



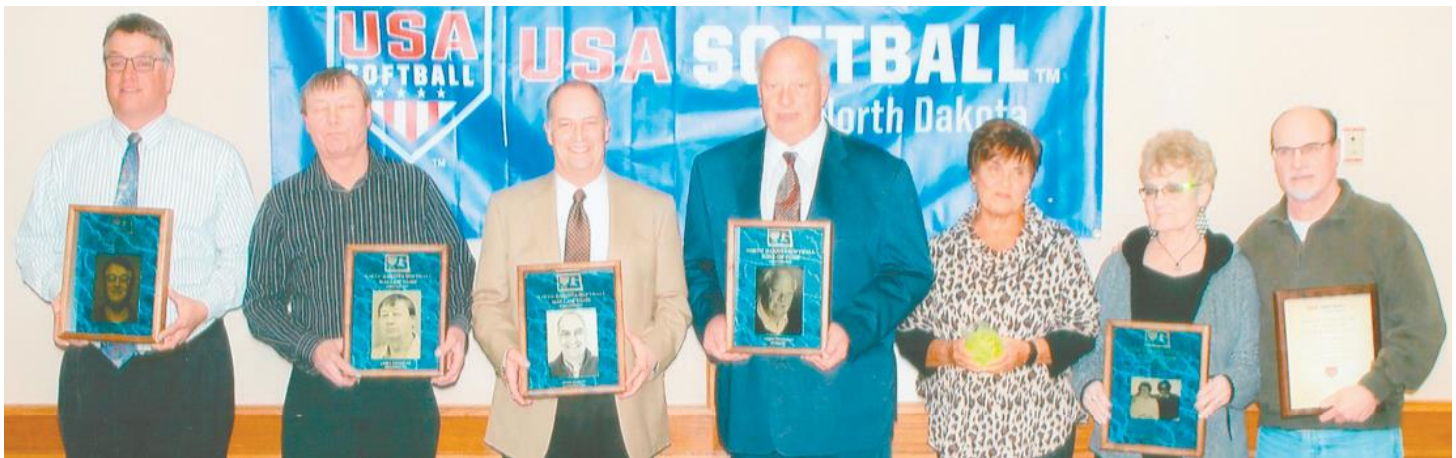
Softball News

Volume 33, Number 3 | NORTH DAKOTA STATE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION | Summer 2018

Another successful Hall of Fame event

Six new members inducted at banquet

Another record crowd gathered at the Gladstone Inn in Jamestown the evening of Saturday, April 7 for the annual Hall of Fame banquet which this year welcomed six new members to the Shrine bringing the total to 277. Approximately 130 persons attended including this year's inductees and 31 current Hall of Fame members who were individually introduced prior to the banquet. This year's inductees include; Dennis Bense, Curt Kraehler, Tom Harty, Greg Kaeding and Chuck and Marge Oberg who were inducted posthumously.



All the 2018 Hall of Fame inductees line up with their Hall of Fame plaques. From left to right, Dennis Bense, Curt Kraehler, Tom Harty, Greg Kaeding and the daughters and son of Marge and Chuck Oberg who accepted for their parents who are deceased.

The North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame was among the first in the United States to recognize and honor those players, coaches, managers, sponsors and umpires who had been recognized for their contributions to the sport of softball in North Dakota. It was also the first in the nation to establish a special building to house the memorabilia from its members. The location has been moved to the Jamestown Civic Center where it shares space with other athletic Halls of Fame. This year marked the 61st anniversary of the softball shrine.



State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf presented the Umpire Award of Excellence to Joe Vuolo of Bismarck. The award is named after long time umpire Walt Stack at right.



Randy Oberg and his sisters accept the Hall of Fame plaque on behalf of their parents Chuck and Marge Oberg who were inducted posthumously to the Hall of Fame.



Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents Hall of Fame plaque to Tom Harty of Jamestown.



2018 Hall of Fame inductee Dennis Bense shows his Hall of Fame plaque just presented by Commissioner Dick Gulmon.



2018 Hall of Fame inductee Greg Kaeding of Fargo in a pensive moment.



State Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents his Hall of Fame plaque to 2018 inductee Curt Kraehler. Kraehler joins his father Chuck who is deceased in the Hall of Fame.



State Commissioner Dick Gulmon presents a Distinguished Service Award to long time Fast Pitch Commissioner Jim Rip Collins of Minot.



State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf and Fargo umpire Chris Coleman of Hillsboro with his certificate as an Elite umpire.



State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf presents Bismarck umpire Wade Blumhagen with his certificate of Elite umpire.



State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf and new Elite umpire Tom Hamkens of Bismarck.

More photos page 12

President

As I write this letter it is the first day of Summer- longest day of the year- where did Spring go? We are well into the softball schedule for the year. With about half the regular season already behind us we need to start looking at upcoming State and National tournaments.

I have sent out my letter to the League Reps to classify their teams. Please get these back to me as soon as you can- Deadline is June 30th. Classify all of your teams even if they are not going to State. Send one check to me for all the teams that are going to State Tournaments. The Classification meeting this will be July 6th.

I will be heading to the 43rd

McQuade Softball Tournament this weekend. It is the largest charity Softball Tournament in the World. I have been told there are over 450 teams signed up to play. If you have never played in or umpired in this huge event I would highly recommend you give it a try. It is quiet an event. The Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball team will again be playing in the McQuade again this year...

We will be hosting 2 National Tournaments this year. Mandan will be the home of the Men's Masters 35,45 and the Women's Masters 35 on Aug 24-26th. Fargo will host the Northern D on Aug. 31- Sept 2nd. The Men's E/Rec

Northern National will be held in Liberty, MO. this year on Aug. 24-26. The Men's C National will be in Prairie Island, MN. Aug. 31-Sept. 3rd. The Masters rosters must be submitted by July 1st. This is very important this year since the Nationals Masters tourney is again in North Dakota. A make-up roster is allowed for both the State and National tournament but we must have them in hand by July 1.

