play professional softball

By Chelsea Janes
USA TODAY

When USA Softball opens its national team selection camp only three of the 37 players in attendance will have played a game for Team USA in international competition.

Notably absent will be stars Jessica Mendoza, Cat Osterman and other members of the 2008 U.S. Olympic team, which won the silver medal. Those players decided to commit full time to National Pro Fastpitch, which opens its season this weekend.

In 2005, the International Olympic Committee eliminated softball from the Olympics, resulting in deep cuts to USA Softball’s funding from the U.S. Olympic Committee. USA/ASA Softball executive director Ron Radigonda said this meant the national governing body was no longer able to provide stipends for national team members.

National Pro Fastpitch, however, is in a position to compensate players for its three-month schedule. The four teams have a \$150,000 salary cap for rosters of 16 to 20 players, with salaries ranging from about \$4,000 to \$25,000.

In the past, players competed for both their pro and national teams, leaving NPF without its stars for much of the season. But this year’s national team schedule includes several exhibitions and tournaments, highlighted by the Pan Am Games in Mexico in October. Accordingly, USA Softball asked athletes to commit solely to the national team.

Faced with a tough choice, the Olympians have decided to throw their energies into NPF.

“We left it open when we gave USA Softball our answer, but a lot has to happen for us to come back,” Osterman said. “We need an environment where our athletes can have the support they need to build the sport. Hopefully we will get that from the national team and NPF.”

NPF Commissioner Cheri Kempf said she “hated the predicament” created by the national team’s



File photo by Alonzo Adams, AP

Lauren Lappin, now with the NPF’s Pride, celebrates after scoring a run while playing for Team USA in 2010.

demands. “It was an emotional decision for them ... but we have to be realistic. We have owners spending millions of dollars to build this league. They cannot be without their marquee players for the majority of the season.”

While scheduling and financial issues might have led to the players’ decision, leaving behind the red, white and blue wasn’t easy. “We played with the national team for a long time,” said 2008 Olympian Lauren Lappin, a Pride catcher and infielder. “But we’re focused on building opportunities for girls to play beyond college. And with the Olympics out, professional softball is where it starts.”

NPF, originally Women’s Professional Fastpitch in 1997, also includes teams in Akron (Racers) and the NPF Diamonds, based in

Kissimmee, Fla. But the Diamonds will play home games in five venues to expand the league’s visibility, including Calgary, in a nod to softball’s growth in Canada.

Former Canadian national team member Danielle Lawrie said her country’s federation was willing to accommodate her NPF play, but she also is committing full time to the league. “Getting these players to commit for the summer, that’s the first step,” Lawrie said of her American teammates. “It’s what we need to grow the league.”

NPF and USA Softball hope they can collaborate on a shared goal — growing the sport. Radigonda said he appreciated those players committing to NPF who, he said, “are extremely important to us ... not only as players, but as individuals.”

Hall of Fame inductee dies

Monroe D. Raugust of Harvey died April 12, 2011 at the age of 85. He was inducted into the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1987.

Monroe Duane Raugust was born on Aug. 10, 1925, in Harvey. He was the son of John Reinhold and Lena (Liebelt) Raugust. He attended the Fairview Township School and graduated from the Harvey High School in 1943. After graduation, he farmed with his father. He entered the army on Sept. 16, 1946, and served as a military policeman in Japan after World War II. While in Japan, he was the quarterback for the 25th Infantry Division II “Stags” football team. Honorably discharged on Dec. 29, 1947, he returned to the Harvey area and resumed farming and ranching. Monroe married Alvina Winter on June 27, 1948, in Harvey. They lived and farmed southwest of Harvey, and moved into Harvey in 1982.

Monroe was an active member of the Mennonite Brethren Church. He served on numerous committees and boards for both the local church and the Mennonite Brethren Central District. He enjoyed singing and acting, and could be seen or heard performing something serious or absolutely silly. He played both fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball on area teams for 41 years and participated in numerous state and national softball tournaments. Monroe



Monroe D. Raugust

enjoyed playing competitively on softball teams with his three sons. He was a member of the Goodrich Lions Club and was instrumental in the club sponsoring and chartering of the Harvey-Lions Club in 1984. Served on the Fairview Township Board, Goodrich School Board, Sheridan Association, Committee to Save North Dakota, Sheridan Historical Society and received numerous awards of recognition for his farming, ranching and stewardship practices. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed hunting deer, pheasants and partridge. A great supporter of area athletics, he was a regular at high school games in both Goodrich and Harvey watching his children, grandchildren and the families of his friends.

Pickup players to be allowed in State Tournaments

Teams entering state tournaments for all men’s and women’s divisions of play can pick up a maximum of two players. Maximum number of players including pick-up players is 12. Pick up players must come from your team classification or lower and from teams which are not drawn into the state tournament brackets.

The pick-up player classification

is from their highest team classification or player data base, whichever classification is greater.

Pick-up player form must be signed by League Rep and submitted to the tournament director prior to first game. If form is not signed by league rep, form is not valid. All pick-up players must wear their own team uniform.

2011 ASA annual council meeting

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) of America, The National Governing Body of Softball in the United States, in cooperation with the South Carolina ASA, will host its 80th National Council Meeting at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C., November 5-11, 2011.

The ASA National Council is comprised of about 300 voting members from all aspects of the sport. The National Council, which consists of ASA Commissioners or Commissioner Emeritus, Executive Director Emeritus, Council Member Emeritus, Regional

Player Representatives, At-Large Player Representative, Regional Junior Olympic Commissioners, Regional Umpire-In-Chiefs, Allied Members, Elite Athlete Reps, and Past Presidents, are charged with making decisions on legislative changes, rule changes and is solely responsible for awarding National Championships to host cities across the country,

All changes to the ASA Code and/or Playing rules are made through a legislative process. The first step to enact code legislation is for a member of the ASA Council to submit proposed legislation to

amend the ASA Code and/or Playing Rules. All code and playing rule amendments are then voted on by the ASA Council During the meeting.

More than 100 tournaments will be awarded on Tuesday, November 8th, to cities across the country. More than 40 different cities will make their pitch to the National Council during its general session on Tuesday. More and more cities are realizing the value of hosting an ASA National Championship and are already preparing for future meetings.

More than 1,000 people are expected to attend the Annual Trade Show of the 79th Annual Meeting of the Amateur Softball Association. The Trade Show will be held Saturday, November 5. Exhibit hours are in the evening. The Trade Show will be held at the Myrtle Beach Resort.

Future Meetings

Dallas, Texas, will host the Council Meeting in November 2012 at the Hilton Anatole. Oklahoma City, Okla., which hosts the meeting every 5-years, will host in 2013. Cities interested in hosting the Annual Council Meeting are encouraged to contact their local ASA Association for details.,

Girls Slow Pitch Nationals next door

Watertown, S.D. Hosts 10 Through 18 Year Olds

Watertown, South Dakota will host the Junior Olympic Slow Pitch National Championship for ages 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under and 18 and under July 28 through 31. What an opportunity for teams from North Dakota to participate in an ASA National Championship event.

Several North Dakota cities located in the southeastern half of North Dakota will be within easy driving distance of this tournament. The cities of Fairmount, Hankin-

son, Lidgerwood, Milnor, Lisbon, Napoleon, Valley City, Jamestown, Harvey, Horace and Wahpeton all fielded girl’s slow pitch teams in the state tournament last year and all would be eligible for this national championship event as long as they registered ASA and play in this year’s state tournament.

Teams interested in obtaining more information can contact Girl’s Slow Pitch Commissioner Scott Schafer at the NDASA state office in Jamestown.

