

August 2020



USA SOFTBALL OF MICHIGAN

of Michigan

Blues Across Michigan Newsletter

Umpire

Spotlight:

Linda Hoover

Tony Garza

USA Softball of Michigan Blues Across Michigan wants to recognize multiple USA Softball Umpires from the USA Softball of Michigan program every month for their accomplishments on the field in the local area, state or national championships as well as how they have given back to the game off the field.

Being recognized does not always relate to the number of national or state championships an umpire has participated in. This honor encompasses an umpire's accomplishments, both on and off the field, in their local area and district in addition to their contributions at the state or national level.

These umpires represent what being a member of the USA Softball of Michigan umpire family is all about and bring attention to the widespread and diverse umpire community in our program across the state.

For August we are recognizing Linda Hoover from District 3 and Tony Garza from District 7.





Linda Hoover

District 3

As Jack Roberts from the Michigan High School Association said, “Linda Hoover is considered by her peers as one of the elite softball umpires in this country, and she continues to share her gifts with athletes and coaches at our level while serving as an inspiration for many aspiring officials.”

Linda retired as a school teacher from Marshall public Schools in 2014 but still does substitute work. She spends spare time golfing, walking with her dog Easton, and enjoying life.

When Tony Garza is not on the field, he can usually be found at the grill helping provide meals for umpires at state or national events in Rockford. Tony, with help from his brother Ray, serve breakfast and continue to provide meals throughout the day for all of the umpires working state or national tournaments at the Art Van Complex.

Tony has been umpiring for about twelve years in the Grand Rapids area. Last year, Tony earned a chance to umpire in his third national championship in slow pitch. This year a tough decision has to be made. Should Tony be part of the crew for the Men’s D Northern National, or should we have him cook for the rest of the umpires. I think Ray wouldn’t mind doing most of the cooking if Tony decides to umpire.

The biggest thing about Tony this year is a positive step he has taken for himself. Since last year at this time, Tony has lost 100 pounds! Tony took the initiative to start exercising more, walking and/or running, along with avoiding carbs and a few other items. His dedication, will power, and hard work has paid off. He is more mobile on and off the field, and he feels so much better in everything he does. Congratulations Tony!

Linda and Tony, congratulations on being recognized as the August Blues Across Michigan featured umpires. We are proud of both of you on representing our program so well.

Tony Garza

District 7