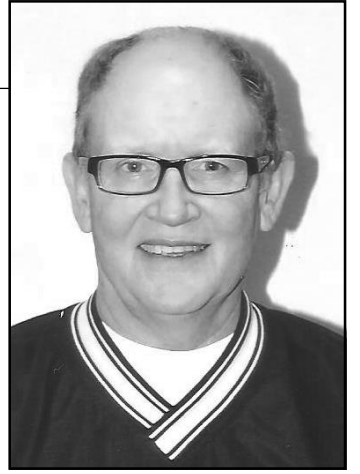
We will be adding 2 new State tournaments this year in North Dakota. Both will be one day events. First will be the Fall State on Saturday Oct. 6th. And the new 5 on 5 on 5 State the following day Oct 7th. Both events will be

held in Fargo. For more info on both events please to to the State Website.

The Monster Tournament Series is again going well. You still have time to pick up some ground on your total numbers. The winning teams will receive some great prizes at the end of the year.

Good luck to all teams heading to the McQuade this year. Also to teams going to State and National tournaments. Hope to seeing you on the diamonds somewhere this Summer....

Jack Lukes-



Jack Lukes

From the Sidelines

This is written the day after the 43rd annual Sam McQuade Charity softball tournament concluded its three day run in Bismarck and Mandan. There were over 700 games played in the three day event and only four of them got rained out on Sunday before a championship game could be played. Two on the Men's Divisions and two in the Women's Divisions. The weather was chancy all weekend but didn't affect play until the final day. Huge crowds as usual, special events including the Wounded Warriors for the 15th year in a row. These amputees are really remarkable and are an inspiration to everyone who sees what they can do despite their handicaps. Also, there was an exhibition game between North Dakota Military All Stars and North Dakota First Responders which drew many spectators. Another feature was the Connie Wolf Cancer Awareness Exhibition Game which raised money for cancer treatments and assistance to care givers. It is named after the late wife of state Umpire in Chief and Co-Director of the McQuade

Tournament, Mike Wolf.

It was another exciting three days and I saw many players and umpires I knew. Steve Riswold, the Regional Umpire in Chief from Sioux Falls came up as he has for nine years now. Also, former Region Umpire in Chief from Region 12, Dave Epperson from Topeka, Kansas drove up and enjoyed the tournament. Those two and I spent part of Saturday touring the softball complexes in Bismarck, talking with players and watching umpires working tournament games. We picked a good day to observe umpires since they were wearing lime green shirts and caps with special McQuade logos on them. Pretty easy to spot and nowhere to hide if you blow a call.

Speaking of umpires, I need to say several kind words about one of my favorite umpires, Naomi Erdahl who became the first North Dakota umpire to work the College Women's World Series in Oklahoma City this year. She has worked her way up by working major college women's softball for

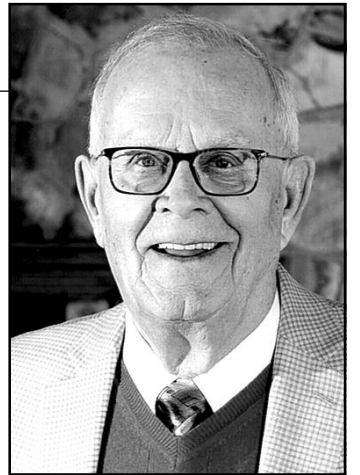
several years and getting certified as an international qualified umpire. She had worked Regional and even Super Regional before but this year she worked Regional, Super Regional and finally, the College World Series. Not only that but she was one of the umpires who worked what turned out to be the National Championship game. The format pits the final two teams left in the tournament against each other in a three game series. It turned out that Florida State won the first game and followed up with a win in game two which meant they were the National Champions. Naomi was one of the three umpires selected to work the second game. I am so proud of her, she worked hard, traveled many miles to work in this environment and has earned every accolade she gets. She is a remarkable woman and a terrific umpire. I know great things are still in her future.

North Dakota will host a couple of National Tournaments this year with Mandan playing host to the Men's Masters 35 and over plus the Men's Masters 40 and Over

August 24 through 26. Masters 35 will feature 3 Divisions of play depending on classification with a 3 game guarantee. The Masters 45 will feature an open division with a 3 game guarantee. At the same time and place the Women's Masters 35 will take place with one open division and a 3 game guarantee.

Also on the calendar is the Men's Northern Class D tournament in Fargo August 31 through September 2. Which I think will be held at the new Fargo Northern complex. If you haven't seen that complex yet, you will be impressed.

A couple of other thoughts. I was honored at the Hall of Fame banquet when the Umpire award of Excellence was named after me and presented to Joe Vuolo of Bismarck whom I have known and admired since he came to town in the 1970's. From now on that award will be the Walt Stack Umpire Award of Excellence. Makes me feel good. The banquet also featured some umpires who earned Elite status. They were Ben Birkemeyer of Bismarck, Wade Blumhagen also of Bismarck



Walt Stack

and Chris Coleman of Hillsboro. Tom Hamkens was also presented the USA Softball National Indicator Fraternity award.

Long time fast pitch Commissioner Jim Rippo Collins of Minot and Gary Tharaldson of Fargo were the recipients of USA Softball of North Dakota Distinguished Service Awards.

Enjoy the rest of the Summer and I hope to see some of you around the diamonds.

J.O. Fastpitch Update

I wanted to review this past High School Softball Season in North Dakota. As you may know, it was a cold Spring and most teams have a 30 or 36 game season scheduled. Most teams played about 15- 20 games. Playing in doors, turf fields, and 6 to 8 games a week were normal this year.

The first 4 weeks were spent mostly indoors for practice, with coaches coming up with a number of different ways to practice. That included bowling, playing tag football, watching You Tubes, and playing broom ball. Once the season got started, some teams were playing 4 to 6 games a week. This led to a number of injuries, sore arms, pulled muscles and a line to the trainer's room.

