

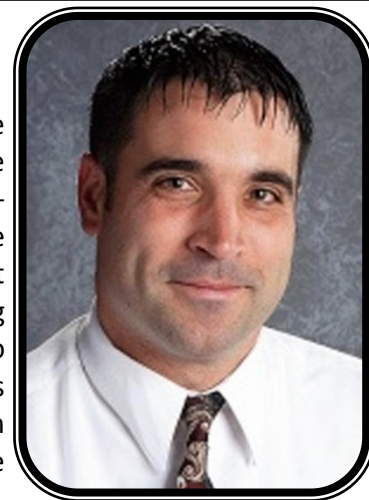


THE LINE DRIVE

January 15, 2017

VOLUME 5

Message from the Interim President...



Our first 2017 newsletter needs to begin with a huge THANK YOU to Jeff Hodgson. Jeff's leadership as the WFSCA President the last four years has been incredible and has helped to increase opportunities for the student athletes and coaches in our state. For the first time, we will have twenty-four teams representing their schools in Madison this year, in large part due to his passion and hard work. Membership in WFSCA has grown steadily along with the notoriety of softball in Wisconsin. As a board and an association we have been very fortunate to have had such a strong leader.

During our Fall Meeting, the Board appointed Greg Lampe as the first Executive Director of WFSCA. Greg's experience as a coach and athletic director will be a tremendous asset for this new position. He will have primary oversight of the day-to-day operations of the organization and all events sponsored by WFSCA. We are excited to have Greg in place to guide the continued growth of our association.

Cindy Suess has put together another incredible clinic for softball coaches in our state on February 25th and 26th, at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The educational and networking opportunities she helps provide our coaches are second to none nationally. It is amazing how far our clinic has come under her direction. We will again be starting off our awards Hall of Fame banquet with a social for Hall of Fame members. Thank you to Jeff Agnew for all of his hard work to make this a very special event for the inductees and their families. Please join us in honoring the legendary coaches in our state.

We have a dedicated group of passionate coaches that make up the WFSCA Board. They have all done a tremendous job of problem solving and generating ideas to positively impact our sport. Thank you all for volunteering your time and talents.

Finally, thank you to all members of our organization for sharing your ideas. Surveys and conversations over the past several years have lead to increased opportunities for our student athletes and coaches. Please contact your district representatives, Greg Lampe or myself with any suggestions on how we can continue to grow as an organization. I am looking forward to seeing you at the clinic.

Brad Ceranski, WFSCA Interim President

Inside this Issue:

Message from Interim President.....	1
2017 Hall of Fame Inductees.....	2
WFSCA Hall of Fame Coaches.....	3
WFSCA Restructures Districts and All-State Teams.....	4
Annual Senior All-Star Games.....	5
Coaches Clinic Speakers:	
Cindy Bristow.....	6
Heather Compton-Butler.....	7
Steve Kerkman.....	8
Important WIAA Updates.....	9-10
Important Dates.....	10

- Brad Ceranski**
Interim President
- Cindy Suess**
Vice President
Clinic Director
- Greg Lampe**
Awards Committee Chairperson
Executive Director
- Tammy Rademacher**
Secretary
Website
- Jane Briehl**
Treasurer
- Tom Drohner**
Border Battle Coordinator
District 1: Large School Rep.
- Dave Bjorge**
District 1: Small School Rep.
- Tim Whitford**
District 2: Large School Rep.
- Sue Stoltenberg**
Academic All-State Coordinator
Newsletter Coordinator
District 2: Small School Rep.
- Jeff Agnew**
Hall of Fame Chairman
District 3: Large School Rep.
- Jeff Hodgson**
District 3: Small School Rep.
- John Ruffolo**
Clinic Vendor Coordinator
District 4: Large School Rep.
- Roger Schlieve**
D3, D4 & D5 All-Star Coordinator
District 4: Small School Rep.
- Jared Faherty**
D1 & D2 All-Star Coordinator

WFSCA Announces 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees

by Jeff Agnew, Fort Atkinson High School Softball Coach

The Wisconsin Fastpitch Softball Coaches Association would like to congratulate the 2017 Hall of Fame Inductee Class:

Denny Coppernoll – River Valley HS

Denny Coppernoll started the River Valley softball program in 1980. In 1985 and 1986, his team went undefeated with a perfect 42-0 record and won two WIAA State titles in Class B. He retired after the 1991 season, after coaching twelve years. In 1995, Denny returned to rebuild the River Valley softball program. In 2000, he retired for the second time. The program that he rebuilt went on to Sectional Finals the next two years and was Runner-Up in 2002.