2011 State Tournament Dates & Sites		
Men’s Slow Pitch		
July 23-24	Masters 40	Mandan
	Masters 60	Mandan
July 30-31	Masters 35	Fargo
	Masters 50	Jamestown
August 6-7	Rec I	Jamestown
	Rec II-East	Grand Forks
	Rec II-West	Mandan
August 13-14	Division I	Mandan
	Division II	Mandan
	Division III	Mandan
	Rec III-East	Fargo
	Rec III-West	Bismarck
August 20-21	Masters 50 Wood Bat	Mandan
	Rec IV-East	Grand Forks
	Rec IV-West	Bismarck
Women’s Slow Pitch		
July 30-31	Masters	Bismarck
August 6-7	Class C	Mandan
	Class D	Mandan
	Rec I	West Fargo
August 13-14	Rec II-East	Valley City
	Rec II-West	Dickinson
	Rec III-East	Devils Lake
	Rec III-West	Bismarck
Coed		
September 10-11	Div. I, II, III, IV	Grand Forks
Junior Olympic		
July 9	GSP 16 & Under	Jamestown
July 10	GSP 18 & Under	Jamestown
July 16	GSP 12 & Under	Jamestown
July 17	GSP 14 & Under	Jamestown
July 23-24	GFP 10 & Under	Bismarck
	GFP 12 & Under	Bismarck
	GFP 14 & Under	Bismarck
	GFP 16 & Under	Bismarck
	GFP 18 & Under	Bismarck

Rain and Lady Luck have big hand in McQuade

Coin tosses determine a lot of tournament champions

By Steve Thomas

Rainfall that canceled the final day of the McQuade softball tournament certainly didn't chase away all of the players.

Hundreds of players, fans and tournament officials showed up for Sunday's awards ceremony and coin flip competition at Memorial Ballpark in Mandan.

"I was really surprised at how many came here," said Mike Wolf, a member of the tournament's board of directors. "...It was totally packed with people. That's a great testimony to our players and fans."

A vast majority of the McQuade tournament hardware handed out Sunday was determined by Lady Luck. The coin flip actually turned out to be a cutting of a card deck.

Only the men's A-B, Men's Masters 35 Michelob Ultra, Men's Masters 60 and Women's C titles were the result of what took place on the diamonds.

Sonny's Softball Club of Casper, Wyo., was the only remaining unbeaten in the men's A-B division. Likewise, Fargo Bellerud Transport took the 35 Ultra title and Bismarck Moritz Sports and Marine claimed women's C honors by virtue of their unbeaten status.

Mandan-Wahpeton Dust-Tex-Sun Opta won the men's Masters 60 crown on the basis of Saturday's pool play.

That left eight divisions at the mercy of the cards.

Picking up via the draw where Saturday's game results left off, Fargo TFA/Channel Seed won the men's championship. Bismarck Men's Hair House (D), Mandan Charvat Custom Homes (Masters 35 Amber Bock), Fargo Liberty Business Systems (Masters 50) prevailed by the luck of the draw in the other men's divisions.

The cards favored Bismarck O'Brian/Active Life Chiropractic (D); Bismarck Great Plains IGA (Rec I); Williston Four Mile Bar (Rec II) and Bismarck Northwest Contracting (Rec III) in the other women's divisions.

Although most of the trophies were awarded based on the draw of the cards Wolf said plenty of softball was actually played.

"We were probably 80 to 85 percent done with the tournament (through Saturday)," Wolf estimated. "...We were satisfied with the fact that people got two great days of softball in ... Saturday was a beautiful day."

"Everybody had at least two games in and some teams got four games in," Wolf added.

In the sense, this year's tourney was a copy of the only other McQuade rain out in 1986.

"That was on a Sunday too," Wolf recalled.

The exception of course, was the single elimination women's Rec II and Rec III divisions.

Originally, this year's McQuade tournament was scheduled for 478 teams, which would have been an all-time high for the 36-year-old event. Flooding and resulting diamond constraints forced tourney officials to pare off the four largest divisions. That left 230 teams, the smallest McQuade field since 1980, the fifth year of the tourney.

Rain of varying intensity continued on and off through most of the draw, leaving no doubt that suspension of play was the right call.

"Based on the information we received weather wise, this was going to be around the rest of the day," Wolf said with a nod to the falling rain. "...Ultimately it turned out to be the right decision."

Wolf said this was probably the most demanding year in a long time for people involved in organizing the McQuade. Logistically, he said organizing a 230-team tourney without some of the major diamond complexes involves more work than the usual 400-plus production.

"It's been a stressful month for the whole board. It's been a tough year all-around, and not just in terms of softball," Wolf noted. "There was kind of a little cloud over the tournament, just because of all the things that are going on around our state."

Gazing out at the rain, tournament board member Sam McQuade Jr. offered up a suggested headline: "Is there anything else that could go wrong this year?"



MEN'S A/B

Champion: Casper (Wyo.) Sonny's Softball Club. **Runner-up:** Eagan (Minn.) O&S Cattle. **Third place:** Andover (Minn.) Nordkap Construction over Bryant (Ark.) Fence Busters/Game time.

■ **NOTE:** Championship based on tournament results. Sonny's was the only remaining unbeaten. Third place determined by card draw.

MEN'S C

Championship: Fargo TFA/Channel Seed/Fat Tire over Red Wing (Minn.) Sioux Nation. **Third place:** Bismarck River's Edge/Nutrition Zone/Midwest Doors over Fargo Hooters.

■ **NOTE:** All places determined by card draw.

MEN'S D

Championship: Bismarck Men's Hair House over Bismarck Eckert painting. **Third place:** Mandan Great Plains Tech/Zander Body Shop over Bismarck Sundance Oil. **Consolation final:** Phoenix (Ariz.) POG MO THOIN over Bismarck Crazy D's Construction/Dakota Community Financial.

■ **NOTE:** All places determined by card draw.

MEN'S MASTERS 35-MICHELOB ULTRA

Champion: Fargo Bellerud Transport. **Runner-up:** Bismarck Oswald Brothers Auto Repair. **Third place:** Bismarck Stadium/Budweiser.

■ **NOTE:** Championship based on tournament results. Bellerud was the only remaining unbeaten.

MEN'S MASTERS 35

MICHELOB AMBERBOCK

Championship: Mandan Charvat Custom Homes over Turtle Lake Mary's Bar. **Third place:** Mandan Shirt Shack/Bill Barth over Minot Kruse's/Coors Light/Bremer Outdoor Tea. **Consolation final:** Mandan Action Motor Sports over Regina (Saskatchewan) The Fog.

■ **NOTE:** All places determined by card draw.

MEN'S MASTERS 50

Championship: Fargo Liberty Business Systems over Mandan Kelly Insurance. **Third place:** Mandan Dust-Tex over Fargo Performance Centers. **Consolation final:** Mandan Magi-Touch 9, Capital City Construction 2.

■ **NOTE:** Consolation final played Saturday. All other places determined by card draw.

MEN'S MASTERS 60

Champion: Mandan/Wahpeton Dust-Tex/Sun Opta. **Runner-up:** Mandan Capital City Construction. **Third place:** Fargo Tharaldson Enterprises. **Fourth place:** Pierre (S.D.) Bob Artz Distributing.

■ **NOTE:** Placement based on Saturday's pool play.

WOMEN'S C

Champion: Bismarck Moritz Sports and Marine. **Runner-up:** Fargo Tharaldson Enterprises. **Third place:** Las Vegas (Nev.) ABNB over Minot Saunders Chiropractic/Sports on Tap/Behms

■ **NOTE:** Championship based on tournament results. Moritz was the only remaining unbeaten. Third place determined by card draw.

WOMEN'S D

Championship: Bismarck O'Brian's/Active Life Chiropractic over Bismarck Gold & Silver. **Third place:** Fargo Footitt Construction over Bismarck Big Boy/Rud Tesoro. **Consolation final:** Aberdeen (S.D.) Artz Camera/Anytime Fitness over West Fargo 702 Comm/Agassiz Valley Grain.

■ **NOTE:** All places determined by card draw.

WOMEN'S REC I

Championship: Bismarck Great Plains IGA over Sioux Falls (S.D.) Chasers. **Third place:** Jamestown IDK over West Fargo Town Hall. **Consolation final:** Bismarck Arnie's over Minot Paradiso/Jerome Collision Center.

■ **NOTE:** All places determined by card draw.

WOMEN'S REC II

Championship: Williston Four Mile Bar over Bismarck Dakota Community Insurance. **Third place:** Dickinson Liquid Assets over Lidgerwood Girls.

■ **NOTE:** All places determined by card draw.

WOMEN'S REC III

Championship: Bismarck Northwest Contracting over Aberdeen (S.D.) TNTax. **Third place:** Bismarck Ball Busters over Minot Capri Bar.

■ **NOTE:** All places determined by card draw.



