



Softball News

Volume 34, Number 2 | NORTH DAKOTA STATE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION | Summer 2019



State Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents "Walt Stack Umpire Excellence Award" to Pat "Rock" Healey of Grand Forks.



State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf of Bismarck with Pat "Rock" Healey of Grand Forks

Walt Stack presented with Lifetime Achievement Award

Introduction by Dick Gulmon, USA Softball North Dakota state Commissioner

"A lifetime achievement award is a prestigious award saved for the recognition of a career of significant contribution and impactful influence, a career which exceeds the requisite of high standards, achievements, leadership, respect and loyalty for the sport of softball and its participants, on the local, state and national level.

It is fitting that the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a man who, in 2019 has been part of our softball program in North Dakota for 60 years. This man registered as an ASA umpire in 1959 and worked his first state tournament in 1963. He was soon recognized for his leadership in the umpiring world and served as UIC on two occasions for almost 30 years.

He gained Charter membership status in the National Indicator Fraternity and earned Elite Umpire status. He was elected to the Northern Region Umpire in Chief and served on the National Umpire Staff for six years. He

was recognized with the Northern Region Award of Excellence and recognized for over 50 years of service as an ASA umpire. He was elected to the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1987 and has been president of the Hall of Fame Society and selection committee for the last 35 years. He served on the Executive Board for 30 years and co-founded the NDASA Softball News in 1979 and continues as its Editor today. He was involved in the first McQuade Softball tournament in 1976 and served on its Board of Directors for 30 years. He was also instrumental in bringing many National Tournaments in both fast pitch and slow pitch to North Dakota. He worked in 20 National Tournaments and served as the UIC for 13 National tournaments around the country throughout his career.

It is such an honor for me to present the first ever USA Softball of North Dakota Lifetime Achievement Award to a mentor of mine, a colleague, someone whom I have great respect for and most importantly, a special friend of mine and yours. Walt Stack



State Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents "Lifetime Achievement Award" to long time umpire Walt Stack of Bismarck.

Pat "rock" Healey named outstanding umpire

Introduction by Mike Wolf, State UIC

2019 will mark Pat (better known as Rock) Healey's 45th year as a North Dakota ASA/USA registered softball umpire. During that time, he has umpired over 3000 men's and women's softball games in League, Invitational and State Tournaments in both fast pitch and slow pitch softball. He has also umpired at eleven ASA national Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch tournaments with eight of those in fast pitch. He also umpired in men's Class A and Double A Fast Pitch Regionals and national qualifier tournaments.

Rock was the Grand Forks umpire in chief for over twenty years and also was in charge of scheduling umpires. He also has been the Deputy State UIC for the NorthEast Region serving for 20 years in that capacity. His favorite part of his job

was serving as a clinician teaching, training and mentoring umpires and watching them improve their skills from year to year. His greatest source of pride was having 22 different umpires from Grand Forks to work National Tournaments. As a Deputy UIC he was responsible for nominating local umpires to work national tournaments and the State UIC and the Tournament UIC always knew they could count on Grand Forks umpires to be trained properly and suitable to umpire the brand of softball to which they were nominated.

Rock also served as Assistant Commissioner for the Grand Forks Association for five years, was the UIC for several years for Men's Fast Pitch State Tournaments. He also umpired and scheduled many years of college and high school softball and has served as Assistant UIC or Umpire Coordinator for ASA tournaments.

Sharon Morgan receives Distinguished Service Award

Introduction by Dick Gulmon, State Softball Commissioner.

Sharon Morgan's softball career began with the Fargo/Moorhead Women's Softball League in 1960. She was elected President of the League in 1963 and began representing the league at State meetings that same year. She was instrumental in running the Red River Women's softball tournament and involved in securing the first Class A Women's National Fast Pitch tournament in 1976. Sharon's team, Sweeney Brothers played in the tournament and placed 5th.

Sharon has been a key player on committees in the Fargo market hosting both men's and women's Fast Pitch Tournaments over the years. Sharon was inducted into the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1986 and has served on the Hall of Fame Selection Committee since 1991. She is currently the Vice President of the Hall of Fame Society.



State Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents "Distinguished Service Award" to Sharon Morgan of Fargo.

Sharon's contributions to softball in North Dakota during the past 50 plus years have been significant and she has indeed been a difference maker in the quality of our program at all levels.

Bismarck's Heilman gets Distinguished Service Award

Introduction by Dick Gulmon

Sue Heilman played with a variety of women and co-ed teams, mostly recreational, from the age of 19 to 62. She was elected to the BWSSA advisory board in 1979 and has held several positions on that board from President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer to her current position of league secretary.

She assisted the Bismarck Parks and Recreation with several national tournaments doing tournament statistics. This is a critical position at National Tournaments as we select the All America teams based on statistics and need to depend on statistical quality. Sue also served on the planning committees prior to all the National tournaments hosted by Bismarck. She also assisted with statistics on at least three Nationals held in Mandan where Sue was a key volunteer. I don't believe that we held a National Tournament in Bismarck

or Mandan where she was not a key volunteer to its success. She also had the privilege of being on a team to represent Bismarck at National Softball Meetings to bid on some of the first Nationals held in North Dakota.

She currently holds the title of President of the Women's Division of North Dakota softball and serves on the State Advisory Board. Sue has been the tournament manager for the ND Women's Masters Tournament since 1999. She has assisted with the McQuade Tournament by managing the Sam McQuade Sr. softball complex in North Bismarck. She has been recently elected to the McQuade Tournament Hall of Fame. She has been a key member of our State Softball Association for many years. It takes people like Sue with a passion for the game to provide a quality program. She has been indeed a difference maker in every sense of the word.



State Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents "Distinguished Service Award" to Sue Heilman of Bismarck.



The 2019 Class of Hall of Fame Inductees poses for their picture along with certificates from the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. From left to right Jack Peterson; Royal Carlson; Mike Swanson; Don Siverson and Lyle Rader.

Five selected for Softball Hall of Fame

Another good crowd gathered at the Gladstone Hotel and Suites in downtown Jamestown to witness the addition of five new members of the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame. Just over 100 people attended including 39 current members of the Hall of Fame. The addition of this year's class moves the total membership in the shrine to 281. The event is held in conjunction with the annual Spring Meeting of the State Softball Organization which this year was held on Saturday, April 6. The new inductees included three former fast pitch players, an outstanding slow pitch player who is still active in the game and an umpire who was worked dozens of tournaments and been a registered umpire for over 40 years.

Royal Carlson who pitched in both the Tri-River league and in Fargo for a number of years and now lives in Arizona. In addition to being an active and effective pitcher, he devoted much time to the promotion of the game including volunteering to assist in obtaining and running National Tournaments hosted by Fargo. He also served both the Tri-River league

and the Fargo Fast Pitch leagues as their state representative.

Jack Peterson of Moorhead played fast pitch for several years and was a consistent sponsor of teams in the Fargo Leagues and the Tri-River League.

Lyle Rader now living in Wahpeton has been a North Dakota Registered umpire for over 40 years. Beginning his career in Minot, he had umpired at the highest level of softball, both in North Dakota and Nationally. He also serves as a Deputy Umpire in Chief for the Southeast Region of North Dakota and as Wahpeton UIC.

Don Siverson of Fargo played fast pitch in Fargo for several years and was regarded as one of the best defensive players of his time. He also was an outstanding athlete in football and basketball as well as amateur baseball.

Mike Swanson of Bismarck represents the Slow Pitch segment of our state Softball organization. His personal stats are outstanding and he has been named to All American status at several National tournaments. He continues as an active player.



State Softball Commissioner Dick Gulmon with 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee Don Siverson.



Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents Hall of Fame plaque to Royal Carlson formerly of Wolverton, Minnesota. Hall of Fame Class of 2019.



State Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents Hall of Fame plaque to Lyle Rader of Wahpeton. Hall of Fame Class of 2019.



2019 Hall of Fame Inductee Jack Peterson with Commissioner Dick Gulmon.



Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents Hall of Fame plaque to Mike Swanson of Bismarck. Hall of Fame Class of 2019.



Hall of Fame Plaques on display.



Some of the crowd attending the Hall of Fame Banquet.

President's Report

As I write this letter we are well into the softball season. Seems like it went from Winter right into Summer. Spring was pretty darn cold for the most part. I am sending out classification letters this week to league reps. Please have them back to me by July 5th. Our classification meeting will be Friday July 12th for both Masters teams and regular teams. Roster deadline is June 10th- into State Office. And the final roster change deadline is June 18th.

Other dates to remember are State 35/45 in Mandan on July 27-28. Remember you can put a roster together for all Masters State

Tournaments. We will need that roster in the State Office by July 1st. The 50/60 State Masters is also in Mandan on Aug 3-4. The following State tournaments are also on Aug 3-4- the C & D will be in Fargo, the Rec 2 East will be in Wahpeton, and the Rec 2 West will be held in Bismarck. State tourneys on Aug 10-11 will be the Rec. 1 in Mandan, the Rec 3 East in Fargo, and the Rec 3 West in Bismarck. And the State tournaments to be held on Aug 17-18 will be Masters 40 in Jamestown, the Rec 4 East in Grand Forks, and the Rec 4 West will be held in Dickinson.

Mandan will again host the Na-

tional Men's Masters 35/45 and the Women's Masters 35 on Aug 23-25. This is a very good National for our Masters teams. Mandan was again awarded the National Men's Masters 35/45 and the Women's Masters 35 for 2020. Fargo was awarded the National Men's E/Rec championship for 2020.

The B & C Nationals will both be held in Prairie Island, MN. The dates for the B are Aug 23-25th and the C will be held Aug 30- Sept. 2. The Men's D National this year will be held in Cape Girardeau, MO on Aug 30 - Sept 2. The Men's National E/Rec will be held in Topeka, KS. also on Aug 30- Sept 2.

We will be holding a State 5X5X5 again this Fall. We are going with an East and a West tournament this year. The tournament we had last Fall was very well accepted. Both tournaments will be held on Sept 14th. The East tourney will be held in Fargo and the West in Bismarck. If you are looking for a lot of at bats this is the tournament for you. Sanction fee for this tourney is \$25. So give it a try.

Here is wishing you have a fantastic season and hoping to see you around a diamond some where. God Bless.



Jack Lukes

From the Sidelines

You won't find much continuity if you choose to read this column because it's exactly what the title says, thoughts about a number of things which may or may not be of interest to you.

First some dates to remember: Winter Meeting will be held on January 17 and 18. Hall of Fame Selection Committee will meet on Saturday the 18th to select new Hall of Fame members. The Hall of Fame banquet and induction of new Hall of Fame members will be held on Saturday, April 25. Annual Spring meeting of USA Softball North Dakota will be Friday evening April 24 and wrap up Saturday morning, April 25.

While I am thinking about the 2020 Spring meeting and the Hall of Fame festivities I want to thank

all of the current Hall of Fame members who continue to support the Hall of Fame by attending the annual banquet. We have had consistent crowds of over one hundred attendees to honor the new members and catch up with friends who are already in the Hall of Fame.

Now for some bad news: Greg Kaeding has announced that he will retire as the state Secretary/Treasurer the end of this year. He has always managed to bring his own brand of humor to the job as well as being a great Secretary/Treasurer. The meetings will not be as amusing without him but we wish him the best after serving the association for 24 years.

More bad news: Oliver "Ollie" Fiddler passed away in May in Minot at the age of 85. Softball fans

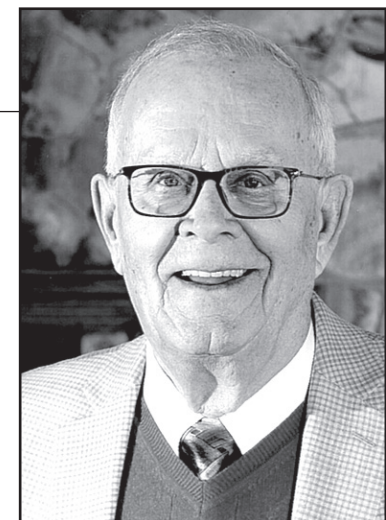
around the Midwest and Canada will remember Ollie as a premier pitcher who had the greatest change of pace pitch ever seen in these parts. His obituary is elsewhere in this issue of Softball News. He will be long remembered as the Hall of Fame pitcher he was.

