**DUGOUT CHATTER – Dec. 2018**

By: Rick Zollner – Pipestone Area

President MSHSBCA

Once again the John Wilkens fall clinic was well attended and our association had a very successful HOF Awards Banquet. A sincere thank you to John Wilkens and his family for their continual work to make this event run so smoothly. A special thanks to Paul Twenge who once again brought in a terrific group of clinicians. A huge shout out to all the vendors and their support and to our host the Delta Hotels by Marriott. If you know a coach deserving recognition check out all our awards and make a nomination. You can find all this past year’s award winners at our website [www.mshsbca.org](http://www.mshsbca.org).

The MSHSBCA wants to recognize the 2018 HOF inductees: Rob Fornasiere, Mike Louden, John Madsen, Ray Ross, Randy Schaub, Jeff Tanner, and Tyrone Wacker. Thank you gentlemen for your time and service to the game of baseball and giving your all to your players!

The 2019 baseball season is less than 100 days from opening, but the convention and clinic season is hitting on all gears. The BCA clinic in St. Louis, MO, runs from November 30 thru December 2. The 75th ABCA clinic in Dallas, TX, runs from January 3-6, 2019. If you are looking for something closer the St. Olaf clinic will be on January 26, 2019. Coach McDonald has a tremendous group of clinicians lined up for this event! Please check the [www.mshsbca.org](http://www.mshsbca.org) website for more information on that date as well as other possible clinics.

There are no major rule changes to high school baseball for the 2019 season. The MSHSL Coaches Clipboard opens March 11 and closes on March 27th. Have all your coaches complete this. All pertinent rule changes will be listed there. Also, please update your roster and schedule before your first game. The arm care/conditioning week is March 11-15. Regular baseball practice starts March 18th and first games can take place on March 28th.

The high school baseball tournament will again be held at the same sites as last year with the finals being at Target Field. With that said, there will be some date changes. Class A, AA, AAA will play on June 13-14. Due to a St. Paul Saints game at CHS Field class AAAA will play June 14-15. The biggest change will be the championship games being played on Thursday, June 20 at Target Field (the Twins have a home series earlier in the week).

The Play Ball! MN All-Star Series also has a date change. The six team tournament will be played on June 28-29 at the beautiful Chaska ballfield. Selection Sunday will again be hosted by the Minnesota Twins at Target Field on May 19th. Sadly the Twins are out of town that day. We thank the Twins for their continued support of high school baseball. Thanks also to our other GOLD sponsors Cambria and BIG Athletics. Due to their generosity, our association has been able to make some major donations to many worthy organizations such as: The Miracle League, ALS, Stand-Up to Cancer, Coaches for Coaches, MDA, and scholarships to graduating high school baseball players. Thank you Don Gawreluk (now Past-President) for all the time and effort you put towards making the series a wonderful experience for players and families! You can check all time lines for the Series and scholarship information at [www.mshsbca.org](http://www.mshsbca.org).

If you have not joined the MSHSCA it’s not too late. There are many benefits to joining like liability coverage and being able to nominate your players for post season awards. The Twins again will be offering tickets to their games but you must belong to the association to receive this benefit. To help promote our sport and players nominate them to the Breakdown Sports magazine. Coaches should have received emails about picture days around the state of Minnesota. So get your players signed up! Continue to visit our website as it is updated frequently, and follow us on Twitter @MSHSBCA. A huge shout out to Todd Smrekar for running such a wonderful website! If you have games or scrimmages you are looking to fill or new records for the list, keep sending them to tlarson@hickorytech.net. Thanks Tink, for all of your work! I want to thank Alan Amdahl, past president, for his service and leadership! Alan helped the association accomplish many great things over the past eight years. Please welcome Dean Schwirtz from Glencoe-Silver Lake as he begins his service on the board. He was elected via online voting this fall. If you are a new coach, do not hesitate to reach out to local coaches for help and guidance. Also, if you have questions, ideas, or concerns please contact me at: Rick.Zollner@pas.k12.mn.us “Remember seven days without baseball makes one weak!”