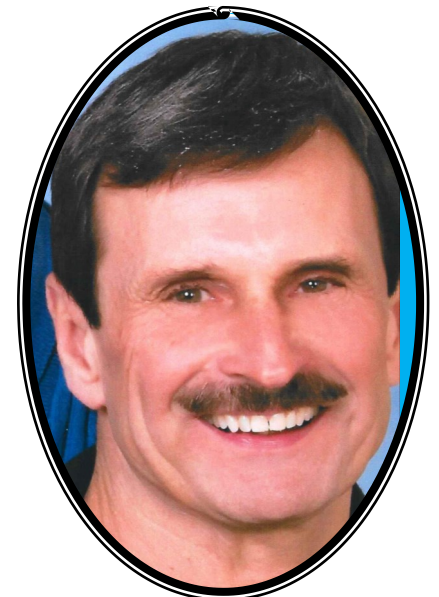


Tim Hering – Whitewater HS

Tim Hering started the softball program at Whitewater High School. He coached for twenty-seven years and had a career record of 321-202. Whitewater advanced to the State Tournament six times (1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1988), and was State Runner-Up in 1988.

Jeff Setz – New Berlin Eisenhower HS

Jeff Setz was the Head Softball Coach at New Berlin Eisenhower High School for twenty-two years. During that time, he coached the Lions to 410 victories, 8 conference championships, 6 sectional championships and 6 trips to the State Tournament. In 2008, New Berlin Eisenhower defeated Monroe 6-0 to win the WIAA State Championship in Division 2 Softball.



WFSCA Hall of Fame Coaches

Denny Coppernoll, River Valley, 2017

Tim Hering, Whitewater, 2017

Jeff Setz, New Berlin Eisenhower, 2017

Dave Keel, Homestead, 2016

Roger Schlieve, Horicon, 2016

Jim Wickert, McFarland & Madison College, 2016

Tim Pederson, Amherst, 2015

Bob Sulser, Madison Memorial & Beloit Turner, 2015

Marv Youngbeck, Mayville, 2015

John Schroeder, Beloit Memorial, 2014

Glenda Smith, Tigerton, 2014

Don Vruwink, Milton, 2014

Dale Buvid, Monroe, 2013

Paul Olson, Fort Atkinson, 2013

Jim Turner, Altoona, 2013

Kris Allison, Westosha Central, 2012

Mike Regner, LaCrosse Central, 2012

Del Schneeberger, Johnson Creek & Fort Atkinson, 2012

Jim Haines, Pepin, 2011

Steve Ryan, Waunakee, 2011

Steve Schmikla, McFarland, 2011

Diane Yager, DC Everest & Seneca, 2011

Greg Lampe, Oak Creek, 2010

Bob LeCaptain, Denmark & Green Bay West, 2010

John Malin, Kimberly, 2010

Russell Shaub, Middleton, 2010

Bob Tomlinson, Poynette, 2010

Rod Wilterdink, Cedarburg, 2010

Tory Acheson Whitnall, UW-Parkside & Tennessee Tech, 2009

Phillip Adam, Ashwaubenon, 2009

David and Mary Lou Jones, Platteville, 2009

Pete Kopplin, Marshfield, 2009

Darrell Laschen, Loyal, 2009

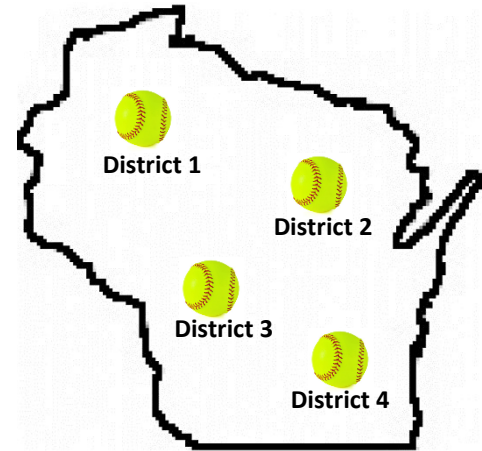
Debbie Malueg, Marion, 2009



WFSCA Restructures Districts and All-State Teams

by Brad Ceranski, WFSCA Interim President

During the October 2 WFSCA meeting, the Board finalized a plan to restructure the WFSCA Districts and All-State Teams starting with the 2017 season. The plan creates four Districts with each district selecting a Large School and a Small School All-District Team. The Large All-District Team will be made up of players from Division 1 & Division 2 member schools, and the Small All-District Team will be comprised of players from Divisions 3 through 5.