Now back to some good news: Bismarck Umpire Naomi Erdahl worked the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City for the second straight year in May. In the first game of the tournament she had home plate in a contest between the two most successful college softball teams, UCLA and Arizona. She worked the entire tournament including the final game between UCLA and Oklahoma. She has also been selected to work an International Tournament in early July

which will feature the US Women's Softball Team as well as the 19 year old Women's Team and several international teams.

More good news: Commissioner Dick Gulmon handed out some special awards at the Annual Spring Banquet including Distinguished Service Awards to Sharon Morgan of Fargo and Sue Heilman of Bismarck. He also presented a Lifetime Achievement award to long time umpire Walt Stack. UIC Mike Wolf presented the Umpire Excellence Award to "Rock" Healey of Grand Forks. Stories about these awards will be found elsewhere in this issue of Softball News.

A final thought, whether or not you belong to the Softball Hall of Fame, you should try to attend the annual Banquet and induction



Walt Stack

ceremony. It is usually held on the same Saturday as the Spring Meeting so there are several Softball people around to visit with and the banquet is usually entertaining with a two meat buffet dinner and introduction of all current Hall of Fame members. Thanks and have a good season.

J.O. Fastpitch Update

To sum up the start of the High School season for 2019 is one word Cold. Most of east teams did not get on the fields until after April 15th or later. Thanks to the newly installed turf fields thru out the state, this allowed, a number of games to be played before the grass fields could be dried out. In Bismarck, over 75 softball games were played on the turf field located at Legacy High School.

To sum up both the Class A and Class B NDHSAA tournaments the word would be Drama.

In Minot, West Fargo Packers reclaimed the NDHSAA Class A title, with a hard-fought win over

the Bismarck Demons in the title game 8-6. West Fargo's pinch hitter, Jady Iverson, Pinch hitting for the number 3 batter in the order, hit a towering 2 run homer in the bottom of the 6th inning to tie the game. West Fargo plated 2 more runs in that inning and held BHS scoreless in the top of the 7th to win the game.

In the semi-final game against Bismarck Century, West Fargo trailed 2-0 going into the bottom of the 7th. Again, Jady Iverson, pinch hit with 2 outs and the tying run at 3rd base and looped a single to left center, to tie the game. West Fargo eventually, scored the winning run later in the inning to win the game

3-2. Jady Iverson was named to the all-tournament team with her 2 pinch hit performances. Pat Johnson was named coach of the year in Class A Softball.

In the Semi-Final game, BHS Freshman pitcher Logan Gronberg, hit a dramatic 2 run walk off home run, in the bottom of the 8th to defeat Valley City 8-7 in 8 innings. Gronberg was named the 2019 North Dakota Gatorade athlete of the year.

The Class B tournament, held at NDSU in Fargo, was won by the Central Cass Squirrels, defeating Kindred-Richland 6-2 to win their 2nd Class B state title in back-to-

back fashion. The semi final games were won by Central Cass scoring 2 runs in the bottom of 7th to defeat Hillsboro Central-Valley 4-3. Earlier in the tournament, opening round Hillsboro Central Valley, scored 3 runs in the top of 7th and held on for 8-7 win against Velda-Drake-Anamoose. The tying run was tagged out at 3rd base for the final out of the game.

The 12U All American Tryouts were held in Bismarck on April 28th. Eighteen girls tried out for 5 spots for the team. It was a snowy, wet, cold day so the tryout were moved inside to Sanford Sports Power complex. Taylor Falcon from Minot, Ava Jahner from Dickinson, Brielle Wrangham, Lexi Tollefson and twin sister Cali Tollefson, all from Bismarck were representatives from North Dakota. North Dakota was fortunate to have 2 coaches, Chris Falcon (Blue Team) and Kelly Wrangham (Red Team) represented North Dakota at the tournament. Each team was 1-3 in the tournament, which was played at Hall of Fame Stadium



Brian Neuhardt

complex in Oklahoma City.

Congratulations to long time umpire Lyle Rader from Wahpeton, for being elected into the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame. Lyle has been an umpire for both the High School, and the North Dakota USA Softball umpires Association. This summer, Lyle will be the Umpire in Chief, at the JO state tournament in Minot on July 12th - 14th. Next time you see him, please congratulate him on his HOF designation.

Fargo-Moorhead Hall of Fame will hold Induction Ceremonies

The Fargo/Moorhead Hall of Fame has announced it's annual induction ceremony on August 3, 2019 at the North Fargo Softball Complex. One highly competitive team which had a four year run of

successful seasons, a Sponsor and two individuals have been elected and will be introduced and inducted into the local Fargo/Moorhead Hall of Fame.

The Fargo/Moorhead Hall of

Fame is in it's fifth year of choosing players, managers, sponsors and teams from the Fargo/Moorhead area for recognition in the local Hall of Fame.

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Commissioner's Column

I just returned from the 44th annual McQuade Charity Softball Tournament held in Bismarck/Mandan. This year's event had 464 teams entered in WSP, MSP and Master's Divisions. A special event this year was a MLB Play Ball event held on Thursday at the Municipal Ballpark. The Play Ball event had activity stations for boys and girls ages 7-13 teaching the fundamentals of baseball/softball. Staff from the USA Softball National Office including Dre McKee Director of Marketing, were on hand to assist the many volunteers for the Play Ball event. Another highlight Thursday night at the stadium was the USA Patriots (formerly WWAST) who played an exhibition game against local All Star Team.

A special congratulations and thank you for all the great work by Tournament Co-Directors Jack Jones and Mike Wolf and the Tournament Board of Directors Shannon McQuade-Ely, Mike Offerdahl, Cheryl Jones, Norlyn Schmidt, Eldie Ulmer and Brooke Larson. This great team works the entire year planning the next McQuade and they do one terrific job.

McQuade Update

There is still a lot of softball going on with league and state and national tournaments even though it seems once the McQuade tournament is over, the rest of the summer flies by. Our first state tournaments start July 12th with tournaments every weekend through September 16th.

We have a national tournament in North Dakota this summer. Mandan will be hosting the Men's 35 & Over, Men's 45 & Over, and the Women's 35 & Over Masters national tournaments. We are hoping for a great turnout for these tournaments. This is another great event for master's teams to participate in a national tournament. There will be two separate divisions—an upper division and a rec division and teams will be placed into the appropriate division based on the player classifications on the roster. So, be sure to take advantage of this great opportunity!

We have several North Dakota Umpires working national tournaments once again. I have been working with UIC's from around the country to exchange umpires for national tournaments. When umpires travel to other regions of the country, it is a great opportunity to showcase their talents outside of their local areas. I have been assigned to serve as the UIC for the Men's 35 Masters National in Mandan.

We have an several umpires from North Dakota going to various national tournaments across the United States this summer! We are still working on potential assignments for other umpires as well. We will acknowledge all of the umpires who worked national tournaments in our Fall issue. Good luck to all the umpires at their national tournaments this year!

The 44th Annual Sam McQuade Charity Softball Tournament is in the books and we are hoping once again to have raised more money to distribute to local charities than we have ever raised before! 464 teams travelled to Bismarck and Mandan this year and the McQuade Board of Directors would like to once again thank everyone for their support! It was a great weekend, and everyone seemed to have a lot of fun. The crowd for Friday night events was one of the biggest we've seen in recent years.

New this year was our Play Ball event in which we partnered with Major League Baseball and held a kids camp Thursday night at Dakota Community Bank and Trust Field. The event was a success and we capped off the evening with the USA Patriots taking on a McQuade All-Star team in an exhibition game. Overall, Thursday events were a huge success,

The McQuade is also fortunate to have 1000+ dedicated volunteers and over 100 Umpires who make this event a huge success.

This past April we had a wonderful Hall of Fame Banquet in Jamestown and also had the opportunity to honor several individuals in addition to the HOF Honorees. Walt Stack was presented with the first ever, USA Softball of North Dakota Lifetime Achievement Award. Walt has been a fixture in our softball program and umpire program for over 50 years, and it was my pleasure to honor him for his dedication and commitment to USA Softball of North Dakota. We also honored Sue Heilman of Bismarck and Sharon Morgan of Fargo with the USA Softball of North Dakota Distinguished Service Award. Both Sue and Sharon have made significant contributions to our program for many years, both on the local and state level. Lastly, we honored Pat (Rock) Healy of Grand Forks with the Walt Stack Umpire Award of Excellence. Pat has led the Umpire program in Grand Forks for years as a DUIC, and is a model of excellence, and role model

and everyone enjoyed the evening.

We kicked off the tournament in fine fashion with our annual Military Appreciation night. The Military appreciation game is held to say "Thanks" to all military personnel for all the sacrifices they have made to defend our Country and our freedom! We were fortunate to have the USA Patriots Softball Team back and they kicked off the tournament by playing their first tournament game winning an exciting game in extra innings. The Military Appreciation Game Friday night featured a team of North Dakota Military personnel active and retired and they took on local first responders from the Bismarck Police Department, Burleigh County Sheriff's Department, Mandan Police Department and the Morton County Sheriff's Department. The local first responders, the Wounded Warriors, ND Hall of Fame players, the North Dakota military teams were all great ambassadors and did a great job in their respective games.

The USA Patriots were the Men's Rec 4 division champions for the first time since they have been participating in the tournament. The Patriots continue to be impressed by followers of the McQuade Tournament and they want to come back to the McQuade next year and we are working on a way to do just that. The All-United States Air Force Team also participated in this year's tournament and are hoping to be back at next year's tournament!

The McQuade Tournament held its fourth annual cancer awareness appreciation day which was capped off with the Connie Wolf Cancer Awareness Appreciation game on Saturday night.

There was a great crowd in attendance at the game with a lot of fans dressed in pink. Two women's teams, the Pure Country and Homestone Brewing both from Bismarck squared off for a very entertaining game. We received many compliments for putting on our cancer awareness appreciation game and it will be back again next year.

Everywhere we look, it seems we all know someone whose lives have been affected by cancer in some way or another. So, we continue to think that it is a good idea to honor those who are suffering from cancer, have beat cancer, or have lost their battle to cancer.

On Friday and Saturday night we held a cancer awareness ball toss to raise money for cancer patients. Volunteers worked the crowd selling baseballs for \$5.00 each and prior to the final game of the night, everyone tossed their ball towards a target in the center of the infield. The person who

got their ball the closest to the center of the target won \$1,000.00 on Friday night and the winner Saturday night won \$500. The additional money raised through our cancer awareness fundraising activities will go directly to cancer patients in the form of gift cards to help them with gas, food, and lodging expenses.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the cancer awareness days activities! Your generosity does make a big difference in people's lives! MANY thanks to all of our great volunteers for doing such a great job selling the balls for the ball toss!

All the umpires also rallied to support our cancer awareness appreciation day by wearing gray and pink shirts and hats all day Saturday. Thanks goes out to many generous sponsors who helped to purchase the shirts and hats for the umpires. The umpires looked great and they were very proud to support the cancer awareness appreciation day! Players and fans were asking umpires for their shirts throughout the day!

On Thursday night Midco Sports broadcast the two USA Patriots game live. This was the third time Midco Sports were here to broadcast games live. Midco Sports also came back Sunday to broadcast live, the Men's Open championship game. The Men's Open Championship Game did not disappoint Midco Sports or the fans in attendance! We received many positive comments about the coverage from several people who were unable to get to the diamonds to watch it on TV. Midco Sports will continue to run re-plays of all three games, so watch you local listings if you have Mid Continent Cable.