This was the first year, since fastpitch softball was sanctioned in 2009, that the West Fargo Packers did not win the Class A title. Congratulations goes out to coach, Gerard Cederstrom and the Minot Magicians, for winning the State Class A championship game. Minot defeated Dickinson Midgets 4 or 2 in the championship game. Senior pitcher, Marisa Andrysiak pitched all 21 innings in the state tournament to win Minot's first ever title.

Minot finished the season at 22 or 8, while Dickinson finished 27-3. Minot came in as the 4 seed from the west Defeating Valley City 4 or 3 in the opening game, and Bismarck Century 8-6 in the semifinals. Century defeated West Fargo High School, in the opening round by a score of 8 or 4. The tournament was played at Michelson Field in Fargo. Dickinson's Jordan Mcneilly was named Senior Athlete of the year for Class A.

Central Cass, coached by Scott Kost, won its third Class B title (2013 and 2015) defeating the Lakers from Des Lacs-Burlington-Lewis and Clark 11 or 0, in the Championship game. It was the Squirrels 6th time in 7 years, they had played in the championship game. They finished the season with a 21-2 record. The Lakers, coached by Mel Erickson, were the first team from the West to ever play in a championship game. The Squirrels defeated Watford City 13- 3 in the opening round, and Minot Bishop Ryan 10 or 5 in the semi finals. Minot Ryan took 3rd, Thompson 4th, Kindred-Richland 5th, Northern Cass 6th, Heart River 7th and Watford City 8th. The tournament was played in Jamestown. Kindred-

Richland's, Theresa Klinnert was named the Senior Athlete of the year for Class B.

USA Softball of North Dakota, assisted with the 2nd annual East/West, Senior All-star Games that was played June 4th and 5th. The players are all graduating seniors, and are selected by the High School coaches. This year's teams consisted of 14 girls from the East, and 14 from the west. Class A and B all stars are selected.

The June 4th game was played at Michelson Field in Fargo, and resulted in an extra inning game of 11 innings with the East winning 2 -1. Somehow the game was played in an hour and 45 minutes. Theresa Klinnert from Kindred-Richland, started the game and finished the game pitching 8 innings for the win for the East and striking out 8.

The second game was played in Mandan on Tuesday June 5th. The east came from a 5 -0 deficit to win the game 10 or 6. This gave the East all-stars a 4 or 0 record against the West, in the first 2 years of the series. Felicity Blair of Bismarck High, hit 2 Homeruns and with 4 RBIs. Allison Martinson, Grafton hit doubles and 2 RBIs. Kacey White, Valley City, was 3 for 4. Tay-

lor Ellingson, Grand Forks Central, was the winning pitcher.

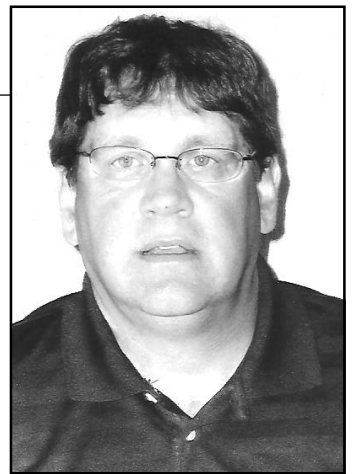
On Sunday April 29th, 20, 12U girls tried out for the 2nd Annual All American Games, to be held the weekend of June 29th to July 1st. The Tryout was held in Bismarck and attracted girls from Bismarck, Minot, Dickinson, Moorhead, and Hillsboro. Congratulation to Taylor Chrstensen from Glen Ullin, Keeley Jo Schiermeister, Brielle Wrangham, Gabruella Bird, all of Bismarck and Ondrea Betner from Hillsboro. Head coach from North Dakota is Kyle Christiansen.

Class A Tournament sites

Class B tournament Sites

New Region 8 Class C

18U Novi, MI	7/26-7/29
18U Springfield, MO	7/15-7/29
18U	NONE
16U Bloomington, IN	7/25-7/29
16U North Mankato, MN	8/2-8/5
16U	NONE
14 U Rochester, MN	8/2-8/5
14U Decatur, IL	7/23-7/29
14 U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
12U Wausau, WI	7/25 -7/29
12U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
12U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
10U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29
10U Wausau, WI	7/25-7/29
10U Yankton, SD	7/23-7/29



Brian Neuhardt

Ump Chat

Once the McQuade tournament is over, it seems like the rest of the summer is by. However, there is still a lot of softball going on with league and state and national tournaments. Our first state tournaments start July 13th with tournaments every weekend through September 16th.

We have two national tournaments in North Dakota this summer. Fargo will be hosting the Men's Masters D on Labor Day weekend. This tournament is a great opportunity to play in a national championship something not many players will be able to say they did once their playing days are over. So, be sure to take advantage of this great opportunity!

And finally, 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.

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. Al Ziemann has been assigned to serve as the Assistant UIC for the Men's D in Fargo while Chris Coleman and Brad Eisenbeis will serve as the Umpire Coordinators in Fargo.

We have several umpires from North Dakota going to various national tournaments across the United States this summer!

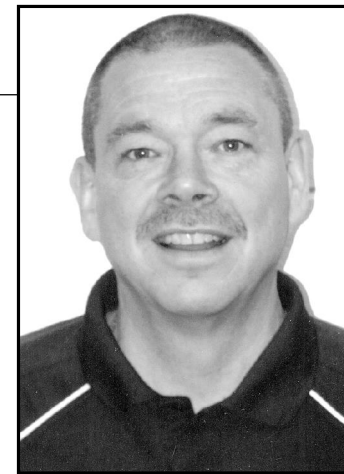
We are still working on potential assignments for other umpires as well. We will acknowledge all of the umpires who worked national tournaments in our Fall issue. Good luck to all the umpires at their national tournaments this year!