District 1 Conferences

Big Rivers	Lakeland
Cloverbelt	Marawood
Coulee	Middle Border
Dunn—St. Croix	Mississippi Valley
Great Northern	Wisconsin Valley
Heart O’North	Ashland High School
Indianhead	Superior High School

Large School Rep—Tom Drohner

Small School Rep—Dave Bjorge

District 2 Conferences

Bay	Fox Valley Association
Central Wisconsin	Marinette & Oconto
East Central	Northeastern
Eastern Wisconsin	Northern Lakes
Fox River Classic	Packerland

Large School Rep—Tim Whitford

Small School Rep—Sue Stoltenberg

District 3 Conferences

Badger	Scenic Bluffs
Big Eight	Six Rivers
Capitol	South Central
Dairyland	Southwest Wisconsin
Ridge & Valley	SWAL
Rock Valley	Wisconsin Little Ten

Large School Rep—Jeff Agnew

Small School Rep—Jeff Hodgson

District 4 Conferences

Big East	Southeast
Classic Eight	Southern Lakes
Greater Metro	Trailways
Metro Classic	Wisconsin Flyway
Midwest Classic	Woodland
Milwaukee City	Faith Christian HS
North Shore	St. Anthony HS

Large School Rep—John Ruffalo

Small School Rep—Roger Schlieuwe



The twenty-four member All-District Teams will continue to be broken down in the following manner for large and small schools:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 2—Pitchers | 5—Infielders |
| 2—Catchers | 3—Outfielders |
| 12—At Large Selections (players from any position) | |

At the All-State level, a 1st and 2nd Team will be recognized for both the Large and Small Schools along with Honorable Mention selections. It is important to remember that this is a WFSCA selection process so only athletes from schools in which their coach is a member are eligible for recognition. Please make sure to nominate the deserving members of your team this year.

Annual Senior All-Star Games

by Sue Stoltenberg, Wausaukee High School Softball Coach

Each year the WFSCA hosts the Senior All Star Games. The All Star Games are one of the final events of the high school softball season. It is held annually on the Monday and Tuesday following the State Tournament at the Chula Vista Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. Monday is a day for organization, checking into the hotel, team bonding activities, and practice times. Monday evening is the All Star Banquet. This is a semi-formal event with a message for the athletes in the form of a keynote address followed by the introductions of the players. The banquet is very well received by players, coaches and their families. Tuesday is game day! All games are played at the Woodside Sports Complex which is located very near Chula Vista.

This past season, the 2016 season, we had a total of 204 Senior All Stars chosen from all 4 divisions of play. For the upcoming season we will be making room for our Division 5 All Stars.

The teams are coached by WFSCA member coaches and their assistant coaches. They, of course, coach teams from their respective division of play.

Over the past 5 years the WFSCA has given \$65,000 to Special Olympics of Wisconsin.

The player nomination process happens very early in the season. This year nominations are due on April 7th. The reason for the early nomination process and deadline is that it is a very time consuming process to get information back from the players, including biography information, fundraising money, and clothing orders. All of this needs to be taken care of in advance so that we can hold a very

memorable softball experience for the players, families and coaches.

This event is a great way for you to nominate a deserving player and for her to showcase her talents one more time at the high school level.



Another wonderful aspect of the State All Star Games is the fact that the WFSCA partners with Special Olympics of Wisconsin. Over the past 5 years the WFSCA has given \$65,000.00 to Special Olympics of Wisconsin.

The All Star Games has gotten bigger and better with each passing season. Many thanks to all of the coaches who nominate players, coach in the games, show support for individual players, and embrace the sport of fastpitch softball in our state. Our membership keeps us strong and thriving.

Best wishes for successful seasons! I hope you can all make it to the clinic, and don't forget about the April 7th date to nominate your deserving Senior players.



2017 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 25th—26th

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

SPEAKER: **Cindy Bristow**

***World-Renowned Instructor, Clinician & Author
Founder of Softball Excellence***

NFCA Hall of Famer Cindy Bristow has been involved in virtually every facet of softball throughout her 30-plus year career in the sport. She is the founder of Softball Excellence, which she created to extend the anyplace-anytime convenience of the internet to softball coaches, parents and players at all levels and across all continents.

A passionate educator who loves to share and pass on knowledge, Bristow is a popular author, clinician, speaker and television analyst, who has held many leadership positions in softball, including with the ASA, NFCA, USA Softball and the International Softball Federation.

A Coaching Tools package created specifically for the NFCA by Bristow and Softball Excellence is included in all Association high school, travel ball and youth memberships.

After her playing days, Bristow turned to coaching, holding numerous collegiate and professional softball coaching positions including an assistant coach position at Arizona State, head coach at New Mexico State, head coach at Wichita State, head coach and assistant general manager of the Georgia Pride, which later became the Florida Wahoos in the Women's Professional Softball League.