Another big highlight of the McQuade Tournament was our annual exhibition game of Special Olympic athletes. The Special Olympic athletes from Bismarck and Mandan put on quite a show for the large crowd of fans that gathered to watch them play. Watching them play puts a lot of things into perspective, especially when you see just how much fun they have, the excitement they show, and the enthusiasm of cheering for each other and not caring who wins. The Special Olympic athletes were decked out in fancy softball jerseys that were donated by Mike Loerch from Anarchy Bats and Smash It Sports. A big thank you goes out to Anarchy Bats and Smash It Sports for their generosity! It is so fun to see how proud the athletes are of the jerseys they were wearing!

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers and volunteer groups that

help make this tournament so successful! Without their help, we could not run a tournament of this magnitude. Another group I need to thank are all of the umpires who worked the McQuade tournament. I had 118 umpires this year. Whether it is a local umpire from Bismarck or Mandan, or umpires from somewhere in ND, or umpires who travel from out of state to the tournament paying their own way to get here, every umpire makes many sacrifices to help make our tournament successful. This year we had umpires from 15 different states. In addition, umpires who worked the tournament donated back game fees to the tournament and many of our local umpires donate many of or all of their games that will be used to help support the many charities that benefit from the tournament. I received many compliments on the quality of umpiring at every level. All the umpires should be proud of their efforts. Thanks again to all of the umpires for their dedication and commitment to the McQuade Tournament. We couldn't do it without you!!! I'd like to also thank all the teams, fans, and volunteers for the important roles they play in the success of our tournament. Without the combined efforts of umpires, teams, fans, and volunteers, we could not hold an event of this magnitude!! Thank You!!

The McQuade Board would like to thank USA Softball of ND Commissioner Dick Gulmon for his presence at the tournament. Dick is a great ambassador for softball and the

ment time, there are a number of great opportunities to participate in USA Softball Championship play in the Northern Region. Watertown is hosting the GFP 10U, 12U and 14U-C July 25-28, North Mankato is hosting the GFP 12U-A and 10U-B also July 25-28. Rapid City is hosting the GFP 12U-B, Rochester, Mn is hosting the 14U-B and Sioux is hosting the 18U A, all July 25-28. In Adult Slow Pitch, Mandan is hosting the Master's 35, 45 and WSP 35 August 23-25 and Prairie Island, Mn is hosting the MSP B and C National Championships.

The 2019 USA Softball Council meeting will be held in Reno Nevada November 9th - 14th. I am pleased that we will have several bids from North Dakota for the 2021 season with Fargo bidding on the Men's Major FP as well as JO Championships. Bismarck will be bidding on MSP D & E/Rec National Championships.

A special thanks to Walt Stack who continues to do a wonderful job in making this newspaper possible. Walt is a special friend to all of us in the USA Softball of North Dakota family and we are so grateful for his dedica-



Dick Gulmon

tion to our great sport. Thanks Walt.

Lastly, a special thank you also to the many sponsors and volunteers who make our softball program in North Dakota possible.

Kind regards,
Dick Gulmon

USA Softball North Dakota State Commissioner



Mike Wolf • Umpire in Chief

tournament gives him an opportunity to visit with many players, fans, and umpires throughout the course of the weekend. Other guests in attendance were Steve Riswold, Region 8 UIC and Dave Epperson, Topeka, KS, a retired regional UIC.

As always, I invite players, managers, and umpires to email me or call me about plays or situations that occur in their games. I do receive several calls and emails throughout the year which I think is great! It is great to see that players, managers, and umpires care enough to make sure they understand the rules. Keep the questions coming!!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming state tournaments. Let me know if I can be of any assistance in any way! You can contact me via email at wolfdens8993@yahoo.com or give me a call or shoot me a text on my cell at 701-400-2100. Stay safe on and off the field and have a great rest of the summer. Before we know it, the season will be over.

McQuade Wrap-up

Another successful McQuade tournament is in the books. The 44th annual softball festival featuring 456 teams, over 100 umpires and funds raised for Cancer Awareness and a host of other local charities which will share in the net proceeds of the event. The weather was "iffy" especially on Saturday morning but somehow no one got wet.

Ten men's team and five women's teams took home the glittering trophies which represent winning teams at the McQuade and often mean as much as winning a state tournament. The road to the championship games is long and tough, especially in the Recreation Divisions where as many as 100 teams vie for the top of the hill.

A total of 51 teams from out of the state competed which means almost 400 North Dakota teams support the tournament. In the five women's divisions only one out of state team claimed the first place trophy. Rec

1 first place was earned by Hurt's Donuts out of Lincoln, Nebraska. Wahpeton's Team Grind was the repeat champion in the top women's division as they won the Class C title over seven competitors with five teams from out of state entered.

The top tow divisions of men's ball were claimed by teams from California and Florida. Monsta Athletics from California won the Men's A/B Open division winning over local favorite Heartland Investors of Mandan while Russels Paint and Body won the Men's Class C Division.

Fan favorites USA Patriots own the Rec IV Division. This is the team which has played several times in the McQuade tournament as the Wounded Warriors, a team of former Servicemen who are amputees.

Finally in the Men's 50 and over Masters Division, Bower's Excavating of Mandan was a repeat champion.



Ava Jahner



Brielle Wrangham



Cali Tollefson



Taylor Falcon



Lexi Tollefson

Region eight team selected for All American Games

Fourteen girls showed up for tryouts which will determine the Region Eight team which will represent North Dakota softball at the All-American Games in Oklahoma City. All players were eligible to play in the 12 and Under Division.

The girls selected competed in several areas of softball expertise and were timed or graded in batting, fly ball fielding, throwing and speed

on the base. The event was held at the indoor facility Power which is owned and operated by Sanford Health. Morning snow and continuing rain throughout the day moved the contest to the indoor facility.

The following girls, all twelve years old were judged to the best to represent Region Eight: Tyler Falcon, Minot. Ava Jahner of Dickinson; and the following three

players from Bismarck: Cali Tollefson; Lexi Tollefson; and Brielle Wrangham.

The All American Games are held in the Hall of Fame Stadium and each team will play a minimum of four games.

We will follow up with this tournament in the fall issue with action shots.



Coach Chris Falcon



Coach Kelly Wrangham

McQuade started big and exploded

Inaugural slow pitch event drew 103 teams

By Steve Thomas
Bismarck Tribune

When the McQuade Softball Tournament took its first baby steps in the summer of 1976, founder Sam McQuade Sr. seemed to be reaching for the moon.

The inaugural McQuade event, then called the Olympia Beer-Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Tournament drew 103 teams. That was a huge number at that time in the development of North Dakota slowpitch softball.

John Greenwood, the third baseman and manager of AA champion Greenwood Plumbing and Heating of Jamestown that year, said a 100-team tournament was exceptional.

"We were never in anything bigger than that," he said. "I think (slowpitch) was just getting started in the bigger cities."

Al Breuer, who played for Bismarck Provident Life in that 1976 tournament, said a 100-team tournament seemed like an event.

"It was big back then," Breuer recalled. "Later on it got to be a big deal to play in the McQuade. Everybody looked forward to playing in it."

"It didn't take long," Breuer said. "Even teams from the east were attracted to come out here."

One of those teams from eastern North Dakota, Wahpeton Chuck's Off-Sale, made a lasting impression on Breuer.

"That was one of the best teams I've seen in the state of North Dakota," Breuer observed.

Greenwood agrees that the Wahpeton team was a real handful.

"They were a very good team ... We ran into those (Red River Valley) teams occasionally in tournaments," Greenwood recalled. "I'm sure they beat us more often than we beat them. They had a strong team."

Greenwood said Woodworth, which played in the Jamestown association, gave his team some genuine battles in league play.

"Woodworth had a really good team. Jim Clark, Larry Clark and those guys," he recalled.

Breuer played top-level softball until 1991, then took a couple of summers off to coach American Legion baseball. He then returned to softball and competed on Old Pro

teams until 2015.

He said the McQuade tournament had a special feel to it.

"It was the biggest tournament for the city of Bismarck ... I went to a lot of tournaments, but that was unique," he noted.

Since giving up the sport as a player, Breuer said he's taken in the McQuade each summer.

"I went every year. I rode my bike over," he said.

Getting to this year's tournament, which begins today, is problematic, however.

"I had an ankle replaced five months ago, so I'm learning to walk again," he said.

Greenwood said the 1976 assembly of talent might well have been the team's peak year.

"We'd started two or three years before that. That was probably the best team we had, right there ... We were together a few more years and then we merged with another team, I think it was the Eagles," he said. "Some of the guys decided they didn't want to play any more."

Among the players on that championship Greenwood were outfielders Mike Jastram, Dave Greenwood,

George Helmstetler, Dave Tompkins and Chuck Erstad. Infielders included John Greenwood, Terry Waterman and Dudley Butts. Mike Paulson caught and Loran Solheim was the pitcher.

"Mike Jastram was our big star," Greenwood said.

Greenwood said he played highly competitive softball until 1983.

"That year George, Dudley and I dropped down to a rec team for maybe a year or two a stay-in-town type of thing," he said.

Dan Baillie and Gordy Smith are among what is believed to be a quintet of players who have competed in every McQuade Tournament. Both are expected to be in action again this weekend for the 44th annual slow pitch extravaganza.

Baillie said he's never played in the upper echelons of the tournament.

"(The highest classification) was probably with the Rolling Pin in Class C, probably 25 years ago," Baillie recalled.

He's played the outfield and pitched over the years and is now catching.

"The best position is pitching,"

said Baillie, who threw a no-hitter in league play in the early 1970s.

It was a long time in coming, but Baillie got to play for a championship team.

"Three years ago we took first in the B division of the 50-and-over tournament," he said. "... We took second a couple of times a few years ago."

Once the McQuade Tournament was established, it grew by leaps and bounds. By 1979 the event had more than doubled in size to 237 teams. Entries reached 300 for the first time in 1983 when 332 teams registered. The tournament grew to 400 teams in 1989 and since has surpassed 400 twenty-four of 29 summers.

Twice, in 2012 and 2017, 457 teams crowded into the McQuade tournament. Those are the peak entry years, so far, although this year's total is again projected to hit 457.

In 2011 the tournament was cut back to 227 teams due to the Missouri River flooding that closed down several diamonds.

Eight of the 15 classifications take to the diamonds tonight. Men's A-B teams will kick things off at 7:10 at

the Clem Kelley complex. The C teams are scheduled to start at 6 p.m.

Some of the Rec III teams will play at 6 p.m. at the Mandan, Cottonwood Clem Kelley complexes.

Women's Class C,D and Rec I teams are scheduled to open up tonight. Action in the C and D divisions will get under way at 6 p.m. at the Clem Kelley complex. Rec I competition begins at the Clem Kelley and McQuade complexes at 7:10.

After a busy day on Saturday, a heavy schedule of championship games will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday when the women's D finalists will square off for the title at the Clem Kelley complex.

The Originals

McQuade Tournament Champions, 1976

Class AA: Jamestown Greenwood Plumbing and Heating 6, Bismarck Dakota National Bank 0 (7 teams)

Class A-B: Robinson 10, Han-nover 3 (32 teams)

Class C: Mandan Elks 6, Minot Farmers Union 5 (32 teams)

Classes D-E-F: Bismarck Froeschle Construction 14, Dickinson Ready Mix 8 (32 teams)



Scott Huffman (0) celebrates with Mandan Heartland Investors teammates after scoring a run in the fourth innings of Sunday's A-B-Open championship game at the McQuade Softball Tournament Blaine Horsager (3) clubbed two of Heartland Investors' nine home runs.

Dave Selvig Photos, Bismarck Tribune



New USA Softball bat certification marks

The new bat certification marks shown above were initially approved for us in the 2020 season. Since that time, the decision was made to allow bats with the marks to be used on the field in 2019.

However, that change was not made until after this year's rule books went to print. Therefore, despite being legal, these marks will not appear in this year's rule book.

Clarification of North Dakota ejection rule

BY MIKE WOLF,
State Umpire in Chief

Apparently, there is a little confusion on the state rule governing ejection from a game: Here is the way it is supposed to work, if a person plays Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and gets thrown out on Monday night, the player can play with his team from Tuesday night and also Wednesday night. The player could also play in a weekend tournament with his/her Tuesday night or Wednesday night team.