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Direct questions to umpire in your area

Editor’s Note:
Following is a list of umpires in charge of various aspects of softball from the Regional Umpire in Chief, who is in charge of umpires in the Northern Region which consists of Minnesota and two Dakotas, to the North Dakota State Umpire in Chief and then the Deputy Umpires in chief in the various locations around the state of North Dakota. If you have a question regarding playing rules or have a comment about any of your local umpires, please contact the Deputy in your area. If he/she can’t answer your question it will be passed along to the appropriate level.

- REGION 11 UMPIRE**
Steve Riswold
4901 S Baha Ave #3
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Home 605-362-1681
Cell 605-212-0657
E-Mail: riz@riswold.com

STATE UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF
Michael W. Wolf
1926 Billings Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504-7253
Home 701-222-0478
Cell 701-400-2100
Email: wolfdn8993@yahoo.com

Deputy Umpires-in-Chief
Ron Smith
809 3rd Street SE
Minot, ND 58701
Home 701-838-9217
Email: rksmithnd@yahoo.com

Pat Rock Healey
3900 Fairview Drive
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Home 701-775-0117
Email: rock.nd@hotmail.com
patrick.healey@gfschools.org

Mike Lien
4333 15th Avenue SW # 318
Fargo, ND 58103
Cell 701-238-0129
Email: lmikenkarla@cableone.net

Elliott Gerhardt
2216 E Capitol Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
Home 701-223-7977
Cell 391-7121
email address: elliotts@btinet.net

Don Daniel
507 W. 11th Street
Williston, ND 58801
Home 701-774-3690
Cell 570-3915
Email: ddddaniel@nemont.net
- Lyle Rader**
619 5th Street North
Wahpeton ND 58075
Home 701-6423466
Cell 701-899-0158
Email: lyrader@hotmail.com

Michael Nider
824 Lohstreter Road
Mandan, ND 58554
Home 701-663-1515
Email: icallum@bis.midco

Tom Harty
316 23rd Avenue NE
Jamestown, ND 58401
Home 701-952-1586
Work 701-252-0371
Cell 701-269-2454
Email: tharty@daktel.com

Al Ziemann
1008 27th Street NW
Mandan, ND 58554
Home 701-663-6547
Email: zeebuilt@bis.midco.net

Randy Olson
1307 4th Avenue E.
West Fargo, ND 58078
Home 701-282-0766
Cell 701-429-3708
Email: olson6363@msn.com

Naomi Erdahl (Fastpitch)
1311 Portland Dr
Bismarck, ND 58504
Home 701-425-2130
e-mail: naomierdahl@bis.midco.net

Terry O’Clair
1720 Hamburg Drive Bismarck,
ND 58504
Home: 701-258-1574
Cell: 701-391-0985
Email: toclair@nd.gov

Staying involved

VC man’s passion for softball has taken him to national level

By Anna Weisenburger
Times/Record
trnews3@daktel.com

Though he’s not out on the field these days, Dick Gulmon still has a passion for softball.

Through his North Dakota Amateur Softball Association presidency and his chairmanship of the American Softball Association equipment testing committee, he gives back to the sport he’s been involved in for 32 years on a state and national level.

“He’s a very dedicated guy,” said Walt Stack, North Dakota softball news editor and friend of Gulmon.

Before becoming president of the NDASA in 1999, Gulmon was a player, team manager and a state player representative. He was also NDASA vice president for 20 years.

“I’ve known him for 16 years,” said Valley City League Representative Amy Pederson. “He’s done a lot for softball in North Dakota.”



Dick Gulmon

Pederson said that Gulmon was instrumental in helping create the softball diamonds at Valley City State University.

Recently, Gulmon was able to attend a portion of the 2011 Women’s College World Series in Oklahoma

City, while he was there for ASA equipment testing and specifications committee meetings.

“He’s well respected on the national level,” said Stack.

Gulmon, who has been on the national equipment testing committee for 10 years, said that testing and specifications are “based on the science of the game” and that the process takes a lot of time throughout the year. This committee affects every softball program in the country, specifying exactly what kind of equipment is adequate for the players.

Gulmon’s dedication to the sport has not gone unnoticed and he has been recognized in many ways. In 1996, Gulmon was inducted into the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame and continues to serve on that committee.

Wayne Beyer, an officer on the NDASA executive board said the NDASA and softball “is his whole life.”

Players must carry picture ID

North Dakota ASA will continue to follow the National Rule which requires that all players carry a current picture ID with signature at all tournaments. After June 15th, managers must also carry a copy of the team roster.

Spot checks will be made. Any person playing without proper ID will face suspension as do his teammates and/or manager. Games will be forfeited at that time. The NDASA executive committee meeting last fall adopted the fol-

lowing rules in regard to picture ID:

When questioned, if the player does not have a picture ID on his person, he or she will be given five minutes to present it.

The player is ineligible until a picture ID has been presented.

The players in violation will be ejected from the game if no ID is available.

The game is not forfeited.

The team can replace the players if they have substitutions.

If the ejection brings the team

number down to nine, the team will be allowed to continue with an out in the batting position of the players ejected. This is similar to the injury rule.

If the player turns out to be an illegal player, the present rules for the use of illegal players will be in effect.

MANAGERS—be sure all your players have picture identification so they will not be embarrassed and lose their right to play.

Class B bringing back aluminum bats

Financial reasons cited as the reason for the switch

EDITOR’S NOTE:
Since softball has endured several seasons battling metal and composite bats, I thought this story from the Fargo Forum was interesting in that Class B high schools baseball teams are going back to aluminum bats after using wooden bats in previous seasons. Apparently the new standard for metal bats will keep bat performance pretty close to that of wood bats.

By Heath Hotzler
hhotzler@forumcomm.com

FARGO - The first state high school league to switch exclusively to wood baseball bats is bringing aluminum back into the fold.

The North Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors, which changed to wood in 2007, voted 11-0 last month to allow aluminum bats in Class B competition in 2011-12.

I know nostalgia-wise wood is nice to use,” said Central Cass baseball coach and athletic director Justin Fletschock. “But we are fine with aluminum.”

Class B coaches and administrators asked for the change primarily for financial reasons. Fletschock said. Class B district chairs voted 16-0 to pass the recommendation on to the Board for a vote.

American Legion baseball will switch to the BBCOR (Ball Bat Coefficient of Restitution) standard for its bats next year to fall in line with the National Federation of High School Associations and the NCAA.

BBCOR-rated aluminum bats have nearly identical ball exit speeds as wood bats, according to

the NCAA and American Legion baseball.

The NCAA adopted the change this season.

Many small communities in North Dakota that play Class B baseball share equipment with the town’s American Legion team, Fletschock said.

Fletschock said it makes sense to change the high school standard to fit in line with American Legion and NCAA rules.

“We’ve already broken three (wood) bats that are supposed to last,” Fletschock said. “You have two options: Buy a new one or send it back and receive it a couple of weeks later. I need the bat now”

Fletschock said the change will cut his \$1,000 bat budget at the high school in half.

Class A coaches have a different take on the finances.

That’s why the change may not hit the state’s largest schools anytime soon. Larger cities in North Dakota do not share equipment with

Legion teams.

“I just don’t see the point,” Fargo South coach Donn Bryant said. “You can spend two to three times more on aluminum bats and they have the same pop (as wood).”

“The last three years I spent less than \$2,000 on bats,” North coach Jeff Fiechtner added. “If we buy aluminum bats at \$400, and we want a new bat for each of four teams, there goes my budget.”

Bryant and Fiechtner said most of the baseball coaches in the Eastern Dakota Conference would prefer to stay with wood bats.

North Dakota changed to wood bats in the fall of 2007 in large part to avoid serious injuries. High exit speeds for aluminum bats in the early 2000’s gave fielders little reaction time.

“BBCOR bats are basically wood bats made of aluminum,” said NDHSAA Assistant to the Executive Secretary Matt Fetsch. “They are not the weapons that have been used in the past.”

STATE COMMISSIONERS NDASA

Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Commissioner:
Bill Butterfield
2877 83rd. Avenue SW
Richardton, North Dakota 58652
Phone #817-994-5854
Email: xcheese@ndsupernet.com

Men’s Adult Fast Pitch Commissioner:
Jim Collins
905 20th Avenue NW
Minot, North Dakota 58701
Phone#701-839-5263 (Home)
Email: rip@ndasa.org

Women’s Slow Pitch Commissioner:
Mary Hager
2838 18th Street NE
Harvey, North Dakota 58341
Phone#701-324-5272(Home) Cell: 701-341-0565
Email: mhager@srt.com

Men’s Slow Pitch Commissioner:
Jack Lukes
613 Rose Street
Lisbon, North Dakota 58054
Phone# 701-683-4466 (Home) Cell: 701-680-0408
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It’s a family tradition

Editor’s Note: This is a story from the Fargo Forum about a high school softball team and one of its outstanding players. While it is not about ASA softball, there is an ASA connection in that the featured player is the daughter of Pat Johnson of West Fargo who is the coach of the West Fargo High School team and a member of the NDASA Hall of Fame as a fast pitch pitcher.