Bristow has held national and international leadership positions in softball including President of the NFCA, National Director of Junior Olympic Softball for the Amateur Softball Association, Director of National Teams and Coaching Development for USA Softball, and Director of Development for the International Softball Federation (ISF), the world governing body for the sport of softball.

A passionate educator who loves to share and pass on knowledge, Bristow has authored eight softball instructional books, produced 18 training videos, authored countless online instructional materials and articles including the seven-level Softball Excellence Coaching Certification Program. In addition, she has been a featured speaker, organizer and leader of thousands of softball clinics both in the U.S. and abroad, and has been a color analyst for ESPN's college softball coverage.

Besides her induction into the NFCA's Hall of Fame, a few of the many milestone accomplishments in her softball career include the guiding of the selection of the United States' first-ever Olympic Softball team that won a gold medal in the 1996 Olympic Games, coordination of the Greek Olympic Softball Team's creation and first-ever appearance in an Olympic Games, working with three different Olympic Softball Teams — USA, Greek and Chinese, and the leading of the Florida Wahoos to a WPSL championship, which resulted in Bristow being named WPSL Coach of the Year. In addition, Bristow has worked closely with Softball Australia to create and establish Pitching Excellence Schools, with Softball Canada to develop a Skills Development Pathway for players from Olympic level to 8-year olds. She also has traveled the world to help increase the level of softball coaching and play on a global level while working with the ISF's 125+ member countries.

As the founder of Softball Excellence, she created the anyplace-anytime convenience of the internet to softball coaches, parents, and players at all levels and across all continents. Softballexcellence.com offers on-demand softball instruction and has the largest online repository of softball drills, skills, practices, and clinics in the world. Softball Excellence is a premier "online destination for all things softball," and the first place to go for any type of softball instructional information or training aids.



2016 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 25th—26th

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

SPEAKER: Heather Compton Butler

Former UCLA Standout

Pitched with Tampa Bay Firestix & Ohion Pride

An outstanding collegiate pitcher, Compton is a 1994 graduate of UCLA where she earned a degree in political science while lettering four years for the Bruins' softball team. She led UCLA to World Series appearances in each of her four seasons and was a member of the Bruins' 1990 and 1992 national championship teams. Compton garnered first team All-American honors in 1991 and was also named to the All-College World Series team. She ranks among UCLA's career leaders in five categories, including wins (67), appearances (84), strikeouts (540), innings pitched (538.2) and ERA (0.52).



Compton also has international playing experience. She was a member of the USA National Team that earned a gold medal at the 1994 Pan American Games in Guatemala and then went on to play for league champion Pon-eke Kilbernic Softball Club in New Zealand from 1994 through 1996. She spent the summer of 1996 with the Bri-roski Junior Softball Team and posted the best record in the Italian Pro Softball League.

Compton also had tremendous success with the Ohio Pride of the WPSL. During the 2000 season, Compton compiled a 7-3 record with a 1.34 ERA. She pitched seven complete games, recorded three shutouts, pitched 68 innings and held opponents to a .150 batting average. Compton also set a WPSL record by striking out 17 batters in one game and capturing WPSL AT&T Wireless Services Pitcher of the Week honors on three occasions. She culminated her season by being named to the 2000 WPSL All-Star Team where she pitched against USA softball in Honolulu, HI.

She joined the Florida State softball staff as an assistant coach in 1999. Under her guidance, the Seminoles were reborn on the mound. The 2001 team won the NCAA ERA Title with a nation-low 0.71 team ERA. After just two seasons working with the FSU's pitchers, Compton's staff not only had the lowest team ERA since the 1993 season but their 0.71 ERA was one full run less than the average staff ERA over the past five seasons. Opponents also hit just .156 against Florida State in 2001 and it had been eight seasons since an FSU staff had an opponent batting average as low as the one posted by the 2001 squad.

2016 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 25th—26th

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

SPEAKER: Steve Kerkman

*National Speaker, Clinician & Motivator
Head Coach at Millard South
High School, in Omaha, Nebraska*

Steve Kerkman has been coaching at Millard South High School, in Omaha, Nebraska, for 15 years; over the last 12 seasons, his teams have played in the “final four” nine times finishing as state runner up in 2010, fourth place in 2015, and as state champions six times (2005, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and again this past season, 2016). Over the last six years, Millard South has gone 173-27, best of any program in the state, and maybe the nation. Coach Kerkman was a National Coach of the Year finalist in 2013 and has been Nebraska Coach of the Year three times. He is an English teacher, Language Arts Department Head, Assistant Activities Director at Millard South and also the Director of Athletic Development for the Millard United Sports Athletic Association.