The ejection is to be served for the team the player was playing with when he/she got tossed out. So a player who is ejected from a

game on Monday night he/she must sit out the balance of the game in which he/she was tossed out and cannot play for the Monday night team again until they serve a two game suspension either in tournament or in next week's League Games.

Finally, if a player is ejected, he/she cannot play again until he/she serves a two game suspension. The player may not be picked for tournament play until the suspension is served.

Jack Jones has clarified the playing rules which will govern the men's and women's masters tournaments which will be held in Mandan August 23 to 25.

5x5x5 Playing Rules

ROSTER: Each game features 3 teams with rosters of 5 to 10 players

BATTING ORDER: A team may bat as many players as are on their roster. However, any player who bats must play defense as well. In other words, there is no EH position in 5x5x5 play.

GAMEPLAY: Each game is scheduled for 5 innings. There is no run rule.

Unless a predetermined order is provided, a coin toss, card draw, or similar procedure will be used to determine in which order the teams will bat in the game.

One team starts the inning with the 4 outfielders and the pitcher. Another starts with the 4 infielders and the catcher. The third team bats. **EXCEPTION:** Instead of utilizing 4 outfielders, a team may choose to have 3 outfielders and the middle infielder (as part of a 5-man infield with another team's 4 infielders). However, that player may not play any other infield position during that "one-third inning" than middle infield.

Teams rotate each inning from OF/P to IF/C, IF/C to batting, and batting to OF/P.

COURTESY RUNNER: A courtesy runner is allowed for one batter each inning and may run for the batter each time he reaches base in that inning.

If a runner is on base when his time at bat comes up, the team will not be penalized. The runner will take his turn at bat, the player who made the last out moves to the occupied base furthest from home plate, and each other runner will move up to the next occupied base.

HOME RUN RULE: Following

are the home run rules for each division of play. Excess home runs are outs.

- Tier 1 (D & above) = 4 per game
- Tier 2 (Rec 1-2) = 2 per game
- Tier 3 (Rec 3-4) = 1 per game

TOURNAMENT FORMAT: In pool play, the team that scores the most runs is awarded 2 wins. The team that scores the second most runs receives 1 win. Ties will stand in pool play and the appropriate points divided amongst the teams that tied. Therefore...

- If the top 2 teams tie, they both receive 1 1/2 wins.
- If the bottom 2 teams tie, they both receive 1/2 win.
- If all 3 teams tie, they each receive 1 win.

TIEBREAKERS: In pool play, ties in the standings will be broken as follows...

1. Head-to-head record
2. Outright wins (games in which the team was awarded 2 points)
3. Runs scored
4. Coin Toss/card draw

In an advancing bracket and/or championship game, "one tie, all tie" applies, meaning all teams will advance to extra innings if the top 2 teams (or all 3 teams) are tied at the end of 5 innings. Each team will have a chance to win in extra innings, even if a team was trailing at the beginning of the inning. The same rule applies in each extra inning and the game continues until an innings ends with one team having outscored both their opponents.

NOTICE JO PLAYERS AND FANS

The USA Softball of North Dakota held its state tournament in Minot the weekend of July 12, 13 and 14. Unfortunately that made the results too late to make the deadline for the Summer issue of this paper. Results of the tournament Divisions plus scores and photos will be printed in the Fall issue of Softball News

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USA Softball of North Dakota 2019 State Tournament Schedule & Entry Fee

MEN'S SLOW PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
Open	August 2-4, 2019	Fargo
Class C	August 3-4, 2019	Fargo
Class D	August 3-4, 2019	Fargo
Rec 1	August 10-11, 2019	Mandan
Rec 2 East	August 3-4, 2019	Wahpeton
Rec 2 West	August 3-4, 2019	Bismarck
Rec 3 East	August 10-11, 2019	Fargo
Rec 3 West	August 10-11, 2019	Bismarck
Rec 4 East	August 17-18, 2019	Grand Forks
Rec 4 West	August 17-18, 2019	Dickinson
Masters 35	July 27-28, 2019	Mandan
Masters 40	August 17-18, 2019	Jamestown
Masters 45 (new in 2019)	July 27-28, 2019	Mandan
Masters 50	August 3-4, 2019	Mandan
Masters 50 Wood Bat	August 3-4, 2019	Mandan
Masters 60	August 3-4, 2019	Mandan
5x5x5 East	September 14-15, 2019	Fargo
5x5x5 West	September 14-15, 2019	Bismarck
WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
Class C	August 10-11, 2019	Jamestown
Class D	July 27-28, 2019	Bismarck
Rec 1	August 10-11, 2019	Jamestown
Rec 2	July 27-28, 2019	Bismarck
Rec 3 East	August 10-11, 2019	Grand Forks
Rec 3 West	August 3-4, 2019	Minot
Masters 30	August 17-18, 2019	Bismarck
COED SLOW PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
All Divisions	September 7-8, 2019	Grand Forks
J.O. FAST PITCH	DATES	LOCATION
10 & Under, A & B Divisions	July 12-14, 2019	Minot
12 & Under, A & B Divisions	July 12-14, 2019	Minot
14 & Under, A & B Divisions	July 12-14, 2019	Minot
16 & Under A Division	July 12-14, 2019	Minot
18 & Under, A & B Divisions	July 12-14, 2019	Minot

2019 State Tournament Entry Fees

CLASSIFICATION	FREE
Junior Olympics Fast Pitch	\$225
MSP - Open, C & D	\$225
MSP & WSP - Masters, Rec, 5x5x5	\$175
WSP - Class C & D	\$200
Coed	\$150

MSP (excluding 5x5x5) & WSP (excluding Masters) entries submitted after July 18, 2019 must add a \$25 late fee



West Fargo Packers 2019. Back Row: Coach Andrew Potter, Coach Zach Page, Grace Fleming, Sophie Ochocki, Jady Iverson, Emma Johnson, Alyssa Aafor, Macy Weible, Courtney Boll, Mariah Peters, Morgan Bents, Coach Anthony Myer, Coach Pat Johnsona. FrontRow: Mara Lick, Kenley Mahnke, Kaylee Lyter, Brooklyn Myrvik, Mikayla Johnson, Lauren Diemert, Tori Nicholas-Kraft, mgr Bailey Bleeker, Ashlyn Diemert, Abby Carlson

High School Girls Fast Pitch Softball *Class A division*

The West Fargo Packers came from behind in their semi-final game with Bismarck Century and did it again in the Championship game with Bismarck High School.

The Packers began their quest for yet another state softball title beat-

ing Minot in their opener 20 to 13 before meeting a talented Bismarck Century team which had beaten the other West Fargo team, Sheyenne in their opening game. In the Semi-final against Century, the Packers were down 2 to 0 before rallying to

score three runs in their last at bat to move into the championship game where they faced Bismarck High for the title. Bismarck had played a tough Semi-Final game against a surprising Valley City team which Bismarck won on an eighth inning homerun by Freshman Phenom Logan Gronberg who was the winning pitcher.

In the title match, Bismarck held a 6 to 3 lead before West Fargo rallied to win 8 to 6, overcoming four errors along the way. The title

was the 9th in 10 tries for the Pack since the North Dakota High School Activities Association began sanctioning girl's High School Softball.

West Fargo Packer Head Coach Pat Johnson was named the coach of the year. The All tournament team included Maddie Steckler, Logan Gronberg and Lakyn Stork all of Bismarck High; Maddy Zander and Malee Wittenberg of Century; Jacie Rostad of Minot; Taya Hopfauf of Dickinson; Grace Scherr

and Hailey Schaefer of Valley City; and Mariah Peters, Courtney Boll and Jady Iverson all of the West Fargo Packers.

Umpires assigned by the High School Activities Association included:

Tanner Johnson of Grand Forks; Don Doyle of Grand Forks; Tom Lawson of Minot; Mark Sandman of Fargo, Benjamin Burkemeyer of Bismarck and Ryan Gellner of West Fargo.

The Last Call

Hall of Fame umpire dies in Arizona

Glenn Meyer was 86

Word has been received of the death of long time Fargo umpire Glenn Meyer. He began his softball career as a player but after a couple of years turning to umpiring. He continued umpiring for over 20 years in both the Tri-River League and the Fargo Men's Fast Pitch League serving as league umpire in chief for Tri-River for ten years and as league umpire in chief for the Fargo Fast Pitch league for fourteen years.

Glenn also worked a number of invitational tournaments around the area including Jamestown, Devils Lake, West Fargo and Grand Forks. He also was a regular in the annual Red River tournaments for both women and men. He was also proud to be selected to umpire the Class A Women's Fast Pitch National in Fargo 1976. In addition to his umpiring duties, Glenn also served



as a volunteer to raise funds for various tournaments in the Fargo/Moorhead area.

Glenn will be remembered as a friendly person who was well liked by players and was cited as an umpire who was always in control of the games he worked. He was elected to the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1933.

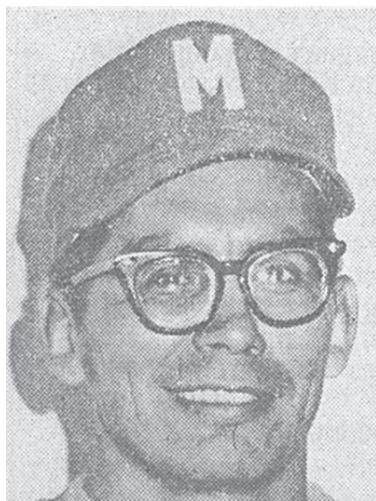
Pitching legend "Ollie" Fiddler dies at 85

Hall of Fame Pitcher Oliver "Ollie" Fiddler of Minot passed away in that city on May 9, 2019 at the age of 85.

A legend in his own time, Fiddler was born in Canada and began playing fast pitch softball at the age of 8. At the age of 14 he was pitching in the highest levels of Canadian softball. He and his teammates won numerous Canadian provincial championships before he moved his talents to Minot where he continued to excel on the mound. His teams won four state tournament titles, 1968, 1969, 1979 and 1984 plus a second place finish in 1970.

Players and spectators alike marveled at his change of pace pitch which was his specialty. He was named the pitcher of the decade of the 1970's and elected to the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1986. Ollie played in 15 regional tournaments including several with teams which picked him up for those tournaments. He played for 39 years, eighteen of which were in North Dakota.

His pitching prowess included 42 No Hit games and 400 one



hit games. He had a total of 1530 games pitched and won along with 400 losses in his long career. In addition to his pitching exploits Ollie was a solid hitter with power in his early years. He played first base and short stop when he wasn't on the pitching rubber.

Ollie was proud of the fact that he played several years with his son Gary who is also in the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame.