The 43rd 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! 456 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.

We kicked off the tournament in fine fashion with our annual Military Appreciation games. 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 Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team back and they kicked off the tournament by taking on a team comprised of players who have been inducted into the ND Hall of Fame. The second exhibition 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 the two exhibition games.

The Wounded Warriors also placed in the tournament for the second time since they have been participating in the tournament. They came away with their second



Mike Wolf ~ Umpire in Chief

3rd place trophy! The Wounded Warriors continue to be impressed by the McQuade Tournament that 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 has also indicated that they will be back at next year's tournament!

The McQuade Tournament held

Ump Chat

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Commissioner

Just returned from the 43rd annual McQuade Charity Softball Tournament held in Bismarck/Mandan. This year's event had 457 teams entered in the WSP, MSP and Master's Divisions. The McQuade again had some very special activities and the return of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball team. The Wounded Warriors played an exhibition game against ND Hall of Fame All-Stars, and also participated in one of the tournament divisions as well. These men are indeed an inspiration to all of us and heroes we are so proud of. A couple of other highlights were the ND Military All-Stars vs the ND First Responders, as well as the Connie Wolf Cancer Awareness Exhibition game. Connie was such an important part of the tournament for many years with her family. She has indeed been greatly missed.

A special thank you to the Tournament Directors Jack Jones and Mike Wolf for all the work they do for this event as well as

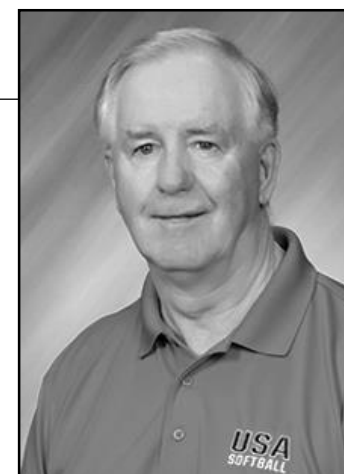
McQuade Board of Directors, Sam McQuade Jr, Shannon McQuade-Ely, Mike Oerdahl, Jim Janusz, Cheryl Jones, Eldie Ulmer and Brooke Larson. These people work all year round to put on the largest softball tournament in the country and do one fantastic job. We must also thank the 1000+ volunteers for all their good work to make this tournament a success. Lastly, thanks to Mike Wolf and the tremendous Umpire Staff who come from all over the country to work at this event and donate back some or all of their games to the tournament.

State Tournaments are around the corner so take advantage of these opportunities and be aware of the rules that govern those events. In addition to the Classification Divisions and Master's State Tournaments, we have established a Fall State Tournament in MSP, and a new program 5/5/5 State Tournament, both in early October. A new State Tournament Pickup Player policy will be used in 2018 whereby

the manager of a team picking up players for State will have the responsibility to be sure the player is in fact eligible to participate from a classification standpoint with the team. Failure to uphold the state pickup rule properly could result in the suspension of the manager.

We had a great Hall of Fame Awards banquet in Jamestown this past April. My congratulations to the 2018 HOF inductees Dennis Bense, Tom Hart, Greg Kaeding, Curt Krahler and sponsors Chuck and Marge Oberg who were honored posthumously. We have also added recognition of Umpires to the HOF Banquet. USA Softball Elite Umpire Awards were presented to Ben Birkemeyer of Bismarck, Wade Blumhagen of Bismarck and Chris Coleman of Hillsboro. Tom Hamkens was also presented the USA Softball National Indicator Fraternity award. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to reach these levels of excellence by umpires and my congratulations

and thanks to each of you for all you do for our program. This year we renamed our Umpire Award of Excellence to the USA Softball of North Dakota Walt Stack Umpire Award of Excellence. Walt Stack has meant so much to the USA Softball of North Dakota program in so many ways for the past 50 years, including being our State UIC, a member of the National Umpire Staff, President of the USA Softball of ND Hall of Fame, and the editor of this great Softball News since its inception. It is an honor to rename the Umpire Award of Excellence in Walt's name. My sincere congratulations to Joe Vuolo of Bismarck who received the USA Softball of North Dakota Walt Stack Award of Excellence in 2018. Joe's commitment, dedication, and professionalism to his work on and off the field is indeed a career of excellence. Another highlight of the awards banquet was recognizing two gentlemen who have done so much for the game



Dick Gulmon

of softball in North Dakota for so many years. James "Rip" Collins and Gary Tharaldson were awarded the USA Softball of North Dakota Distinguished Service Award. Gary and Rip have done so much for our program and have impacted the game for so many people over the years. Our thanks to Gary and Rip and congratulations on this presti-

Commissioner

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Women

VOLUNTEERS 6 WE ARE SO NEEDED and it's SO REWARDING!

This Spring, I had the honor of helping out the Shanley High School fast-pitch team. I received a phone call at the end of February asking if I was interested in assistant coaching, but I felt that with my schedule, I could not dedicate the amount of time needed to be an official coach but I could volunteer what time I could to just help out. One of the BEST decisions I have ever made.

I realized some very important things with this, my first high-school coaching experience.

#1 I AM NOT HIGH-SCHOOL COACHING MATERIAL. There is no way I could do it. I have GREAT RESPECT for any high-school coaches out there! They are not in it for the extra paycheck, that's for sure. I showed up pretty regularly and sat back and let the coaches

coach. I helped when needed, helped the pitchers, helped some girls with some fundamentals, so the coaches could do the hard work.

#2 HIGH SCHOOL IS VERY DIFFERENT NOW THAN IT WAS WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL. I don't know if it's every school out there, but it seems like these young women were involved in SO MANY more activities than just softball, which is great, but hard to work around all of their other activities. I remember when it was softball season that was it! softball. Maybe a job working on the weekends, but basically school, softball, homework, bed.