As a national speaker, clinician and motivator, Kerkman strives to provide guidance to large groups, athletic associations, school districts, teachers, coaches, and athletes regarding mental strength training, leadership, and the creation and implementation of leadership development programs. He has created:

- “Brain Zone” – a Mental Strength Training program for softball athletes that complements his school’s summer training program,
- “PIT Crew” – “Patriots Inspiring Teammates” – a school-wide athletic leadership development program that includes athletes from 19 varsity sports., and
- “Be A Social Media Champion” – a district-wide program harnessing the positive effects of social media in athletics and schools

Important WIAA Updates

by Steph Hauser, WIAA Executive Staff

Following are some important WIAA updates for the upcoming season.

1. 2017 WIAA Tournament Series = 5 Divisions

As you are aware, the 2017 softball season brings a new look. The WIAA Softball Coaches' Advisory Committee, along with the WFSCA Board, worked very hard to come up with a five-division plan that they feel will benefit the sport of softball in our state. The WIAA Board of Control approved this plan. You can find the 2017 tournament groupings and State Tournament schedule posted on the WIAA webpage:

<http://www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Softball.aspx>

2. 2017 State Tournament Schedule Change

With the additional game each day of the State Tournament, there comes a heightened concern about fitting all scheduled games into the course of the day, especially when weather becomes an issue. You will see that we have made adjustments to the start times and have made some other small adjustments throughout the course of the State Tournament that will help us to be efficient. In addition, we are happy to announce that Madison College has agreed to be our alternate site. If you get the opportunity, please take a look at their newly-renovated softball facility, which I believe will serve us greatly as a beautiful alternate State Tournament venue. The address is 1701 Wright Street, Madison. As in the past, every effort will be made to play all games at Goodman, but this new facility will be an awesome back-up plan for teams and spectators!



3. 2017 State Tournament Hotel Accommodations

The WIAA Softball Coaches Advisory Committee and the WFSCA board has requested that the WIAA assign hotels to the State-qualifying teams, as is done with other sports such as volleyball and girls and boys basketball. I wanted to let you know that I have been working with Madison Area Sports Commission and am in the final stages of securing these room blocks for the 2017 State Tournament. For those that qualify for the State Tournament, your assigned hotel information will be included with all the other State Tournament information that you receive. As a former athletic director, I know how hectic it was to scramble to find hotel rooms following the Sectional Final. I hope that you and your athletic director will also appreciate this change that your coaches' association has requested.

4. Sectional Tournament Changes— Home Team, Dugouts & Hosting

Please pay close attention to the Sectional tournament information this spring as some language has changed, per WIAA Softball Coaches Advisory Committee recommendation.

<http://www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Sports/Softball/sbtournamentprocedures.pdf>

UPDATED for 2017 – the highest seeded team *in all divisions* will host through the Sectional Semi-Final games, will be designated as the Home team, and will have their choice of dugout.

UPDATED for 2017 – Sectional Final games in all divisions will continue to be played at a pre-determined site. In Division 1, the higher seeded

(continued on next page)

Important WIAA Updates *(continued)*

team will be designated as the home team **and have their choice of dugout**. In Divisions 2-5, a coin flip will determine the home team. The first team alpha will have the third base dugout.

If you are serving as a Sectional Final host in Divisions 2-5, please make sure that your athletic director is aware of this change. He/she will need to conduct the coin flip as most officials are not on site as early as the teams.

5. WIAA Rules Video

I am currently putting together the 2017 Rules Video. Consistent with last year, I will do my best to keep it to about 30 minutes. In addition to the

items mentioned above, if there are topics that you feel would be beneficial to include on this video, please send me an e-mail with your suggestions.

6. WFSCA Clinic

I hope that many of you are planning on attending the WFSCA Clinic in February. I am also hoping that my schedule will allow me to attend again. Now that I am in my second year, I am getting better at putting faces with names, and coming to the clinic helps me to get to know each of you even better. Please stop by and say "hi" when you see me there!



SAVE THE DATES!

February 25-26:	Coaches Clinic
March 13:	First Day of Softball Practice
April 7:	Deadline to Register Seniors for State All-Star Games
May 24 & 26:	D-1 Regionals
May 23, 24 & 26:	D-2, D-3 & D-4 Regionals
May 30 & June 1:	Sectionals for All Divisions
June 1:	Deadline for All District Nominations
June 8-10:	State Tournament
June 12 & 13:	Senior All Star Games, Wisconsin Dells
June 15:	Academic All State Nominations Due Coaches Awards Due
Mid-July:	Border Battle

2017