2019 USA Softball of North Dakota Slow Pitch teams to be moved up

Men's Teams

To Men's A

- Heartland Investors, Mandan (Class B National, 1st place)

To Men's B

- 3X Gear/The Box/Edge Fitness/Sports Cards 4U, Fargo (MN Class C, 2nd place)

To Men's C

- Dickson Law/VUE Community Credit Union, Bismarck (Class D, 1st place)

- First Class Mortgage/Joe Blacks/ACCU, Grand Forks (Class D National, 7th place)

To Men's D

- Driftwood/OSPTI, Wahpeton (Rec 1, 1st place)

- Burgess Detailing, Minot (Rec 1, 2nd place)

- JB Brothers, Minot (Rec 1, 3rd place; McQuades Rec 1, 1st place)

- Proz/Horizon Financial, Devils Lake (Rec 1, 4th place)

- Shotgun Sally's/Abrams Farm Service, Grand Forks (Rec 1, 5th place)

- Homesteaders, Minot (Rec 1, 5th place)

To Men's Rec 1

- Chubb's Pub #2, Fargo (Rec 2 East, 1st place)

- Vance Thompson Vision/Gross Construct, West Fargo (Rec 2 East, 2nd place)

- Speedway 805 Busch Pounders, Grand Forks (Rec 2 East, 3rd place)

- Thunder Road/Bar 9/Dan's

To Women's C

- Ground Round/Daydreams/JUC/Southgate, Grand Forks (Class D, 1st place)

- Moritz Sport & Marine, Bismarck (McQuades C, 2nd place)

- Walzak/Executive Limo, Bismarck (McQuades D, 1st place)

To Women's D

- Corral Bar/Ultimate Exteriors, Bismarck (Rec 1, 1st place)

- Buffalo Wing & Rings, Bis-

Service Center, West Fargo (Rec 2 East, Consolation Champion)

- Northern Trucking/Fog'em, Minot (Rec 2 West, 1st Place)

- Lucky Strike/Farmers Union Insurance, Minot (Rec 2 West, 2nd place)

- Sportman's Bar, Minot (Rec 2 West, 3rd place)

- Dakota Mini Storage, Mandan (McQuades Rec 2, 1st place)

- Lang's Lawn Care/Zimmerman Manufacturing, Bismarck (McQuades Rec 2, 2nd place)

- Dakota Mini Storage, Bismarck (Rec 1 challenge, 2 wins)

- DGM Young Guns, Minot (Rec 1 challenge, 2 wins)

To Men's Rec 2

- Patriot Homes, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 1st place)

- Gentzkow Trucking, Lisbon (Rec 3 West, 2nd place; McQuades Rec 3, 2nd place)

- Carrington (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)

- Drill Chem, Minot (Rec 3 West, 4th place)

- Skeel's Electric, Mandan (Rec 3 West, Consolation Champion)

- Sports Page/Colonial Lounge, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Consolation Runner-up)

- Farmer's Union Insurance/Anarchy Bat Company, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Roughrider Champion)

- Direct Ag, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Pioneer Champion)

- Bonzer's/D&R Rollers, Grand

- mark (Rec 1, 2nd place)

- Bud Light Babes, Williston (McQuades Rec 1, 1st place)

To Women's Rec 1

- Plains Women, Minot (Rec 2, 1st place)

- Joe Black's/Deek's, Grand Forks (Rec 2, 2nd place)

To Women's Rec 2

- Speedway Women, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East, 1st place)

- KC Knights, Jamestown (Rec

Forks (Rec 3 East, 1st place)

- Bar 9, Fargo (Rec 3 East, 2nd place)

- Devil Dog Brewing/Johnson Auto, West Fargo (Rec 3 East, 3rd place)

- R&R Contracting, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East, 4th place)

- Hope, Rural Class (Rec 3 East, Consolation Champion)

- Rugby Eagles (McQuades Rec 3, 1st place; Rec 2 West challenge, 2 wins)

To Men's Rec 3

- MGH, Mandan (Rec 4 West, 1st place)

- Logo Magic/B&K Electric/Winn Construction, Dickinson (Rec 4 West, 2nd place)

- Midwest Sports/Paragon Products/Cottingham, Bismarck (Rec 4 West, 3rd place)

- Badlands Environmental Consultants, Bismarck (McQuades Rec 4, 1st place)

- VFW/Thirsty's, Devils Lake (Rec 3 East challenge, 2 wins)

- Tire One/Valvoline, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East challenge, 2 wins)

- Paul's Electric/Birchem Livestock, Wahpeton (Rec 3 East challenge, 3 wins)

- Eide Ford, Mandan (Rec 3 West challenge, 2 wins)

- New Vision Security, Mandan (Rec 3 West challenge, 2 wins)

- 3 East, 2nd place)

- Mertz, Sheyenne Valley (Rec 3 East, 3rd place)

- Salter Farms, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 1st place)

- Sniper Ag/ Tap In Tavern, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)

- Ty's Lodge/DLYA, Devils Lake (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)

- Shady's Softball, Jamestown (McQuades Rec 3, 2nd place)

All teams moved up will have to petition to have their classification lowered. Only under extreme circumstances will that request be approved. Requests must be sent through the league commissioner or representative to Jack Lukes or Amy Anderson for final determination.

Bismarck hosts National Umpire School

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 26, 27 and 28 the Bismarck Softball Association Umpires hosted a National Umpire School which drew just over 100 umpires for the three day event. If April seems a bit early for running umpire drills outdoors, you were probably right. The weather was not very hospitable but fortunately an indoor facility was available which provided the classroom needs plus a roomy gymnasium for running drills.

State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf of Bismarck along with Bismarck umpires Elliott Gerhardt, Terry O'Clair, Alan Ziemann and Tim Kilber made the arrangements for the facilities and all the other details which are involved in hosting this National event. Four members of the National Umpire Staff conducted the clinic in both indoor classrooms and outside diamonds. They were Larry Montgomery from Tupelo, Mississippi, John Wright from Olympia, Washington, Steve Roscia from Lyman, Maine and Region 8 Umpire in Chief Steve Riswold from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Topics covered included Umpire Mechanics, Game Control, Obstruction and Interfer-



Instructors at National Umpire School pose with State U1C Mike Wolf and State Commissioner Dick Gulmon from left to right, John Wright, Steve Roscia, Wolf, Gulmon, Steve Riswold and Larry Montgomery.

ence and communicating with your partner on the field. A South Dakota vendor was available during the entire three days of the event and had the latest in umpire dress and equipment available for sale.

This is one of the last of the National Schools to be held and it appeared that our turnout of just over 100 students was the largest in the country for 2019. Thanks and Congratuations to Mike Wolf and his deputies and everyone else who helped make it a success.



State U1C Mike Wolf addresses the early arrivals at National Umpire School.



Teaching staff at National School pose with Arkansas umpire who traveled the farthest to attend the school.



One of the few umpire drills we got in before being snowed out and had to retreat to the gym.



A room full of umpires who attended the National Umpire School in Bismarck.

DICKINSON
Parks & Recreation 2019

Softball Tournaments

Get your registration in early to guarantee your spot

"Miller Lite"
softball tournament
Saturday & Sunday
July 13 -14
Men's division are C-D, R1-R2, R3, R4 \$160
Women's Division are R1-R2, R3 \$140
3 Game guarantee

"Last Chance" softball tournament
Sunday, August 25
Men's R3-R4 \$140
Women's R2-R3 \$140
3 Game guarantee

Entry fees must accompany the entry registration forms.

Entry forms are available on the DPR website:
dickinsonparks.org

*Dickinson Parks & Recreation
Endless possibilities...*

*All tournaments will be held at Gress Softball Complex (455 8th Ave SW)

(701) 495-0025

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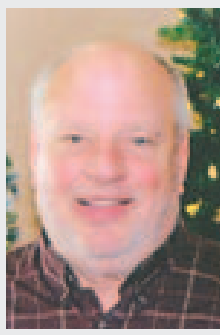
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1307 4th Ave E
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Kaeding announcing retirement

Greg Kaeding, Secretary/Treasurer of the State Softball Association for the past 24 years has announced his retirement from that position effective 2020. Interested individuals may send a letter of introduction or resume to Greg Kaeding 2813 N 10th Street, Fargo, North Dakota 58102 or PDF file to kaedinggreg@juno.com by September 1st, 2019.



Highlights of his long career in softball will be detailed in the fall issue of the paper.

National Tournament Information

Men's Masters 35 & 45 • Women's Masters 35

Dates: August 23-25, 2019

Men's Masters 35 - Two divisions

Recreational Division - Maximum two Class D players, NO players classified above D.

Competitive Division - Maximum two Class A or B players, NO RPL players.

Men's 45 and Women's 35 - Open Rosters

Players will be allowed to play both 35 & 45 if age qualified. In the event of scheduling conflicts, players could choose which team to play on.

Entry fee: \$450; check made out to Mandan Softball

Roster & Entry deadline: Monday, August 12

\$50 discount if paid by August 2.

Send roster & entry fee to: Jack Jones, P.O. Box 683, Mandan ND, 58554

Format:

9 teams or less - Pool play (2 games), seed into double elimination.

10 teams or more - double elimination with 3 games guarantee.

Tournament draw: Monday, August 19 (Noon)

Pre-tournament Tailgate Party: Thursday, August 22 / Mandan Softball Complex 5-10 p.m.

Additional info contact: Jack Jones 701-426-8700,
Jack Jones.softball@gmail.com

Last year's USA Softball Equipment Committee review

Listed below is the yearly summary of activities conducted by the softball equipment committee during 2019. North Dakota State Commissioner Dick Gulmon is the chairman of this important committee.

This past year the Equipment Committee, Dr. Lloyd Smith and the WSU lab have spent time on bat & ball compliance, as well as working with manufacturers in advance to make sure new designs and products meet our basic requirements of Rule 3 Section 1A.

We completed the development of a process to identify and establish a USA Softball Composite Non-Linear Bat Protocol. We worked with the WSU Lab and manufacturers to develop, document, and implement a new procedure to determine the Compression threshold for all nonlinear bats. We continue to work with manufacturers who seek an exemption to the barrel compression passing criterion.

It appears the 52/300 technology has been successful with the 11" ball and we realized the same benefits of a significant reduction in the Impact Severity Index and the reduction in injuries when a ball strikes a player.

USA Softball has invested in a new product called Flight Scope. This product replaces the Trackman Radar device to assist equipment testing in the certification of bats and ball. We feel the Flight Scope product will give us real time data on many aspects, and will provide the committee with game condition information which is vital to make decisions on bats and balls, such as batted ball speed, swing speed, flight of the ball and much more.

Flight Scope information will be immediately available versus having to calculate the data from the field which can be a time consuming exercise. By increasing our understanding of how equipment performs and impacts our game, we will be able to better quantify how rule changes affect play. This will

allow us to make decisions about softballs, bats, and the effects of temperature on equipment. Added value to the Flight Scope will be a great training tool for the USA Softball program. This device will record pitch speed and location, for immediate feedback for umpires while calling pitches at a training camp. We will realize a valued relationship between the Equipment Testing and Certification Committee and the Umpire program, making the USA Softball program even stronger.

Dr. Smith and his lab continue to work on a number of projects in the lab such as producing a Non-Linear Bat Video for the USA Softball web site. Some of the other projects worked on by Dr. Smith is the continuation of the Reaction Time field study which measures player reaction under game conditions. Information from this study will be valuable in making equipment decisions in the future. Reaction Time goals include, measuring acceptable risk, player perception of a batted ball, formulation of response time, and the determination of an average acceptable reaction time.

The lab continues research regarding rolled bat identification using non-destructive methods. A bat durability cannon has been designed and is nearly complete. This system will allow us to impact bats at speeds and quantities representative of play on the field. If the results of this research is successful, this work will allow a comparison between rolled and used bats in a laboratory setting.

The lab is also studying Ball Aerodynamics. Dr. Smith has developed and refined a dedicated station to measure ball drag and lift in free flight, closely simulating play conditions. The goal in this study is to understand the features of a stitched ball that contributes to its lift and drag.

The lab has also started a process to study head protection and has

an active program to compare and assess head protection strategies. The work primarily considers the effect of helmet design on head acceleration and brain response, but also includes ball-head impact simulations. Head-ball impact simulations represent a unique ability of the lab, given their history in developing accurate, validated ball models.

The Equipment Committee also worked with Executive Director Craig Cress to develop a new design for our certification marks by incorporating our old mark and our new USA Softball name.

This past year we shared a very positive Long Range Planning survey taken at the 2017 Council meeting regarding equipment changes implemented the past few years.

It is also extremely important that we continue to work with our manufacturing partners as we collectively search for new ideas to improve equipment for the game of softball.

In 2019 the Equipment Committee plans will be to continue studying reaction time, bat and ball compliance, field study with Flight Scope, and continued lab projects and initiatives under way.