By Eric Peterson
epeterson@forumcomm.com

West Fargo, Kacie Johnson wanted to break away from family tradition and not be a pitcher, but her bloodlines proved to be too thick.

“I wanted to be a catcher. I hated pitching when I was younger,” the West Fargo senior said with a laugh.

“I kind of wanted to go away from what my family has done ... so I thought I would try to break the barrier, but that didn’t happen.”

It’s a good thing for the Packers fastpitch softball team Johnson ended up in the circle and not behind the plate. The right-hander has a 50-5 career record with three saves.

Johnson has struck out 368 batters in four varsity seasons with a 1.10 career ERA in 3301/3 innings.

“She hates to lose,” said Pat Johnson, West Fargo head coach and Kacie’s dad. “If someone gets a hit, she makes sure that person doesn’t get a hit again. If she has a bad game, she makes sure she is not going to have another one.”

Johnson is 13-1 this spring with a 0.34 ERA. She has struck out 117 batters in 82 innings and also has one save. West Fargo (22-1) plays Minot Ryan in the first round of the North Dakota state tournament. The Packers have won the past 13 state titles.

“There are a lot of tough teams this year so we are going to have to fight to get back to the (championship) game,” Kacie said. “That’s where the pressure comes in.”

Kacie said some of her earliest memories are going to Fargo’s Mickelson Park and watching her dad play fastpitch. Pat, who also is a pitcher, has played fastpitch for 35 years.

“I loved it,” Kacie said. “I loved being there.”

The entire family has played the sport and each member has gravi-

tated to pitching. Kacie’s mom, Cindy, pitched in college. Kacie’s older sister, Erin, was a standout pitcher for the Packers and played in college. Kacie’s brother, Matt, also pitches and is the coach at Fargo Shanley

Kacie initially bucked the Johnson pitching trend. Her spot to play was catcher until junior high.

“I loved blocking and throwing people out at second,” Kacie said. That was the big draw for me.

As a freshman, Kacie ended up being one of the Packers top pitchers by the end of the season. She went 7-0 that spring with a 1.56 ERA in 491/3 innings.

“That’s when I got really serious about it,” Kacie said. “I pitched two of our big games at state when I was a freshman. That’s when it kind of hit me I was going to be a pitcher.”

West Fargo senior first baseman Dani Nelson said at times she has to calm down Kacie, who gets worked up even when she allows a hit.

“She gets a little worked up sometimes,” Nelson said with a laugh. “She is very intense. She is very focused. She is always excited during games and she is very determined.”

Hall of Fame pitcher dies

William “Bill” Robert Keller, 68, Bismarck died June 27, 2011, at MedCenter One Health System hospital, surrounded by his loving family, following a courageous fight with cancer.

Bill was born March 5, 1943, at Trinity Hospital, in Jamestown, the son of the Rev. ALC and Margaret (Brady) Keller. Bill was an outstanding athlete and Bismarck High School graduate of the Class of 1961, and attended Bismarck Junior College. He married his high school sweetheart, Judie Kaehler, on Oct. 10, 1963, at Faith Lutheran Church in Bismarck. Judie was his best friend, his greatest supporter and the best partner a man could ask for. Judie and Bill had two children, Lori and Jeff.

Bill was well know as a fast-pitch softball player and pitched for over 20 years in the Bismarck Fastpitch Softball League. His team was state champions in 1974 and 1981. He was inducted into the North Dakota Fastpitch Softball Hall of Fame as a pitcher in 1988.

Bill was an outdoor enthusiast: bow hunting with Jeff, grandchildren and friends in “the bottoms,” telling “everyone” how to fish the Missouri River system, golfing with his buddies anytime they could get together and particularly the Elbow Room’s annual memorial golf tournament. Bill created many longtime friendships while selling groceries, sporting goods, “going to coffee” and playing cards at the Elks.

Bill also enjoyed working at

Play-It-Again Sports with his daughter, Lori, and mowing the greens for the last eight years at Riverwood Golf Course.

Bill will always be remembered for his love of life, positive outlook and great sense of humor. Each person he touched in his journey through life was a “friend,” knowing friendship with Bill was as special to him as it was to them.



Fewer diamonds, fewer teams in McQuade tournament

By Lou Babiarz
Tribune Sports Editor

This year’s McQuade Softball Tournament was supposed to be bigger than ever, with 478 teams scheduled to compete in the 36th edition of the charity event.

Mother Nature has put a crimp in those plans.

The McQuade was played June 24-26, but the flooding on the Missouri River forced organizers to scale down the tournament. The men’s recreation divisions — I, II, III and IV — will be eliminated this year. All other men’s divisions and all the women’s divisions will go on as scheduled.

The rec divisions are the McQuade’s biggest. As a result, this year’s field will be down to about 230 teams, the lowest number since 1980.

“It’s probably the toughest thing we’ve had to do as a board,” said Mike Wolf, the McQuade tournament co-chair. “It’s hard to make a decision to eliminate teams from the tournament when all of them have been so supportive over the years.”

“... It wasn’t something we took lightly.”

With the Clem Kelley and Cottonwood complexes being unavailable, there simply won’t be enough diamonds available to accommodate a full-fledged version of the McQuade.

Wolf said that this year’s tournament was to three sites in Bismarck — the Sam McQuade Sr. complex, the 16th Street diamonds, and the Scheels, complex near Shiloh — plus the Mandan complex.

Wolf said that even if Cottonwood and Clem Kelley remain playable after the increased releases come from Garrison Dam, there are other concerns.

“We have been working with the Emergency Operations Center,” Wolf said. “We’re concerned about people’s safety. That’s the most important thing.”

Wolf said that when forced to trim the number of teams in the McQuade, there were two reasons the men’s rec divisions were chosen.

The first was the sheer number of teams. The second is that many of the participants in those divisions are local.

“In the higher classes there are a lot of teams flying in,” Wolf said. “They’ve made airline reservations, and they have a big investment in

the tournament.”

Cutting the number of teams inevitably will decrease the amount of money the McQuade can raise for charities — a sum that has surpassed a million dollars over the years.

“I think it will,” Wolf said. “Hopefully our gate will be up there and people will come out and watch. We still have Team USA coming on Friday, and there will be good softball.

“But when you think about things like T-shirt sales, it’s hard to figure out what you need to order,” Wolf added. “We’ll cut back on that. We probably won’t do the silent auction to the extent that we have in the past. It will have an impact.”

Wolf said that some teams are going to donate their entry fee or a portion of it, so that the money will still go to charity. He added that while he knows some people will be disappointed about the decision, he hopes most will understand the tournament organizers are trying to make the best of a bad situation.

“When you’re eliminating teams and you know how much they look forward to the tournament, it’s a gut-wrenching thing.”

Plays and Clarifications

As the ASA Championship Season ends, It is a good time to update you on rules and mechanics as they apply to ASA Softball. It is time for all umpires to review the umpire rule book and umpire manual. If you are chosen to umpire a National Championship remember to stay focused, stay hydrated, and have a great time. You should appreciate the opportunity to represent your Local Association, your region, your territory and all of ASA. Remember, you are one of the best trained and prepared umpires in the country. This is one of the reasons why you have been selected to represent ASA in your National Championship. Good Luck and Good Umpiring.

This month’s Plays and Clarifications address several items having to do with rules and mechanics. They are as follows:

Rule 3 Equipment.

A question was raised about uniform numbers. ‘Is 0 and 00 the same uniform number and would they be allowed as legal numbers on the same team?’ Rule 3 Section 6D states that ‘an Arabic whole number (0-99) of contrasting color or outlined in contrasting, at least six inches high must be worn and visible on the back of all uniform shirts. No players on the team may wear identical numbers’ This rule was changed in 2006 and the wording that I and 01 and 3 and 03 were examples of the same number was removed. This allows for more numbers for players to wear. However 1 and 01, as well as 3 and 03 are examples of different numbers, and can be worn by members of the same team during the game. This should clarify what numbers are not considered to be the same.