We had some special circumstances with the Shanley team, as this was a team of 24 girls ranging in age from 7th grade to seniors. Their experience ranged from never playing before to already being committed to a college team. And they came from essentially 6 different schools and 6 different school schedules. You see, it is Shanley, Park Christian, Oak Grove 6 but they aren't all in high school. Some are at the middle schools. It was very difficult getting everyone to practice and games while working around 3 prom weekends, 6 choir concerts and competitions, 6 band concerts, junior and senior banquets, junior lock-ins, senior mission trips, musicals, art shows, 8th grade trip to valley fair! I could go on and on!

#3 VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! You don't have to have a kid playing, you don't need a professional coaching background, you don't even have to be a head coach or assistant coach. Donate what time you have to help teach fundamentals of the sport, because one or two coaches can't do it all.

Volunteering doesn't have to be just for softball 6 I know that coaches are hard to find, especially

with the younger kids, in ANY sport. Soccer, Football, T-ball, anything. I recommend volunteering for anything, it will be rewarding no matter the sport or the age.



Amy Anderson

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Umpires have pre-season meeting

State UIC and Deputies were to meet

State Umpire in Chief Mike Wolf of Bismarck had a Spring meeting set up in Jamestown for all his deputy Umpires in Chief around the state.

Unfortunately, the Spring weather interfered and the meeting was held on a conference call. Items discussed included the Registration fees to be paid by each registered umpire for the 2018 season. Additional items covered insurance, background checks and lists of non-approved bats.

Also on the agenda were state tournament fees to be charged for each State tournament umpire and for scheduling umpires for state tournaments. Another item was the

Umpire Uniform requirement due to the change from ASA Softball to USA Softball North Dakota. North Dakota umpires will be allowed to wear ASA gear through 2019. Those umpires working National Tournaments will wear whatever the UIC for each tournament decides.

UIC Wolf also announced that North Dakota has been awarded a National Umpire School to be held in Bismarck in late April or early May in 2019. Further details will be available for the Fall issue of this paper.

Umpires already assigned to National Tournaments for this season are as follows: Tom Hamkens, Bismarck Men's Slow Pitch, Class A. Ben Birkemeyer, Bismarck, Girls 18U Gold Fast Pitch, Plano, Texas. And Elliott Gerhardt of Bismarck, 16U Gold Fast Pitch, Plano, Texas.

Naomi Erdahl of Bismarck was assigned to work the Girls Gold Cup International Tournament in California. She is the only North Dakota umpire certified to work international softball after being certified by the World Baseball and Softball Confederation. She also just finished umpiring the Women's College World Series in Oklahoma, the first time a North Dakota umpire as had that assignment.

Tharaldson awarded Doctorate Degree

University of Mary honors Softball Hall of Famer

The University of Mary in Bismarck has awarded a Doctorate Degree in Leadership and Philanthropy to Gary Tharaldson for his many contributions of time, energy and donations to that institution. The Honor was presented to Tharaldson at a banquet held April 27, 2018.

Tharaldson was feted for his long time commitment to the college and its School of Business. In the softball community, he has been active his whole adult life in the game and has made contributions as an active player, coach and manager as well as a Super Sponsor. He has provided all the trophies and banners for all the state softball tournaments held in the state and has been the donor of facilities to improve the game. He is a member of the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame as



Gary Tharaldson

a player, manager and sponsor of some of the most successful teams ever to play in North Dakota.



DICKINSON Parks & Recreation 2018

Softball Tournaments

Get your registration in early to guarantee your spot

Miller Lite Softball Tournament
 Sat. & Sun., July 14 & 15, 2018
 Divisions: Men & Women
 Fee: Men \$160 / Women \$140 (3 game guarantee)
 Deadline: July 3, 2018

Last Chance Softball Tournament
 Sunday, Sept. 9, 2018
 Divisions: Men & Women
 Fee: \$140 (3 game guarantee)
 Deadline: August 28, 2018



Endless possibilities...

For times check tournament brackets listed on web: dickinsonparks.org

*All tournaments will be held at Gress Softball Complex (433 8th Ave SW)

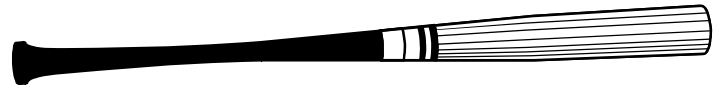
All teams must be sanctioned through USA Softball of North Dakota

Entry fees must accompany the entry registration forms.

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

(701) 456-2074

2004 Fairway Street, Dickinson, ND 58601
 Dickinson Softball League Contact: Ryan Nelson



National Council to meet in Oklahoma City October 27 - November 2

The 87th annual Council meeting of USA Softball, the governing body of softball will be held in Oklahoma City from October 27 through November 2, 2018.

The USA Softball Council is comprised of about 300 voting members from all aspects of the sport. The National Council which consists of USA Softball Commissioners, Commissioners Emeritus, Executive Director Emeritus, Council Members, Regional player representatives, JO Commissioners, Elite Athletic Representatives, Regional UICs, Allied Members and Past Presidents is responsible for making decisions on Legislative changes, Rule changes and is solely responsible for awarding National Championship tournaments to host cities across the United States.

us, Executive Director Emeritus, Council Members, Regional player representatives, JO Commissioners, Elite Athletic Representatives, Regional UICs, Allied Members and Past Presidents is responsible for making decisions on Legislative changes, Rule changes and is solely responsible for awarding National Championship tournaments to host cities across the United States.

Fargo/Moorhead Hall of Fame names 2018 recipients

Induction to be Saturday, August 10

The Fargo/Moorhead Hall of Fame committee has named three fast pitch softball notables and one slow pitch player to this year's class of honorees. The new inductees are Mike Bullinger of Fargo; Harry Bergman of Argusville; David Holm of Fargo and Sharon Horsager of Fargo. Induction ceremonies will be held Saturday, August 10 at the new Fargo Park Board's Northside softball complex. Biographical information was not available at press time but will be published in the Fall edition of this newspaper.