We appreciate the good work of Dr. Lloyd Smith and his lab at WSU. We recognize and thank the members of the Equipment Committee, Kevin Ryan, Rich Cress, Craig Cress and the entire USA Softball staff for their assistance this past year. As in the past, it is the duty of the Equipment Committee to make the very best decisions possible for the game of softball. We continue to base those decisions regarding bat and ball combinations and other related equipment, on the scientific data we collect in an effort to uphold the integrity of the game of softball.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Gulmon
Chairman, Equipment Testing and Certification Committee

National council to meet in Sparks-Reno, Nevada

The 88th annual meeting of the USA Softball National Council will be held from November 9 through November 15 at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada. The Council is comprised of about 300 voting members from all aspects of the sport. The National Council which consists of USA Commissioners, Commissioners Emeritus, Executive Director Emeritus, Council Members Emeritus, Regional Player Representatives, At Large Player

Reps, JO Commissioners, Regional UIC's, Allied Members, Elite Athletic Reps and Past Presidents is responsible for making decisions on legislative changes, rule changes and is solely responsible for awarding National Championships to host cities across the country.

The 2020 Council meeting has been scheduled for the Shreveport Downtown Hotel in Shreveport, La. From November 7 through 13, 2020.

Bismarck building eight new fields

Bismarck is building eight new fields four dedicated to JO fast pitch four for adult softball.

On Tuesday, April 23 the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District broke ground on eight new softball diamonds at the Cottonwood Complex on South 12th street. Four of the new fields will be strictly fast pitch and will provide a home field for the JO teams now playing in the Capital city. The other four diamonds will be slow pitch diamonds for the general use of adult teams in the city.

The new fields represent a \$4.3 million dollars with 119 donors contributing \$1.8 million, 42% of the project cost with the District Parks and Recreation District responsible

for the project balance.

The four youth fast pitch complex will include:

Four covered dugouts
Scoreboards
Pressbox and grandstand seating for 252

Two lighted fields
Concession, restroom and ticketing booth

Additional Parking plus green space for warm-up and practice.

The new fields will expand the Cottonwood Complex to 208 acres with 12 softball fields already in use plus Haaland Field, a baseball field with lights and a batting cage, press box, ticket booth and scoreboard which is a youth baseball facility.

USA Softball of North Dakota 2019 Suspension/ Probation List

Player	Violation/Penalty
Dominic Pardino Jr. Fargo	Unsportsmanlike Conduct Suspended Indefinitely/ two years probation follows reinstatement
Mike Albrecht Jamestown	Unsportsmanlike Conduct Suspended indefinitely. Can request reinstatement Jan. 1, 2017; must be approved by the Jamestown Softball Association.
Paul Williams Bismarck	Unsportsmanlike Conduct Probation through the 2019 season
Trey Erickson Bismarck	Unsportsmanlike Conduct Probation through the 2019 season
Erik Barnick Bismarck	Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Physical Violence Suspended through the 2019 season. Can request reinstatement January 1, 2020; three years of probation follows reinstatement.
Rhombus Guys/Precision Plumbing/AMP Fargo	Commission of Fraud/Illegal Participation Team probation through the 2019 season

State Tournament No-Show without Notification Entire team probation through 2019

Kelly's Bar / Joe Black's (Chiefs), Grand Forks - Men's Slow Pitch Rec 3 East
General Equipment, Fargo - Men's Slow Pitch Rec 4 East
Enterprise Sales, Valley City - Coed

PROBATION: Player with no-show probation starts the 2019 season with 1 violation.

The first ejection from a game would be a two (2) game suspension.

The second ejection from a game would be season ending suspension.

**DO BUCKLE
DON'T BOOZE**

USA Softball of North Dakota - Spring Meeting

President Jack Lukes called the meeting to order at 9:02am.
State Commissioner Dick Gulmon gave a summary of 2018 season.

General Information

Mandan and Fargo received James Ferrell Award for national tournaments they ran in 2018.
Jack Jones and Brian Neuhardt received 5 year awards from USA Softball.
USA Softball of North Dakota was awarded best website 2018 from USA Softball.
2019 National Council meeting is November 9-14 in Reno, NV.
Classification meeting – July 12.
National Umpire school – Bismarck, April 26-27.
Roster deadline June 10, 2019. After June 10 there will be a \$25 late fee.
Roster final change deadline is June 18, 2019.
League registration deadline is June 3, 2019. After June 3, please contact Greg Kaeding, Secretary/Treasurer.
2019 – Mandan to host MSP Master 35 & 45 and WSP Master 35 National Tournament.
Men Masters rosters due by July 1, 2019.

National USA Softball Tournaments

USA Softball National Tournaments in Northern Region 2019

- GFP 10U C, 12U C, 14 U C – Watertown, SD 7/25-28
- GFP 12 U A, 10 U B, North Mankato, MN 7/25-28
- GFP 12 U B, Rapid City, SD 7/25-28
- GFP 14U B, Rochester, MN 7/25-28
- MSP 18U A, Sioux Falls, SD 7/25-28
- MSP Masters 35, 45 & WSP 35, Mandan, ND 8/23-25
- MSP B National Championship-Prairie Island, MN 8/23-25
- MSP C National Championship-Prairie Island, MN 8/30-9/2

USA Softball Northern Territory Championships – 2019

- GFP 14U A, Independence Twp, MI 7/25-28
- GFP 16U A, Nevada IA 7/23-28
- GFP 16U B, Bloomington, IN 7/25-28
- GFP 18U B, Emporia, KS 7/25-28
- MSP D Cape Girardeau, MO 8/30-9/2
- MSP E/Rec Topeka, KS 8/30-9/2
- Coed C & D Columbia, MO 8/23-25

Northern Region

- Scott Gagnon Mpls Commissioner – Regional Director
- Steve Riswold, SD Regional UIC
- Northern Region VP/USA Softball Board of Directors – Dick Gulmon.
- Region JO Rep Tom Bye, MN
- At Large Player Rep Brad Leonhard.

Morning Reports

Dick Gulmon – 2018 national meeting, code changes, equipment report, team insurances and 2020 bat certification.

Mike Peterson – Player classification.

Roger Weigel – Tournaments

Mike Wolf – McQuade, MLB playball and playing rule changes.

Chris Hutton – COED and Wounded Warrior name change.

Greg Kaeding – Information handouts, bats, guidebook updates and pick-up player form.

Scott Brahos – Tournament series.

Break-out for MSP, WSP and Umpires.

Afternoon Reports

Director of Operations – R C Courtright.

MSP - Roger Weigel.

Umpire – Mike Wolf.

WSP – DaLee Wilkerson

Scott Brahos elected state Vice President.

Outstanding door prizes donated by, Mike Wolf, BWSSA/Sue Heilman, CSI Computers GFS/Chris Hutton, JWSA,

Chastity Schafer, Barb Schmidt, Dacotah Bank, Dick Gulmon, Greg Kaeding, Jack Lukes, Tom Shaw, Fargo USA

Softball, Mike Peterson, Coaches Choice, USA Softball BOD and Fargo Class D National Tournament.

Executive Meeting

MSC – Approve 2018 Financials and 2019 Budget. Motion Mr Krueger, second Mr Wolf.

Amy Anderson and Mike Peterson – re-elected to Board of Directors.

Men's Slowpitch open state tournament dates August 2, 3, 4.

Greg Kaeding, Secretary/Treasurer of 24 years, is going to retire in 2020. Interested individuals please send a letter of introduction or resume to Greg Kaeding 2813 N 10th St, Fargo, ND 58102, or PDF file to kaedinggreg@juno.com, by Sept 1, 2019. Interview committee consists of Mr Gulmon, Mr Kaeding, Mr Lukes and MS Anderson. Interviews will be conducted in the fourth quarter of 2019. Respectfully submitted, Greg Kaeding, Secretary Treasurer

WOMEN'S SLOW PITCH

Reported by DaLee Wilkerson

These are the recommendations from WSP group to the Executive Committee

- Change rule for Masters.
- Discussed Rosters.
- Classification portal.
- Discussed League Rep.
- State tournaments – moved a few.
- Age limit – 15 on the roster – needs to be in Green Book.
- Naomi – update data base.
- McQuade's – Home run contest – women's.

Elections

President – Sue Heilman

Vice President – Naomi Dell

Secretary – DaLee Wilkerson

Task Force Volunteers

Naomi, DaLee, Amy, Sue Chastity

COED

Reported by Chris Hutton

These are the recommendations from COED group to the Executive Committee

COED State Tournaments

State 2020 will be in Grand Forks

Looking at 2020 having East and West.

Any locations willing to host in 2020 West?

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS MINUTES

Annual Meeting | April 7, 2019

Thanks to all who have helped us earn the USA Softball Best Website award in 2018. So many have contributed and we are immensely grateful. We are proud to be the current standard by which all of USA Softball's league websites are measured and hope to raise the bar even further going forward. On that note, we are pleased to announce some of the improvements & new features that have been added to the site this offseason.

A number of new pages have been added, specifically regarding our participation in the Junior Olympic AllAmerican Games, national awards & honors bestowed upon our umpires, national championship teams from North Dakota, and a history of national tournaments that we have hosted. We also introduced portals this offseason, predominantly as they relate to our largest meetings. In addition to utilizing online registration and providing information, documents, & forms specific to those meetings, it will allow us to limit access to those portals. This will be especially helpful in regards to the classification meeting.

There are no changes to rosters this year. We continue to strongly encourage leagues to discard old roster forms and ensure their teams are using the current roster form, ideally with the information printed rather than handwritten. We want to commend the league reps who continue to improve upon reducing the number of incomplete or illegal rosters that reach the State Office.

Some roster issues remain. One-time tournament rosters are official rosters with registration fees paid

to the national association. That means those teams - like all state rosters - have liability insurance coverage. We are receiving some one-time rosters missing all addresses, all signatures, or both. Please ensure they are completed as thoroughly as possible since they are unable to be corrected after the fact. Regarding general roster issues,

please do not put a classification on a league only roster. Also, when submitting roster change forms, please have a separate form for each team. Finally, local league reps are not to sign any national tournament forms. The "local association" referred to on those documents is our state association. As such, all national tournament forms must go through the State Office.

We encourage leagues to submit any tournament information to the State Office for addition to our website - specifically flyers & websites. If your tournament does not have a website, but you would like to have one, a page can be added directly to the state site and editing rights can be assigned to the tournament director and/or other necessary individuals. If your tournament doesn't have a name, you're encouraged to name it - give it an identity.

We would like to welcome our newest league rep, Watford City's Wade Messner.

RC Courtright, Director of Operations

2019 UMPIRE MEETING—State Meeting

Submitted By—Michael Wolf—State Umpire-In-Chief

All of the District Umpire-in-Chiefs from around the state along with State UIC Michael Wolf met on March 16, 2019 for their annual meeting to prepare for the upcoming season

Mandan will be hosting the Men's 35 & Over, 45 & Over, and Women's 35 & Over Masters National Tournament in 2019 and we are once again hoping for a good turnout of teams! We will start by assigning between 21 umpires from around the state, region, and country for this tournament.

We have worked out several umpire exchanges with other states around the country that will afford the opportunity to send our umpires out of state in return for umpires from another state to work in our nationals. The umpire exchange program we've developed is paying dividends to our umpire program.

We are in the process of assigning umpires to the following tournaments: Men's and Women's Masters in Mandan, Girls FP in Rochester, MN, Girls FP in Mankato, MN, Girls Fastpitch JO Cup in SC, Girls Gold USA Fastpitch in Plano, Texas. Girl's JP Slowpitch in Sioux Falls, SD, USA 14U A Fastpitch in CA. Look for a complete list of assigned umpires in the summer edition of the Softball News' Umpire registration fees for the 2019 season will remain at \$55.00. In addition to classroom rules clinics, our DUIC's have been conducting field clinics as part of the umpire training process. Field clinics have become a very valuable tool in the umpire training process and are currently being held in several cities throughout the state. These clinics have proved to be very successful in the past and are a great learning tool for umpires. The clinics also a great tool for players and managers to see the demonstration on the ten and six foot pitching arc.

We continue to remind umpires about the change in the jewelry rule. We've gone from a zero-jewelry policy to adopting the national ASA rule which says that jewelry will be removed if deemed dangerous by the umpire. So, the small religious medal chains would now be legal. However, earrings with posts, nose rings, lip rings and rubber wrist bands should still be removed or taped down. Break away choker necklaces would be OK. But

remember. Even though the jewelry rule has been relaxed somewhat, if an umpire deems something dangerous, players still have to tape it or take it off.