Rule 6

The ASA Council has passed an emergency playing rule change as per the ASA code. Playing Rule 6 Section 3 H (Slow Pitch): The ball must be delivered with perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 10 feet from the ground. This rule will now have an exception that Senior Slow pitch will play by the old rule of reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground.

Rule 7

Batting Fast Pitch.

Play: B2 a slap hitter, is hit by a pitched ball while out in front of the batter’s box. In a) that B 1 ducks to try to avoid being hit but is still struck in the head and b) B2 is hit before having the time to avoid being hit by the pitch.

Ruling: In a) If in the umpire’s judgment the batter made an attempt to get out of the way, the umpire should award the batter IB. In b) since the batter made no attempt to get out of the way of the pitch this would be a dead ball and keep the batter up to bat.

ASA rules apply to a hit batter in three ways. Rule 7 Section 4H and M applies if the batter swung or prevented the ball from entering the strike zone. This would be a dead ball strike, Rule 8 Section IF: When a pitched ball not swung at nor called a strike touches any part of the batter’s person including the hands or clothing. EFFECT: Dead Ball the batter Is entitled to first base without liability to be put out. EXCEPTION: If no attempt is made to avoid being hit, the batter will not be awarded 1B unless it is ball four.

ASA has always said that a pitch can fool a batter and they may not have time to get out of the way. Umpires should use the thought process of the ball does not belong in the box and the benefit of doubt is given to the batter. When the batter is in front of the batter’s box the reaction time is decreased and they could be hit with the ball before they have time to react and get out of the way. In this case the umpire should use a similar thought process that the batter does not belong in front of the box and if the reaction time is reduced, the benefit of the doubt should be given to the pitcher.

So apply the rule and use common sense when determining when a batter makes an attempt to keep from getting hit while in the box does not have time to make an attempt or while in the front of the box makes no attempt to keep from being hit. Keep in mind, It will always be a dead ball and a batter will either be awarded 111 or stay at bat with a ball added to the count.

Rule-8 Section 4F

Rannars

Play: (Slow Pitch with Stealing) 83 receives ball four and the pitch gets away from the pitcher with a) no runners on base and b) R2 on 2B. Can B3 continue to 2B as the ball is live?

Ruling: In a) The batter is not allowed to continue to 2B with nobody on base. In this case, Slow Pitch with stealing, the rule was intended to allow base runners to steal on a ball not caught by the catcher. It was not designed to allow a batter-runner to advance to 2B. In a), the batter runner is required to stop at 1B unless the catcher’s return throw was not to the pitcher. In b), R2 is allowed to run until the ball is in the pitcher’s possession and all play has apparently been completed. The batter runner is required to stop at 1B unless a play is made on another runner on base. Rule 8 Section 4F [1- 4].

Rule 8 Section 5F

Runners are entitled to advance with liagility to be put out:

Play: With no outs, R1 on 1B and 52 hits a long fly ball to F8. RI rounds 28, sees the ball caught by FS and begins to return to 16. The ball is released while R1 is between 2B and 3B. The ball goes out of play while the RI is between 1B and 2B. What is he correct award for the umpire to apply?

Ruling: Once the ball enters dead ball territory the umpire should first allow the runner to complete their base running responsibilities. The umpire should hesitate to see if the runner Is going to retouch I.B. Then the umpire should call dead ball and award two bases from the time of the release of the ball, not the time the ball goes out of play. This means that even though the runner was going back to tag up, the release of the ball happened when the runner was between 2B and 3B.

Therefore, the runner would be awarded two (2) bases from the time of the throw. Rule 8 Section 5G

USA Men’s Slow Pitch team takes two wins at exhibition in Bismarck

BISMARCK, N.D. --- The 2011 version of the USA Men’s Slow Pitch National Team opened the exhibition portion of their schedule in Bismarck, N.D. on Friday, June 24. They helped kick off the 36th Annual Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament by playing a doubleheader against the Gene Werre All Stars in front of over 2,500 fans at Mandan Diamonds. The Gene Werre squad was made up of the top players from the Dakota’s.

Game one was low scoring and knotted at four apiece until the bottom of the 4th inning before Team USA put up a 12 spot to take a 16-4 lead after four innings of play. Team USA added two runs in the 5th and four runs in the 6th inning. The All Stars were unable to keep pace and a final score of 22-11 in favor of Team USA closed out game one. In that deciding 4th inning, Team USA sent 15 batters to the plate and used 5 of their 10 allowed home runs.

First time USA Team Member Gregg Connell (Moultrie, Ga.) led the offensive effort as he went 4-4 with five RBI on two doubles and two home runs. Brett Helmer (Cicero, N.Y.), Rusty Bumgardner (Gastonia, N.C.) and Dennis Rulli (Moorpark, Ca.) all had three hits each with Helmer and Bumgardner contributing three RBI each. Winning Pitcher Andy Purcell (Naples, Fla.) helped his own cause by contributing a three run home run in the 4th inning.

Game 2 started much differently for the Gene Werre All Stars as they came out of the gate strong and held a 16-6 lead over Team USA after three complete innings of play. In this contest Team USA were visitors on the score board, but in the top 4th inning the tide changed for the Red, White and Blue. Team USA sent 28 batters to the plate and put 24 runs on the board which erased the 10 run deficit and gave Team USA a 30-16 lead heading into the home half of the inning. The All Stars were not able to recover and the final score was 37-24; which was called after six complete innings because of the run-ahead rule.

Connell continued his hot streak in going a perfect 6-for-6 for the game. Brian Wegman (Hamilton, Ohio) also was 6-for-6 with 6 RBI without the assistance of the long ball. Several other Team USA members contributed to the effort with impressive offensive numbers. Rick Baker (West Harrison, Ind.) was 4-for-5 with three home runs and six RBI. Helmer went 3-for-3 with five RBI while winning pitcher Geno Buck (Red Wing, Minn.), making his Team USA debut, supported his pitching cause by going 4-for-5 with four RBI. Other first time Team USA players Dal Beggs (Gainesville, Fla.) and Bob Hughes

Box Score from Game 1 for Team USA (Men’s Slow Pitch) vs. Gene Werre All Stars – June 24, 2011										
FINAL: USA 22	Gene Werre All Stars 11									
#	Name	POS	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB
3	DeDonatis	SS	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
14	Connell	2B	4	3	4	5	2	-	2	-
12	Wegman	RF	4	2	1	1	-	-	1	1
44	Helmer	C	4	3	3	3	-	-	1	-
4	Baker, Bryson	MI	4	2	2	2	-	-	1	-
16	Bumgardner	1B	4	4	3	2	-	-	2	1
35	McCraw	EH	4	2	2	3	-	-	2	-
26	Baker, Rick	CF	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
11	Rainwater	LF	4	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
19	Purcell	P	4	1	2	3	-	-	1	-
9	Rulli	3B	4	2	3	-	2	-	-	1
Totals			45	22	25	19	4	-	10	3
Box Score from Game 2 for Team USA (Men’s Slow Pitch) vs. Gene Werre All Stars – June 24, 2011										
FINAL: USA 37	Gene Werre All Stars 24									
#	Name	POS	AB	R	H	RBI	2B	3B	HR	BB
3	DeDonatis	SS	6	3	1	1	-	-	-	2
14	Connell	2B	6	6	6	2	2	2	-	-
12	Wegman	MI	6	4	6	6	1	1	-	-
44	Helmer	C	6	3	3	5	-	-	1	1
4	Baker, Bryson	EH	6	2	2	2	-	-	1	-
16	Bumgardner	1B	6	2	2	3	-	-	1	1
35	McCraw	LF	5	3	1	1	-	-	1	2
34	Buck	P	5	3	4	4	-	-	1	-
26	Baker, Rick	CF	5	4	4	6	-	-	3	-
7	Hughes	RF	5	3	3	2	-	-	1	-
99	Beggs	3B	5	4	4	3	2	1	1	-
Totals			61	37	36	35	5	4	10	6
* Exhibition Series at 36th Annual Sam McQuade Sr. Budweiser Charity Softball Tournament in Bismarck, North Dakota.										