The Fargo/Moorhead Hall of Fame Council is responsible for selecting the prospective inductees and in presenting them during the

induction ceremony. The Council consists of representatives from both fast pitch and slow pitch and seeks to recognize those individuals from the Fargo/Moorhead area who have played a significant role in the growth and development of softball in the area. Players, coaches, managers, umpires and sponsors are eligible to be honored by the Hall of Fame. The qualifications for membership include a minimum of 20 years of active involvement in the Fargo/Moorhead softball community and individuals must be at least 45 years old.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Sharon Morgan at 701-235-4169.

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Northern Sentry - 839-0946
 The Leader-News - 462-8126
 Underwood News - 462-8126
 Velva Area Voice - 338-2599

Mandan to Host Nationals

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

Dates: August 24-26

Entry fee: \$450; \$400 if paid by August 3

Entry deadline: Thursday, August 16

Tournament draw: Monday, August 20

Format:

9 teams or less - Pool play (2 games), teams seeded from pool play into double elimination championship bracket.

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

Women's Masters 35 - one division only

Men's Masters 45 - one division only; 4 home runs.

Men's Masters 35 - Three divisions - USA Softball

Open Division - Open roster, no classification restrictions=6 home runs.

Competitive Division - rosters limited to not more than 2 Class A or B players; 4 home runs.

Recreational Division - rosters limited to not more than 2 class D play/no players above Class D; 2 home runs.

Teams will be allowed to form new rosters for this tournament. Rosters are due by August 16. Players will be allowed to play in both the Masters 35 & 45, if age qualified. Players cannot play in more than one division of Masters 35. All teams MUST be registered with USA Softball.

Bismarck announces campaign to add new softball diamonds

Eight new fields to be added at Cottonwood Park

Bismarck Parks and Recreation District in partnership with the Men's Slow Pitch Softball Association, the Women's Slow Pitch Association and the Bismarck Youth Fast Pitch Association has announced a campaign to finance the addition of eight new softball fields at Cottonwood Park. Four will be dedicated to adult slow pitch softball and four will be committed to Youth fast pitch.

The three softball associations have pledged a total of \$700,000 to this project while the Board Of Park Commissioners has committed the District to the projects infrastructure, the site work, water, electricity, parking lots and restrooms. The goal is to raise \$650,000 so that the project becomes a community reality.

Softball is big in Bismarck with the Men's Slow Pitch Association boasting 172 teams in 2017 with over 2,400 players. The Women's Slow Pitch Association registered 61 teams with over 900 individuals involved in 2017. The Youth Fast Pitch Association has grown rapidly since the sport was introduced in Bismarck and across the state. In 2017, over 200 girls were playing the game in the Capital city. In addition to these recreational leagues, Bismarck also hosts the World's Largest Weekend Charity softball tournament when the Sam McQuade, Senior tournament comes to town the last weekend in June. This year the tournament has registered over 450 teams for the weekend event.

Cottonwood Park is located in



Randy Bina

south Bismarck and was first developed with a capital campaign in 1990. Through the years, Cottonwood Park has continued to grow to meet the needs of an active community. Today, the complex consists of 200 plus acres with an elaborate trail system, two playgrounds, seven shade structures, three concession(restrooms) tournament facilities, a maintenance building, BMX track, bocce ball fields, 12 softball diamonds, numerous soccer fields, a small lake with a fishing pier and a full sized baseball field with a scoreboard, batting cage, pressbox and ticket booth.

Randy Bina, Executive Director of the Parks and Recreation District emphasizes that the improvements being added to Cottonwood Park will impact the entire community with extensions to the existing trail system, shelters and playgrounds for all to use and enjoy.

Members of the Campaign Committee are: Co-Chairs Steve Chuppe and Mike Wolf, members include Randy Bina, Lisa Gronberg, Steph Holtz, Kevin Klipfel, Marc Menge, Brian Neuhardt, Paula Redmann, Billy Schmidt, Mark Thompson and Melissa Wrangham.

USA Softball of North Dakota 2018 State Tournament Schedule & Entry Fee

MSP S P	D	L
Class C	August 4-5, 2018	Bismarck
Class D	August 4-5, 2018	Bismarck
Rec 1	August, 11-12, 2018	Mandan
Rec 2 East	August, 4-5, 2018	Wahpeton
Rec 2 West	August 4-5, 2018	Minot
Rec 3 East	August 11-12, 2018	Fargo
Rec 3 West	August 11-12, 2018	Bismarck
Rec 4 East	August 18-19, 2018	Grand Forks
Rec 4 West	August 18-19, 2018	Dickinson
Masters 35	July 28-29, 2018	Mandan
Masters 40	August 18-19, 2018	Jamestown
Masters 50	July 21-22, 2018	Mandan
Masters 50 Wood Bat	July 21-22, 2018	Mandan
Masters 60	July 21-22, 2018	Mandan
Fall State (new in 2018)	TBD	Fargo

W S P	D	L
Class C	July 28-29, 2018	Grand Forks
Class D	July 28-29, 2018	Grand Forks
Rec 1	August 11-12, 2018	West Fargo
Rec 2	July 28-29, 2018	Grand Forks
Rec 3 East	August 11-12, 2018	Jamestown
Rec 3 West	August 4-5, 2018	Bismarck
Masters	August 18-19, 2018	Bismarck

C S P	D	L
All Divisions	September 8-9, 2018	Fargo

J.O. F P	D	L
10 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
12 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
14 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
16 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo
18 & Under	July 13-15, 2018	Fargo

2018 State Tournament Entry Fees (No charges from 2018)

C	F
Junior Olympics Fast Pitch	\$200
MSP - Open, B, C & D	\$225
MSP & WSP - Masters/Rec	\$175
WSP Class C & D	\$200
Co-ed	\$150
MSP Fall	TBD