If you need to contact a deputy umpire in chief in your area of the state, or to contact the state UIC, be sure and check out the NDASA website at www.usasoftballnd.org and click on the umpire tab to find contact information for all DUIC's and the state UIC.

We will continue to do background checks on all umpires in the state. The fees to conduct the background checks are paid for by the umpires in their state registration fees. The background check program has been successful and it lends a lot of credibility to our umpire program.

Through their registration fees, umpires are automatically covered under the insurance program offered by USA Softball. The benefits for umpires are many in the event an unfortunate situation occurs. Umpires are instructed at clinics not to work any non-sanctioned USA events. It is equally important for all leagues in ND to only use USA registered umpires to work their league games and tournaments.

USA provides liability insurance for leagues in the event a situation occurs where a lawsuit is brought against the league for a variety of unfortunate circumstances that could occur. However, if you are not using USA registered umpires and an incident occurs in which a lawsuit is brought, **your league will not be protected by the USA insurance plan.** Can your league afford that? The answer is no! It is not worth taking the chance by not using sanctioned USA umpires in your league games and tournaments.

If you have any questions concerning this, would like more information, or to get umpires registered, please contact the state UIC, Mike Wolf at 701-400-2100, or via email at: wolfden8993@yahoo.com

Congratulations are in order for umpire Lyle Rader from Wahpeton. Lyle was recently elected into the USA Softball of North Dakota Hall of Fame. Lyle joins a small group of umpires who have been elected to the hall of fame. Lyle has had a prestigious career in umpiring at the local and state level, several national tournaments as an umpire, he has served as a UIC at national tournaments, and has served as a Deputy UIC in the Wahpeton area for several years. Lyle also serves as the direct UIC liaison for the JO fastpitch program in ND. Lyle is a great ambassador for softball in ND and is respected by players, coaches, and his umpire peers, not only locally, but around the country. Congratulations Lyle!!

Congratulations to Pat "Rock Healey for being selected to receive the Walt Stack Umpire Excellence Award this year. Rock was a long-time umpire who worked several national tournaments. Rock also served as a Deputy UIC in Grand Forks for several years. Rock retired from softball last summer and we would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication to the umpiring program in ND. Rock will be presented his award at the Hall of Fame banquet in Jamestown April 6th.

State UIC Michael Wolf along with DUIC's Elliott Gerhardt, Chris Coleman, Allan Ziemann, and Lyle Rader attended the bi-annual UIC Conference in Oklahoma City in February. There were several excellent workshops and training opportunities that we will be able to bring back and incorporate into our umpire training program. It is also a great networking opportunity to work out umpire exchanges at national tournaments and also to help recruit new umpires to the McQuade Tournament. All of us have developed many friendships and contacts over the years which makes it a lot easier to work out umpire exchanges.

We are excited to announce that Bismarck has been awarded to host a USA Softball National Umpire School in 2019! Less than eight of these schools are hosted around the country each spring. This will be a great training opportunity for umpires throughout North Dakota as well as umpires from around the country who can also attend. Umpires will be trained by some of the best national regional UIC's from around the country as well as state UIC's and DUIC's in the region. The school is scheduled for April 26-28, 2019 at St. Mary's Grade School in Bismarck. A portion of the state umpire fund has been allocated to help reduce the cost for ND umpires to attend the national school.

The school will run from Friday night through Sunday afternoon. The school will consist of classroom instruction and on field training drills. It is a great opportunity for umpires to improve their umpiring skills, not only for national tournaments, but more importantly improving umpire skills for local league games and local tournaments. As of April 6th, over 70 umpires have registered to attend the national school from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, Missouri, Nebraska, and Arkansas.

MEN'S SLOW PITCH

Reported by Roger Weigel

These are the recommendations from Men's Slow Pitch group to the Executive Committee

Teams winning three games at National tournaments must stay that level the following year.

Tournament series – receiving good positive feedback.

Rules and guidelines have been evolving over years.

Prize package – sponsored by Monsta bats & Coaches Choice apparel.

Task force meets after season ends. Great opportunity to bring topics for discussion.

Open state tournament will be advertised same weekend as "C-D" state. Final decision on format and if holding at classification meeting.

Discussion on state pick-up player rule. Rule is working and increases participation.

5x5x5 state tournament.

Scheduled earlier this year and East and West.

Tier 1 is D and above with max 3 "B" players

Tier 2 is Rec 1 and below.

Classification policy committee

Mr Gulmon will appoint committee

Bring recommendations to winter meeting.

Election

Secretary – Roger Weigel

President – Reino Fleck

N.D. State & Inv. Tournament Instructions to all MSP & WSP Team Managers

Teams may start with nine (9) players. The tenth position in the batting order will be an automatic out each time that position comes to bat. The tenth player may enter the game at any time that they show up.

Team Forfeit: Teams that forfeit as a result of other than ineligible players or acts of suspension under **Article 305 (A)** of the USA Softball Code, shall be allowed to continue in the

tournament unless the forfeit was their eliminating loss. All Forfeits count as team loss.

Uniform Rule: Follow USA Softball Rule book. Class B/C must wear complete uniform. D & below matching shirts with numbers. Shorts must be like in color for B/C. B/C- Caps and visors

may be mixed in color as long as they are the color of the team uniform and **worn properly.**
Run Ahead Rule: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, 10 after 5 innings. A/B - 20 after 4 innings & 15 after 5 innings.

Courtesy Runner: One courtesy runner per inning. (All Divisions of play) **Coed** – Gender specific.

Pitching: 1-1 Count, no courtesy foul.

Bats: USA Softball approved bats only. **State Tournaments-** mandatory compression testing at

Men's Rec 1 and higher. Random testing in all other divisions.

Line Up Cards: Line up cards required listing names of all starters and substitutes.

No Metal Spikes.

Jewelry Rule: Follow USA Softball Jewelry Rule.

Protests: All protests must be settled immediately. No protests on judgment calls.

Game Time: Game time is forfeit time.

State Tmt. Pickup Rule: Teams may pick-up a maximum of 2 players not to exceed 12 total players. Pick-ups must come from same classification or below from **ND Tournament Rosters**

only. State Pick-up form must be signed by league rep or state official and submitted to Tournament Director prior to first game. Pick-up players must wear their own uniform of highest classified team they are picked up from. **(No pickups from League only rosters)**

No artificial noise makers (boom boxes, music boxes, etc. while game is in progress.

Penalty

Ejection.

HR's Do Not Run Bases

MSP HR Rules A-Open 10 HR – Excess out

B – 6 HR –Excess out

C – 4 HR –Excess out

D – 3 HR –Excess out

Rec 1 & 2 – 2 HR – Excess out

Rec 3 - 1 HR – Excess out

Rec 4 - 0 HR –Excess out

Invitational Tmt Pickup Rule -3 Pickup players allowed with maximum of 12 players.

USA Softball of North Dakota Tournament eligible rostered players only. Must wear uniform of

highest rated team. **See Sec VII, 3.2 of USA Softball of North Dakota Guide Book** for further

information on pickup rule or USA Softball of North Dakota web site. **(No pickup players can**

come from League only Rosters)

HR Masters 35 – Div 1 - 4-HR – Excess out

35 –Div II – 2 HR – Excess out

35- Div III – 1 HR – Excess out

40 – Div 1 – 4 HR – Excess out

40 – Div II – 2 HR –Excess out

Co-Ed: C –Div I - 4 HR –Excess out

D –Div 2,3,4, --2 HR –Excess out

WSP: Open - Unlimited

C – 4 HR – Excess out

D – 3 HR –Excess out

Rec 1 – 2 HR Excess out

Rec II – 2 HR Excess out

Rec III –1 HR Excess out

State Tmt. Time Limit - **WSP** – 75 Minute time limit on all games.

MSP – 75 Minute time limit on all (Rec III & Rec IV) games

No inning shall start after 75 minutes has elapsed. Exception-Championship Game

Game Rules: No alcoholic beverages or smoking on benches or in playing area during a teams

game. No Alcohol Consumption by team personnel during games. **Auto Ejection.**

Check the board for possible changes in game times and diamonds.

Rosters: Teams must carry their roster and Player carry ID's. Roster checks will be done.

National Tournament Misc. Jack Lukes C) 680-0408 H) 683-4466 jack.lukes@doosan.com

Amy Anderson C) 799-0772 hasnamer7@outlook.com

National Tournament: State Office – Rosters-Pick up forms – Entry Fees

State Officials: Dick Gulmon C) 490-0078, Lake) 845-3268, H) 845-4332 W) 845-2712

Jack Lukes C) 680-0408 H)683-4466 –

Mike Wolf C) 400-2100 – Greg Kaeding C) 799-8042

Amy Anderson C) 799-0772

RC Courtright. Director of Operations C) 952-4448, StateOffice@USASoftballIND.com

Enforcement of all rules are the responsibility of the Tournament Director & UIC

VIII. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

2. State Tournaments

2.1 Umpire remuneration and team entry fees for the state tournaments will be set by the Executive Committee

2.2 State Tournament entry fees

a) The state entry fees for the state tournaments (all classifications of Men's and Women's Slow Pitch) are due at or before the State Classification Meeting with a six-day grace period following the State Classification Meeting to allow teams to drop out of the State Tournaments.

Classification	State Tournament Fee
MSP - Open, B, C & D	\$225
MSP & WSP - Masters/Rec/5x5x5	\$175
WSP Class C & D	\$200
Coed	\$150
Junior Olympics Fast Pitch	\$225
Junior Olympics Slow Pitch	\$125

b) Any team that cancels out of a State Tournament once the pairing sheets have been released will forfeit their entry fee. Exception: After the pairings have been sent out, any team canceling will receive fifty per cent of their entry fee back if their position can be filled. If not, they will forfeit one hundred percent of the entry fee. Teams that drop out of state tournaments prior to release of pairings and for which no replacement is found will also forfeit their entry.

c) Teams withdrawing from state tournaments must go through their League Reps who will then report to the State Tournament Coordinator.

2.2 All teams playing in State Tournaments must adhere to the USASND Uniform Dress Code.

2.3 Coaches and managers in coaches boxes (1st base and 3rd base) must have like colored shirts as the team or wear a shirt carrying the team designation

2.4 Players and coaches may not wear the logo of any other softball association on Uniforms. USA Softball Rule.

2.5 Awards for the state tournament places will be furnished by USAND.

2.6 Championship patches will be awarded to the State tournament winners. If the state championship team is disqualified for any reason after the tournament, the spot will be left open and the championship trophy and patches will not be presented to another team.

2.7 Rain out policy for state tournaments

- If a team plays no games, it receives a full refund;
- If a team plays one game, it receives a 50% refund;
- If a team plays at least 2 games, it receives no refund.

3. Divisions

3.1 Men's Slow Pitch

a) All Slow Pitch Class Rec II, III, and IV State Tournaments are two-day tournaments with a 3-game guarantee.

b) State tournaments will employ two (2) umpires in Open, B, C & D. One umpire will be used in non-advancing tournaments except in the championship game.

c) The Rec II, III, and IV divisions will be split into Eastern and Western

State Tournaments.

d) Teams advancing to national play must qualify through a double elimination tournament without modification.

e) Home run rule for State and Invitational Tournaments:

Open/A - 10; B - 6; C - 4; D - 3; Rec I and II - 2; Rec III - 1 and Rec IV - zero (0); Masters 35/40, Division 1 - 4; Masters 35/40, Division II - 2; Masters 35, Division I - 1; Masters 50/60 - 3. Additional homeruns will be classified as outs. In tournaments of more than one class, the homerun rule applying to the highest classification will be used.

This would be in effect only on diamond distances of 275' or more.