(Jonesboro, Ark.) played well in their first outing wearing the Red, White and Blue. Beggs was 4-for-5 with three RBI and four runs scored and Hughes recorded a 3-for-5 outing with a home run and two RBI. For the game, Team USA went to the plate 61 times and produced 37 runs on 36 hits. Team USA Players, Coaches and the ASA / USA Staff want to thank the McQuade Tournament Committee and North Dakota ASA for their generous hospitality and the opportunity to be a part of this nostalgic and successful ASA Invitational Tournament which benefits so many great charities. The team and program also want the citizens of North Dakota to know that our hearts go out to those affected by the flood in the area.

Up next for Team USA is exhibition stop number two in Cincinnati Ohio on July 14th where they will face Team Cincinnati in a doubleheader at Mid American Ballyard. This will be the final stop prior to the team ascending on Oklahoma City for Border Battle III in the rubber match game with Team Canada on Saturday, July 23. For more information, log on to www.usasoftball.com.

About ASA

The Amateur Softball Association, founded in 1933, is the National Governing Body of softball in the

United States and a member of the United States Olympic Committee. The ASA has become one of the nation’s largest sports organizations and now sanctions competition in every state through a network of 76 local associations. The ASA has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 210,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than three million. For more information on the ASA, visit www.asasoftball.com.

About USA Softball

USA Softball is the brand created, operated and owned by the ASA that links the USA Men’s, Women’s, Junior Boys’ and Junior Girls’ National Team programs together. USA Softball is responsible for training, equipping and promoting these four National Teams to compete in international and domestic competitions. The USA Softball Women’s National Team is one of the only two women’s sports involved in the Olympic movement to capture three consecutive gold medals at the Olympic Games since 1996. The U.S. women have also won nine World Championship titles including the last seven consecutive as well as claimed four World Cup of Softball titles. For more information about USA Softball, please visit www.usasoftball.com.

coaches and players so that they are exposed to a discussion of rules which adds to their understanding of the rules and cuts down on disagreements during league and tournament games.

An aspect of the clinics which draws much attention are the clinics held on the field in several locations. Many rules are better understood if they can be demonstrated on the field. Pitching is an example, especially in slow pitch.

With limitations on the height of a legal pitch, there will always be disagreements with the judgment of the umpire. Demonstrations with

measuring devices are helpful to assure everyone can see the legal height of a pitch.

Further demonstrations involving hitting and base running are also useful and preferable to classroom lectures.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a listing of the Deputy Umpires in Chief in the various locations in the state.

Questions on rule interpretations should be directed to the Deputy from your area. State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf is also available to managers and players seeking rule clarifications.

Teams to Move Up in 2011

Women’s

From Class D to Class C:

- Beulah Let’s Do It Again

From Rec I to Class D:

- Fargo Sperle/Spitfire
- Fargo Rita’s

From Rec II East to Rec I:

- Harvey Gloves
- Mayville J Strand/Woodard Financial

From Rec II West to Rec I:

- Minot Paradiso
- Bismarck Best Western Doublewood Inn

From Rec III to Rec. II East

- Grand Forks Diamond Lounge/Bud
- Grafton Extra End

From Rec III to Rec. II West:

- Bismarck Edsons Construction

Men’s

From Rec I to D:

- West Fargo VFW (2nd at E/Rec Nationals)
- Minot Carlson Well Service (3rd at E/Rec Nationals)
- Bismarck Challenger Industries (5th at E/Rec Nationals)
- Bismarck Jerome’s/Paramount/Just-in Glass
- Fargo Chub’s Pub #1/Tubs of Fun
- Wahpeton Driftwood
- Bismarck K&L Homes

From Rec II to Rec I:

- Minot Taco John’s
- Bismarck Mariner Construction
- Wahpeton MDI
- Fullerton
- Fargo Ultimate Trasportation
- Valley City Merchants

From Rec III to Rec II:

- Mayport Insurance

- Fargo Doolittle’s/Bottle Bar
- Grand Forks Kelly’s Ruffnecks
- Fargo G & T Plumbing
- West Fargo Sport City
- Wahpeton Sportsman Lounge
- Mandan AmeriPride
- LaMoure Gentzkow Trucking
- Mandan Vicky’s/Colin Welding
- Dickinson TC/ACC
- Bismarck Great Northern Energy
- Jamestown Tom’s Electric
- Flasher My Place Bar/Bammers
- Bismarck Miller High Life/Duffy’s
- Bismarck Comfort Inn/ Hangman Drywall
- Bismarck MCS Appraisal/Becker

From Rec IV to Rec III:

- Dickinson Bud Light
- Beulah Dakota Westmoreland/Sports
- Turtle Lake Anderson Cabinets
- Dickinson Taylor Crane
- New Town Sveen’s Construction
- Hunter Insurance/Verwest Contracting
- Grand Forks Taco John’s
- Grand Forks Crosstown Shockers
- Fargo Striver Chiropractic
- West Fargo Cabinet Makers
- Lisbon Gordy’s Grill & Fill
- Oakes Nutec
- Fargo Loaf & Jug
- Wahpeton Red River Agency
- Petersburg Town Pump II
- West Fargo FM Mortgage
- Fargo JSPK Childcare/Playmakers
- Gackle
- Mandan Last Call/Miller Lite

Home Run Limits 2011

Women Home Run Limits

Class C	4
Class D	2
Rec I	2
Rec II	2
Rec III	2

Men Home Run Limits

Class B	6
Class C	4
Class D	2
Rec I	2
Rec II	2
Rec III & IV	2
Masters 35 and 40	4
Masters 50 and 60	3
Coed	2

**** Excess Home Runs result in a dead ball, batter is out, and no runners may advance.
****If the ball touches a player or their glove and the ball goes over the fence (without hitting the ground), there is a 4 base award which doesn’t count against a team’s Home Run Total.
****Inside the park Home Runs do not count against a team’s total.

NDASA Contact Information

NDASA State Office
P.O. Box 2155
Jamestown, North Dakota 58402
Phone # 701-952-4448
Email: ndasa@daktel.com
Web Site: www.ndasa.org

State Commissioner:
Jim Hanley
1708 Cottonwood Street
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201
Phone #701-772-2709 or 701-772-4319(Home)
Cell: 218-779-1525
Email: jimhanley@gra.midco.net

State President:
Dick Gulmon
883 Chatauqua Boulevard
Valley City, North Dakota 58072
Phone#701-845-4332(Home)
Cell:701-490-0078
Email: dgulmon@csicable.net

State Umpire in Chief:
Mike Wolf
1926 Billings Drive
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504
Phone# 701-222-0478 (Home)
Email: wolfdn8993@yahoo.com

Rules Clinics completed statewide

State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf of Bismarck and his deputies who are stationed around the state have completed rules clinics around the state. A total of 53 clinics were held in every area of the state.

The clinics are intended to instruct umpires and managers, coaches and players with rule changes from year to year.

The rules clinics were initiated in the early 1970’s to educate umpires each year with changes to the rules and also to provide instruction regarding positioning and mechanics for umpires. In addition, these meetings are open to managers,

Stefonek
recognized
for years of
service to
North Dakota
softball

State President Dick Gulmon presents Kathy Stefanek with a plaque to recognize her years of dedication to the North Dakota Softball Association.