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2018

Spring Meeting and Hall of Fame Banquet:Saturday, April 7
Adult Roster Deadline:**June 11 • After June 11, \$25.00 fee**
 Final Roster Deadline: June 19
Classification Meeting: **July 6**
 National Tournaments:MSP Masters 35 and 45; WSP Masters 35
 Mandan, August 24 to August 26
Northern National Tournament Men's Class D:..... **Fargo; 8/31-9/2**
 2018 National Council Meeting:..... Oklahoma City; Oct. 27 - Nov. 1

JO GIRLS FAST PITCH DATES AND LOCATIONS:
 Tryouts for 12U All American Games:..... Bismarck April 29, 1 pm.
 All American games 12U:..... June 30-July 2, Oklahoma City
JO Girls Fast pitch state tournament:**July 13-15 Fargo**

Where are they now?

The following is a listing of those members of our softball Hall of Fame whose mail is being returned by the Post Office. That means that they may have moved or perhaps are deceased. If any of you reading this knows the whereabouts of any of these people please let me know. My mailing address is WALT STACK, 105 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE, BISMARCK, N.D. 58501 or if you prefer, my email address is STACKWALT@MIDCO.NET Thanks.

Ray Albrecht	2929 Winnipeg	Bismarck, ND
Charles Anderson	2301 9th St SW	Minot, ND
Jack Arends	15832 E Little Cormorant Rd.	Audubon, MN
Pete Bachmeier		Grand Forks, ND
Donovan Dehn	222 Jersey Ave	Hatton, ND
Rick Fee		Falcon Heights, MN
Bob Footitt, Sr.		Fargo, ND
Ray Herbel		Devils Lake, ND
Gil Herbel		Grafton, ND
Adrian Ho ner	420 Dickinson Dr., unit 8	Devils Lake, ND
Kathleen McCann	1903 20th St SW	Austin, MN
Dave Reitan		Mooehead, MN
John Schumacher		Harvey, ND
Larry Zeadow	3805 Ravalli St., apt C	Bozeman, MT

DO BUCKLE DON'T BOOZE



Back row l-r: Coach Gerard Cederstrom, Manager Kote Lider, Paige Ackerman, Coach Thor Nelson, Rhone Nelson, Cambrie Pretzer, Rachel Dockter, Jaycie Rostad, Coach George Cederstrom, Hailey Espe, Amanda Spelhaug, manager Skyler Litchco, coach Bill Irmen. Front row l-r: Marley Foltz, Taylee Hertz, Landry Maragos, Rylee Terrel, Marisa Andrysiak, Sophie Wedar, Jessica Keiser, Jailee Britt, Coach Eric Esterby

Minot holds off Century despite Grad's heroics

By Chris Murphy - Fargo Forum

Minot has watched Bismarck Century's Maddi Grad slice its eight-run lead into two. Grad had just hit her second three-run homer with no outs in the bottom of the seventh the other Class A semifinal game.

The Magicians had rolled throughout the game and all that separated them from their first appearance in a state title game was a count-down of outs.

The first three-run homer in the bottom of the fifth wasn't the end of the world, but the second suddenly had the Magicians on their heels. Then, Maddy Zander skyed a ball to center field. It was seemingly a no-doubter that would bring the Patriots within one run. "My first thought was it was high

and going far and I thought it was going over the fence," Minot center fielder Landry Maragos said. She was right, only she jumped the fence and caught it before it could cut the Minot lead to one. The Magicians got the next two outs to top Century 8-6. Minot (21-8) opened the scoring in the top of the first inning thanks in part to a Century (21-10) error. The second out was caught in the outfield, but the throw back into the infield was wild. Runners moved up a base to second and third and Cambrie Pretzer got an infield single to put the Magicians up 1-0.

The top of the third was not pretty for Century either. Back-to-back singles, a wild pitch and a stolen base put runners at second and

third with no outs. Rylee Terrel made it 2-0 on an infield single, and runners moved up to second and third on a sacrifice bunt. During Pretzer's at-bat a throw from the Century catcher back to the pitcher went into center, allowing another Minot run to score and runner to move to third. Marley Foltz put down a bunt to score the runner from third and the magicians had a 4-0 lead.

Minot pitcher Marisa Andrysiak cleared the bases with a two-out, three-run double in the top of the fourth and Rachel Dockter hit her first homer this season in the top of the fifth to extend the lead to 8-0.

Century faces West Fargo Sheyenne in the third place game on Saturday.



Central Cass wins third state title

By Michael Savaloja
Forum News Service

Payton Richter will undoubtedly never forget hitting the first home run of her life.

The Central Cass junior led off the championship game of the North Dakota Class B state softball tournament with a solo shot to left field Saturday at Trapper Field. It was the first of many runs and jolted Central Cass to its third state title in the sport with an 11-0 win over Des Lacs-Burlington/Lewis & Clark in five innings.

"That really wasn't the plan, but I was just looking for my pitch," said Richter, who sent the second pitch of the ball game thrown by the Lakers' Erica Hermanson into the area designated for lawn chairs. "It's my job as leader to put the ball in play. It feels amazing."

Richter's first career homer was wind-aided, but nobody in the Central Cass dugout would mind. The tournament's final day was plagued by 30 mph gusts blowing out to left.

"She'd been so close all year, so I'm really proud of her to finally hit one out," said Central Cass junior pitcher Lexi Buhr, who struck out eight Lakers and earned the two-

hit shutout victory in the circle. "It feels good to get a cushion right away with Payton hitting one out."

The Squirrels scored a run in each of the first two innings before kicking down the door in the bottom of the third. Central Cass sent 14 batters to the plate and scored eight runs, six all unearned, on four hits and three Laker errors.