Inside-the-park homeruns do not count.

f) In Men's Rec III and IV and all Women's Slow Pitch, there will be a 75 minute time limit.

g) Class B will go to the B national tournament; C to C; D to D. Rec teams to E/Rec.

h) Teams may pick-up a maximum of 2 players not to exceed 12 total players. Pick-ups must come from same classification or below. State Pick-up Form must be signed by league rep or state official and submitted to Tournament Director prior to first game. Pick-up players must wear their own uniform of highest classified team they are picked up from.

IX. MASTERS

1. General

1.1 Masters 35 must turn 35 during calendar year to be eligible.

Masters 40 must turn 40 during calendar year.

Masters 45 must turn 45 during calendar year.

Masters 50 must turn 50 during calendar year.

Masters 60 must turn 60 during calendar year.

(Exception: Masters 60 teams may have three players age 58 or 59)

1.2 All teams must be classified for play in regular Invitational Tournaments. Example: C/D/Rec I etc.

1.3 Masters teams may play in regular invitational tournaments. Pickup players need not be Masters players. All regular pickup rules apply.

2. Masters Invitationals

2.1 Pickup Players must meet age qualification of tournament.

2.2 Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USAND rosters (no player solely on a "league only" roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player). Cannot be a higher classification than the highest classified team in tournament.

2.3 All other USAND invitational pickup rules apply.

2.4 Masters 50/60 players may play both Masters 50 and 60 if age qualified, even if on same day. Masters 50/60 players may also play in ONE additional classification of play, even if on same day or weekend. Example: Masters 50 player could play Masters 50 and Masters 35, OR Masters 50 and Rec 3, etc., Includes both invitational and state tournaments.

3. State Tournaments

3.1 Make-up teams are allowed for Masters State Tournaments. Out-of-state teams will be permitted to play in North Dakota Men's Masters state tournament with approval of both commissioners.

3.2 Make-up team rosters are due by July 1. Masters 35/40 sanction fee \$75. Masters 45/50/60 sanction fee \$20.

3.3 On make-up teams all players in Masters 35/40 must be USAND rostered players (for classifications purposes).

3.4 Masters 45/50/60 players must only meet age qualifications.

3.5 Masters 35/40 Pickup Players.

a) May pickup 2 players, maximum 12 players total, including pickups.

b) Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USAND rosters (no player solely on a "league only" roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player).

c) Must meet age requirements.

d) Masters 35

Div I - Pickups may be any class

Div II - Pickups must be Rec 1 or lower

Div II - Must be Rec 3 or lower.

Masters 40

Div I - Pickups may be any class

Div II - Must be Rec 3 or lower.

3.6 Masters 45/60/60 Pickup Players

a) Maximum pickup 3 players, maximum 20 players, including pickups

b) Pickup players must be on tournament-eligible USAND rosters (no player solely on a "league only" roster is eligible to participate as a pickup player).

c) Must meet age requirements, can by any classification.

d) In Masters 60, pickup players cannot be 58 or 59.

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USA Softball of North Dakota Contact List

<p>Jack Lukes Master State Tourney (MSP); National Championships (MSP); National Tourney Entries (MSP); Reclassifications (WSP); Final Classifications (MSP); State Tourney Entry Fees (MSP) 614 Rose St, Lisbon, ND 58504 (H & F) 701-683-4466 (C) 701-680-0408</p>	<p>Roger Weigel Invitational TourneyRequests & Results; State Tourney Pairings/ Dropouts (Adult) 3701 Del Rio Drive Bismarck, ND 58503 (H) 701-258-0011 (W) 701-328-4403 (C) 701-471-3307 rogerweigel@bis.midco.net</p>	<p>Scott Brahos Slow Pitch Task Force (MSP) 805 Diane's Court Mandan, ND 58554 (H) 701-667-9296 (W) 959-299-2426 (C) 701-425-9444 brahoss@aetna.com</p>	<p>Brian Neuhardt Junior Olympics 4115 Normandy Street Bismarck, ND 58503 (W) 701-663-8401 (C) 701-425-2354 brian.neuhardt@securiand.com</p>	<p>Greg Kaeding Registration & Fees 2813 10th Street N Fargo, ND 58102 (H) 701-280-2200 (C) 701-799-8042 kaedinggreg@juno.com</p>
<p>Susan Heilman Masters State Tourney (WSP) 710 N 18th St Bismarck, ND 58501 (C) 701-426-4687 bwssa@live.com</p>	<p>Amy Anderson National Championship (WSP); National Tourney Entries (WSP); Slow Pitch Task Force (WSP); Reclassifications (WSP); Eligibility (WSP); Final Classifications (WSP); State Tourney Entry Fees (WSP) 1226 4th Ave E West Fargo, ND 58078 (C) 701-799-0772 (W) 701-893-2639 hasnamer7@outlook.com</p>	<p>Craig Good Master Committee PO Box 566 LaMoure, ND 58458 (H) 701-883-5079 (W) 701-883-5232 (C) 701-793-8458 (FP 701-883-5078 cgood77@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Walt Stack "The Softball News" 105 Country Club Dr Bismarck, ND 58501 stackwalt@midco.net</p>	<p>Dick Gulmon Eligibility (MSP) Ejections & Suspensions; Violations & Hearing; 883 Chautauqua Boulevard Valley City, ND 58072 (H) 701-845-4332 (W) 701-845-2712 (C) 701-490-0078 (F) 701-845-0781</p>
<p>State Office State Tourney Financial State-ments, etc; Fall Registrations; Rosters; Rosters Changes PO Box 2155 Jamestown, ND 58402 (C) 701-952-4448 stateoffice@USASoftballIND.com</p>	<p>Michael Wolf Umpires 1926 Billings Dr Bismarck, ND 58504 (C) 701-400-2100 wolfdn8993@yahoo.com</p>	<p>RC Courtright Web Site PO Box 2155 Jamestown, ND 58402 (C) 701-952-4448 (C) 701-658-9337 StateOffice@USASoftballIND.com</p>	<p>Mike Peterson Player Classifications (MSP) 4113 Arthur Dr Fargo, ND 58104 (C) 701-238-7384 mikepeterson23@hotmail.com</p>	

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3.7 Out-of-state teams will be permitted to play in North Dakota Men's Masters state tournament with approval of both commissioners.

4. Classifications Guidelines

- 4.1 Masters 35 - Three divisions of play.
Div I - Any player though players C & above are limited to per roster
Div II - No players D or above allowed
Div III - No players above Rec 2
- 4.2 Masters 40 - Two Divisions
Div I - Any players though players C & above are limited to 5 per roster
Div II - No players D or above allowed
- 4.3 Masters 45/50/60 - Any player meeting age requirements, regardless of classification.
- 4.4 The top 10% of finishers in Divisions 2 & 3 will be moved up to at least the next highest division the following season.

These are only guidelines; Masters Committee has discretion to move any team to a higher division, regardless of player classifications on rosters. Masters Committee determines classifications, divisions of play and tournament format.

5. Playing rules

- 5.1 Masters 35/40/45
- a)

Home Run Limit	
Men's Masters 35 Div I	4
Men's Masters 35 Div II	2
Men's Masters 35 Div III	1
Men's Masters 40 Div I	4
Men's Masters 40 Div II	2
Men's Masters 45	3
Women's Masters (all divisions)	4

- b) Do not run bases on home runs.
- c) Batter starts with 1-1 count
- d) Arc limit 6"-10"
- e) One courtesy runner per inning
- f) MASTERS 40 ONLY ... Teams may score a maximum number of 5 runs per inning except for the 7th inning, the last inning of a time limit game or any extra inning. The only run ahead will be 20 runs after 4 inning.

All other USASND/USA Softball playing rule in effect.

5.2 PLAYING RULES FOR MASTERS 50+ USASND STATE TOURNAMENTS

- 1) Teams have the option to bat all players in the opening line-up. Teams managers must inform umpires at pre-game conference how many players will be in battling order. Teams have the option to make substitutions, pinch-hit, etc., per USA Softball rules, if substitute players are available. USA Softball re-entry rules and shorthanded rules also apply. When batting everyone, in the event of an ejection, an out is declared each time the ejected players spot in the batting order is scheduled to hit. Should a player leave the game due to injury, the FIRST TIME the injured player is scheduled to bat, an out will be declared. Thereafter, the spot in the order will be skipped without penalty. The injured player may not return for the remainder of the game.
- 2) Unlimited courtesy runners. The same player cannot be used as a courtesy runner more than one time per inning. A courtesy runner may not be replaced by another courtesy runner or pinch-runner. If a courtesy runner's turn a bat, he is removed from the base, an out is declared and the player takes his turn at bat. A courtesy runner may be replaced due to injury, however, the injured player may not return for the remainder of the game. If batting everyone, the injured player's next at bat is an out, per rule #1.
- 3) No sliding or diving by base runners. Any base runners sliding or diving will be called out. What constitutes a slide or dive on a particular play shall be at the judgement of the umpire.
- 4) Runners must avoid contact with fielders. In the event of contact, the runner shall be called out. Exception: Should a throw take a defensive player into the path of the base runner, no out will be declared. This is

- judgement call by the umpire.
- 5) Base runners may run either inside or outside but within three feet of second or third base to avoid contact with a fielder. The base runners shall be called safe if he crosses the parallel plane of the base prior to the fielder catching the ball and touching the base. The base belongs to the fielder. A path three feet inside or outside the base belongs to the base runner, to avoid contact. The baserunner's foot must be on the ground to be called safe.
- 6) Base runners may overrun second or third bases. If overrunning a base, the runner must return to touch that base, prior to advancing to the next base. This is an appeal play, similar to missing a base.
- 7) All defensive plays are force-outs. A defensive player may step on the base or tag the base runner, expect at home plate. At home plate the defensive player must possess the ball and touch home plate prior to the runner crossing the scoring line. A defensive player cannot tag a runner on a play at home.
- 8) The base runner must use the scoring line. Any base runner touching home plate or entering the right handed batter's box shall be called out. This is not an appeal play; the umpire makes this call when it occurs.
- 9) The scoring line shall be an extension of the first baseline, beginning at the back corner of the right handed batter's box.
- 10) A commitment line shall be drawn on the third baseline, halfway between third base and home plate. If a base runner passes the commitment line he may not return to third base.
- 11) Wood bats must be constructed completely of wood. No composite or metal handles, no composite wood. The barrel of the bat may not exceed 2.25 inches in diameter. Metal bats must be single wall only. What constitutes a single wall bat will be determined by the USA Softball bat list.
- 12) Home run rule 3 per game. Bases will not be run on over the fence homeruns.
- 13) Extra Innings: The USA Softball tie-breaker rule will be used for extra-inning games. The last player to bat in the previous inning will be placed on second base at the beginning of all extra innings. A courtesy runner may not be used in the instance.
- 14) Pitchers box: Two lines will be extended from the ends of the pitching rubber, backward 6" toward 2nd base. The pitcher may release the pitch from any distance, as long as at least one foot is in contact with the rubber or inside the pitching box.
- 15) If a team begins the game with 9 players, they will NOT be required to take an out in the 10th spot in the batting order. A 10th player may be added at any time.
- 16) Per USA Softball Senior rules, the pitching arc will be 6' to 12'.
- 17) Hitters begin with 0-0 count.
- 18) At all USASND Masters 50 State Tournaments, the host city is required to have available at the softball complex, an automated electronic defibrillator.
- 19) Teams may score a maximum number of 5 runs per inning except for the 7th inning, the last inning, of a time limit game or any extra inning. The only run ahead will be 20 runs after 4 innings.

6. Women's Masters

- 6.1 Must be 30 or older during calendar year.
- 6.2 Rosters must be submitted to tournament committee 15 days prior to tournament.
- 6.3 Players can be rostered on an existing USASND women's league-only or coed team or may be a non-rosterd bonafide ND resident.
- 6.4 Classifications may be done using the following pointy system.

League-only, Coed only, or non-rostered ND resident	5 pts
Class C	5 pts
Class D	4 pts
Rec 1	3 pts
Rec 2	2 pts
Rec 3	1 pt

- 6.5 Additional rules may be set by the Executive Committee.