Tharaldson provides trophies, banners

Super sponsor and softball booster Gary Tharaldson will again provide the trophies and the championship banners for all state softball tournaments sponsored by the North Dakota Amateur Softball Association. Included are all the awards for the Junior Olympic program as well as adult awards in both slow pitch and fast pitch. The number of trophies and banners depends on the number of teams entering each of the state tournaments. Gary Tharaldson and his wife Connie continue their commitment to North Dakota softball with sponsorship of both men's and women's adult teams. Gary's sponsorship started in the early 1980's and includes sponsorship of many state championship teams, Regional champions and several national tournament teams. He was elected

to the state Softball Hall of Fame in 1995 as a player and coach of some of the most successful teams ever to play in North Dakota. He played for many years at the highest level of slow pitch softball and won over 650 games as a pitcher. He led his teams in over thirty state tournaments, a number of Regional events and close to two dozen National Tournaments. NDASA is able to provide the trophies and banners only through the cooperation and generosity of Gary Tharaldson and his various business enterprises. NDASA gratefully acknowledges his many, many contributions to North Dakota softball. The Amateur Softball Association of America, the governing body of softball in the United States has recognized his many contributions to the game by naming him



Gary Tharaldson

to the National ASA Hall of Fame. Induction ceremonies will take place at the annual ASA Council meeting to be held in November in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

2011 ASA National Championships

Adult Men Slow Pitch			
Men's Class B	9/1	9/5	Oklahoma City, OK Waxahachie, TX Auburn, AL
Men's Masters 35-Over	9/9	9/11	
Men's Masters 40-Over	8/26	8/28	
Territory Tournaments			
Hooters ASA Men's Northern Class C	9/1	9/5	Bismarck, ND
Hooters ASA Men's Northern Class D	9/1	9/5	Topeka, KS
ASA Men's Northern Class E/Rec	9/1	9/5	Springfield, MO
ASA Women's Northern Class C	9/1	9/5	Bloomington, MN
ASA Women's Northern Class D	9/1	9/5	Bloomington, MN
Coed Class C Eastern	8/25	8/28	Bloomington, MN
Coed Class D Northern	8/25	8/28	Bloomington, MN
Adult Women Slow Pitch			
Women's Master 35-Over	8/12	8/14	Dohan, AL
Senior Slow Pitch			
Senior 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 East	9/1	9/5	Burlington, NC
Senior 50, 55, 60, 65, 70,75 West	9/1	9/5	Fort Collins, CO
Youth			
Girls' A 10-Under Southern	8/4	8/7	Rochester, MN
Girls' B 10-Under Northern	8/4	8/7	Rochester, MN
Girls' B 18-Under Northern	8/4	8/7	Rochester, MN

2011 Suspensions & Probations

- Dominic Paradino Jr., Fargo, Unsportsmanlike conduct, suspended indefinitely, Two year probation follows reinstatement.
 - Scott Fears, West Fargo, Unsportsmanlike conduct, Probation thru 2011
 - Jason Baca, Mandan, Illegal participation (2nd) Probation thru 2011
 - Todd Kalpakoff, Fargo, Altered bat. Two years suspension 2010
- & 2011 NDASA/ASA play. Five years probation starting 1/1/12
 - Ryan Hertel, Jerome Talley, Delmon Clown, Lyle Uses Arrow, Mandan, Illegal participation. Suspension through 7/1/11. Probation 2011 & 2012
 - Dustin Talley, Mandan, Illegal participation. Suspension through 7/1/11. Probation 2011, 2012 & 2013
- T C Wolves Softball Team, Mandan, Illegal participation. Probation 2011 season
 - Kyle Wheeler, Minot, Illegal participation. Probation 2010-2011
 - Dilon Kunz, Jamestown, Unsportsmanlike conduct. Probation 2010-2011
 - Danny Kunz, Jamestown, Unsportsmanlike conduct. Probation 2010-2011

Lachenmeier named to executive committee

Sue Lachenmeier of Bismarck has been named to the NDASA Executive Committee by state Commissioner Jim Hanley. Lachenmeier brings a wealth of softball background and knowledge to the position. She has served as the President of the Women's Slow pitch state organization for the past several years and for many years before that she was the League Representative for the Bismarck Women's Association. Lachenmeier has been involved in women's softball for over 35 years in coaching and managerial roles as well as in administrative positions. She has been a coach/manager of various Bismarck teams for over 25 years after a brief tenure as a player.



Sue Lachenmeier

ASA Player Information
Mandatory Classification

Mandatory Player Classification. Starting January 1 each year will start a player appeal process where each player can submit an appeal to have their player rating dropped. This process ends August 1 and at that time appeals will not be accepted until January. We have taken our team guidelines and based it on the ASA Code in which a team could have 3 Mandatory players from the next higher division on their roster. We consider our list equal to Mandatory rated players. With the player rating system that we have in place helps create a fair and level playing field for all of our teams not only at a local but also at a national level. Below are the guidelines that we use on how to classify a team. Players on the ASA Restricted List can only participate in the Men's A or Coed Open Programs. A Player may have a + (plus) designation, this player cannot play down a class. **Men's Slow Pitch**

- 01.Men's A = 5 Player's from the ASA Restricted Players List.
- 02.Men's B = 3 A Rated players and no players Class A+ or from the Restricted Player List.
- 03.Men's C = Three (3) B classified players and no players from Class A, Class B+, or the ASA Restricted Player's List.
- 04.Men's D = Three (3) C classified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C+, or the Restricted Player's List.
- 05.Men's E = Three (3) D clas-

sified players and no players from Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D+ or the Restricted Player's List.

- 06. Men's Masters 35-Over, 40-Over, and 45-Over Slow Pitch. Two (2) players from the ASA Restricted Players List and two (2) Class A rated players or no players from the Restricted Player List and four (4) Class A rated players.
- Women's Slow Pitch**
- 07. Women's Open = Any Female Player
- 08. Women's C = Three (3) Open classified players.
- 09. Women's D = Three (3) C classified players and no Open classified players.
- Co-ed Slow Pitch**
- 10. Co-ed Open = Any Female Player and two (2) male players from the ASA Restricted Player's List.
- 11. Co-ed C = No Open classified female players and no male classified players from Class A, Class B, or the ASA Restricted Players List.
- 12. Co-ed D = Two (2) female C classified players and two (2) male C classified players. No Open classified female players or male players from Class A, Class B, or the ASA Restricted Players List.

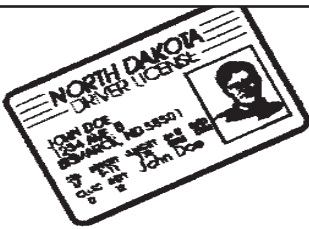
NOTE: Players that have no ASA playing history should be handled in the following manner. If a track record of a player can be verified in another National Association that player can be rated at that level or higher.

NDSU Bison Reach
Division One Regional

Yogi Berra had an apt definition for the situation faced by the NDSU Bison softball team this Spring. "It's de'JA vu all over again." For the second year in a row, the Bison won the Summit League to advance to the NCAA Division One Regional tournament in Tempe, Arizona. Just as they did last year, the Bison had to face the number one ranked team in the nation in their initial game. Last year it was UCLA and this year Arizona State was their first game opponent and

they promptly sent the North Dakota team down to defeat. In the second game of the double elimination tournament, the Bison took an early lead but couldn't hold off the team from San Diego State who sent the Bison home with a 5 to 4 win. Despite the two quick defeats the NDSU team enjoyed another stellar season on the diamond and advanced to the Regional tournament for the third straight year.

BOOZE IT
& LOSE IT.



NDASA 2011 Invitational Tournaments

Men’s Slow Pitch

Date	City	Classifications
July 9-10	Dickinson	D-R1, R2, R3, R4
July 9-10	Grand Forks	6 C-D, 8 R1-R2, 8 R3-R4
July 9-10	Rugby	12 R2-R4
July 9	Stump Lake	8 R2-R4
July 10	Prairie Rose	C-R4
July 10	Turtle Lake	16 R3-R4
July 16	Devils Lake	6 C- R1, 16 R2-R4
July 16-17	Mandan	16 C-D, 16 R1-R2, 16 R3-R4
July 16-17	Oakes <i>Early Entry 7/3</i>	24 R3-R4
July 17	Valley City	5 R1-R2 8 R3-R4
July 22	Wahpeton	8 R3-R4
July 23-24	Minot	50 C-R4
July 23-24	Red Willow	24 R3-R4
July 30-31	Red Willow	16 R2-R4
August 20-21	Center	16 R3-R4
August 20-21	Fargo	16 R1-R2, 16 R3-R4
August 27-28	Red Willow	16 Open
September 3-4	Grand Rapids	8 Open
September 3-5	Red Willow	24 Open
September 11	Dickinson	R1-R2, R3-R4

Women’s Slow Pitch

Date	City	Classifications
July 9-10	Dickinson	D-R1, R2-R3
July 9-10	Grand Forks	6 C-D, 6 R1-R3
July 10	Prairie Rose	C-R3
July 15	Wahpeton	8 Open
July 16	Devils Lake	8 R1-R3
July 16-17	Mandan	16 R2-R3
July 23-24	Minot	45C & Below
September 11	Dickinson	R1, R2-R3

Coed Slowpitch

Date	City	Classifications
July 16	Stump Lake	8 Open
August 20	Devils Lake	8 Open
August 21	Red Willow	12 Open
August 27	Stump Lake	8 Open

Type	Fee	Director
3GG	\$100	Eric Kittleson, 2004 Fairway St, Dickinson, ND 58601, 456-2074
RR	\$135	Todd Lafferty, 427 Burdick Ct, Grand Forks, ND 58203, 230-5924
RR	\$110	Mark Hamilton, 1116 Main Ave S, Rugby ND 58368, 208-1373
3GG	\$90	Dwight Elfman, 1411 11th Ave SE, Devils Lake, ND 58301, 662-3928, 351-1560
3GG	\$95	Mike Wald, Bismarck Parks & Rec, 400 E Front Ave, Bismarck, ND 58504
3GG	\$90	Darwin Saari, PO Box 338, Turtle Lake, ND 58575, 448-2596
RR, 3GG	\$90	Terry Wallace, PO Box 446, Devils Lake, ND 58301, 662-8243
DE	\$100	Ryan Steifel, 2612 Berkshire Dr, Bismarck, ND 58503, 222-1702
3GG	\$100	Bob Ubben, 210 S 7th St, Oakes, ND 58474, 742-2087, 388-3083
RR	\$100	Amy Pederson, PO Box 422, Valley City, ND 58072, 845-3294
3GG	\$90	Laree Bumgarner, 304 5th St S, Wahpeton, ND 58075, 642-2811
3GG	\$100	Tom Landseidel, PO Box 684, Minot, ND 58702, 857-4730
C&C	\$90	Vernis Haines, 1540 County Rd 5, Binford, ND 58416, 676-2061
RR	\$90	Vernis Haines, 1540 County Rd 5, Binford, ND 58416, 676-2061
RR	\$100	JD Hanson, Box 1836, Center, ND 58530, 794-8891
RR	\$150	Steve Granberg, 2513 4th Ave S, Moorhead, MN 56560, 218-236-5867
C&C	\$90	Vernis Haines, 1540 County Rd 5, Binford, ND 58416, 676-2061
3GG	\$75	David Warken, 6989 104th Ave SE, LaMoure Nd 58458, 883-5569
3GG	\$90	Vernis Haines, 1540 County Rd 5, Binford, ND 58416, 676-2061
3GG	\$100	Eric Kittleson, 2004 Fairway St, Dickinson, ND 58601, 456-2074

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RR	\$135	Todd Lafferty, 427 Burdick Ct, Grand Forks, ND 58203, 230-5924
3GG	\$95	Mike Wald, Bismarck Parks & Rec, 400 E Front Ave, Bismarck, ND 58504
CC	\$85	Laree Bumgarner, 304 5th St S, Wahpeton, ND 58075, 642-2811
3GG	\$90	Terry Wallace, PO Box 446, Devils Lake, ND 58301, 662-8243
DE	\$100	Ryan Steifel, 2612 Berkshire Dr, Bismarck, ND 58503, 222-1702
3GG	\$100	Tom Landseidel, PO Box 684, Minot, ND 58702, 857-4730
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Type	Fee	Director
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Casual profanity rule defined

Casual profanity pertains to expletives “not directed at the umpires or opposing players, but most likely at the players uttering them as a vent to frustration. This type of profanity is penalized by “OUTS” being declared against the offensive or defensive teams, whichever is guilty of the violations. The above “OUTS” will be treated on a delayed, dead ball situation. Profanity directed at others, especially umpires, will still result in ejection.

Let’s say a team has the bases loaded and the batter pops up to the infield. Immediately he lets out a profanity (fill in your favorite).

What happens if the fielder catches the ball? The batter can’t be called “OUT” because he already is. Therefore, the next batter is out. If the batter would be first up the next inning, that spot will be an OUT. That’s how the penalty is enforced.

If a defensive player “boots” the ball or drops the ball and utters a profanity where it can be heard by the people in the stand the defense is penalized by having their first batter called out when they come to bat. This is the only aspect of the rule, along with carry-over of the third out enforcement on the

offensive team, where the rule will have to be enforced at a later time.

Profanity directed at others, especially umpires, will still result in ejection. If a player is called out on a bang-bang players at first and he utters a word under his breath as he runs by the umpires at first, or curses under his breath because of this poor hit as he was thrown out at first, the CASUAL PROFANITY RULE will not be enforced. That’s because no one but the umpire, and maybe the first baseman has heard him.

THE CASUAL PROFANITY RULE provides a lesser penalty for the gray area between accepted conduct and situations where the offender must be ejected. It has been found that the players police themselves and each other after this happens a couple of times and it has worked for the betterment of softball. It gets players to clean up their act. Early in the year, umpires, in pregame conference, should warn both managers that the CASUAL PROFANITY RULE applies. Failure to do so does not preclude the penalty being enforced. After June 15, this is not required at pre-game conference as all teams should be aware of the rule.

Benefits of an ASA Umpire



1 \$5,000,000 per occurrence of LIABILITY INSURANCE— This policy covers you in the event you are sued, and adjudged by a court of law for bodily injury, personal injury or property damage to others while officiating at ASA sanctioned activities, games, leagues and tournaments involving ASA registered teams. Coverage is also provided for defense costs to include legal fees, court costs and investigative costs.

2 EXCESS ACCIDENT MEDICAL EXPENSE INSURANCE— Accidental injury arising out of the amateur softball activities of the umpire is covered. These include ASA sanctioned activities, games, leagues and tournaments involving ASA registered teams, practices, clinics, including direct and uninterrupted travel to and from the site of the activity. The medical expense coverage is provided on an excess basis. This means that this insurance comes into play only after other group or individual medical insurance or any other health plan has paid out its benefits. Payments are limited to the usual and customary charges for reasonable and necessary medical services. The policy contains a surgical schedule which sets forth dollar maximums for specific surgical procedures. Thus, some medical expenses may not be covered in full.

Excess Medical Expense Benefit	
Deductible	Maximum Benefit
\$250	\$100,000
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	
Accidental Death Benefit	Accidental Dismemberment Benefit
\$2,000	\$4,000

There is a \$25,000 sub limit of Accident insurance coverage for umpires while traveling to and from an assignment.

3 INSURANCE COVERAGE WHILE OFFICIATING OTHER SPORTS ASA umpire associations, ASA Commissioners, or UIC’s can now purchase accident and liability coverage, as well as game fee reimbursement as a result of injury, for their umpires who officiate other sports. Game Fee Reimbursement would also apply to ASA softball games. Coverage is

4 As part of the registration fee, each umpire receives insurance coverage, The Official Rules of Softball Umpire Edition and quarterly issue of *Balls and Strikes Online*.

5 Because an umpire is registered with the ASA, they can obtain rule interpretations, attend ASA rule clinics and the regular and advanced National Umpire Schools.

6 An umpire uniform and leisure wear program is available to each registered umpire. Included are clothing, souvenirs and publications. Request the new catalog today.

7 Only ASA registered umpires are selected to officiate in metro, state, regional and national championships. There are now more than 100 ASA national championships.

8 Only ASA registered umpires are eligible to apply for ISF (International Softball Federation) certification which offers the opportunity to umpire in World Championships, Pan American Games and other international events.

9 ASA Umpires can qualify to umpire in ISF Events held at beautiful ISF Headquarters in Plant City, FL.

10 ASA Umpires are eligible to apply for the medals program available in blue (3 yrs.), bronze (5 yrs.), silver (15 yrs.) and gold (20 yrs.), just for being a registered ASA Umpire. A complete line of leisure wear styles is available, along with trophies, plaques, watches, etc.

11 ASA Umpires are eligible to apply for the National Indicator Fraternity and be recognized for their umpiring experience in a registry in the ASA Hall of Fame and Umpire Manual.

12 Qualified ASA Umpires can apply for Elite Umpire status within the ASA. Those qualified individuals will receive a lapel pin, a navy ASA/USA "Elite" cap, membership card, framed certificate and their name listed in a registry in the ASA Hall of Fame.

13 Only through the ASA program are training aides available for umpires and umpire organizations. These aides include an animated mechanics DVD, Clinic guide, Power Point presentations, instructional video cassettes, the umpire examination, meeting quizzes and the case book on CD.

State Tournament No Shows without notification

- Bismarck Vaaler Ins. Rec II-W-WSP; Entire team probation 2011
- Mandan Quality Home Furniture Rec II-W-WSP; Entire team probation 2011
- Grand Forks Rhombus II, Rec IV-E-MSP; Entire team probation 2011
- Mandan Last Call/Miller Lite, Rec IV-W-MSP; Entire team probation 2011



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