Richter walked twice, sophomore catcher Isabelle Linnard cranked a two-run homer into the jet stream in left and sophomore Kaitlyn Houle connected for an RBI single in the decisive frame.

Central Cass chased sophomore Hermanson out of the circle after just 2 2/3 innings pitched in an 8-0 game. It was the first time Lakers' coach Mel Erickson had ever had to go get his all-state pitcher, who had recorded 28 strikeouts in the first two games of the tournament.

"It started snowballing on her right from the start," Erickson said. "That's part of the game. We didn't come ready to play."

The Lakers (18-2) earned the distinction of becoming the first West Region team to reach the state title game after placing sixth

in 2016 and third in 2017.

"We'll be back," Erickson said. Central Cass (21-2) was playing in its sixth state title game in seven seasons, having won championships in 2013 and 2015.

"This is a momentum game, and once we got things going we were able to keep it going," Central Cass coach Scott Kost said. "Hermanson's a great pitcher and I wouldn't take anything away from them because they're a very good team and had a great season."

"We just had a really, really good day today."

Central Cass never lacked motivation this spring after losing last year's state championship 1-0 to Kindred-Richland. Kost said experiencing that feeling a second time in as many seasons wasn't an option.

"We talked about that game and what that feels like, and we didn't want that to happen again," Kost said. "So it kind of motivated us to work hard all year long, and it helped in every single practice to make sure that we were doing the things we needed to do to stay out on top."

Williston Parks and Recreation director named to USA Softball North Dakota Executive Board



Dennis Krueger has extensive softball resume

My softball story and my love of the softball game goes way back to the days of growing up in Jamestown.

I started out as the Batboy for the teams my dad (Dennis Krueger) played on. He played on Curtis Electric slow pitch team and the Hillview Bar/Cafe Fastpitch teams. Then he played on the Randy's Old Pro slow pitch team for many years until he played his last 2 years with my 1st team in 1986. My 1st National Tournament experience was with Randy's Old Pro in Bloomington MN in 1983. I have that picture at home on the wall next to all the other ones.

In 1986, my Junior year of high school, my best friend, Toron Johnson, and I decided to put a team in the Men's league. We were sponsored by Hardee's which was ironic since that was the fast food competitor of my Dad's team (Randy's) and I worked at Randy's for Lee and Pat Mansavage, owners and sponsor of dad's team. We played in the same league as Randy's and I was playing against the guys I was bat boy for all those years! Our 1st year we qualified for state in Dickinson! A bunch of high school juniors and we had a blast! Dad even played in some of the games with us! Our 2nd year, we were Jamestown Merchants and had 5-6 sponsors. That team played 2 years and played in State both years. Had to qualify back in those days!

I also was around the game a lot growing up during tournaments held in Jamestown as a ball boy for the umpires. My dad umpired in Jamestown and would take me along. The umpires would get to pick a ball boy to chase foul balls, get water etc ... Ironically, My dad never picked me!! He picked Darin Erstad instead! But I knew Tarz Timm would pick me every time! And if he wasn't there ... Ole Olson would pick me if available. So Tarz & my Dad and Ole were my umpire mentors for many years. My 1st State Tournament as an umpire was with Rheino Fleck in Fargo. He was my partner and we had a blast. I have continued to umpire at all stops in my career. North Dakota, Minnesota, Colorado and now back here in Williston.

I picked up umpiring fast pitch in Minnesota. Continued out in Colorado (umpired a national tournament) and when I returned to North Dakota I did a lot of the Dickinson State University games, some Minot State along with Williston State College and Williston High School games. Plan to do one more year and retire from umpiring next year at 50. Maybe!

Playing Career

Bat Boy Curtis Electric/Hillview

Bar & Cafe 1977-1979 Jamestown
Bat Boy Randy's Old Pro 1980-1984 Jamestown 1983 National 35 & over Bloomington, MN

Co-Manager/Player Hardees 1986 Jamestown

Co-Manager/Player Jamestown Merchants 1987-1988 Jamestown

Player West Fargo Silver Dollar Bar 1989-1990 West Fargo National Tournament with Rolling Pin from Bismarck in Lakeland, Florida

Player Anderson Shoe Repair #2 1991 Fargo State CC champs

Co-Manager Red Pepper 1992-1993 Fargo

Co-Manager Sun Valley 1994 Fargo

Co-Manager Fargo Businessman 1995-1997 Fargo

Player Barrel of Fun 1997-1998 Perham, MN

Manager/Sponsor Mulligans Softball Club 1998-2006 Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Player American Casing/Car Tunz Williston 2007-2009

Manager/Sponsor Mulligans/JE Dunn/JLG/DSG/WCCU/Sorenson Ranch/Nalco/JACAM/ECFH 2011-present Williston

ND 2014 National Champions E/Rec 1 Northern Mandan, ND

Sponsor Lady Mulligans/JE Dunn/JLG/DSG/WCCU/Sorenson Ranch/Nalco/JACAM/ECFH 2014

My work career has been about sports and recreation!!

Started in High School for Jack Brown in Jamestown taking care of the ball diamonds. Dragging, Chalking, get fields ready for the games.

It has continued into college at Moorhead State University Intramurals, Fargo Parks & Recreation District (Part time), Perham Area Community Center (Perham, MN), Highlands Ranch Community Association (Highlands Ranch, CO), South Suburban Parks and Recreation District (Littleton, CO), Denver Broncos Football Club (Englewood, CO), and since August 2006 here at Williston Parks and Recreation District as the Executive Director.

Softball has always been a big part of my life. Most of my best life memories are from my times with my Dad and his teams, to all the games & tournaments with my teammates and their families over the years!

Every year, I can't wait to get on the Softball field as an umpire and as a player/manager and enjoy the days on the field!

2018 will be my 33rd season of softball. I am still playing at the C level and someday will maybe get picked up to play some Old Pro's.

Commissioner's Column

continued from page 3

gious award.

My sincere congratulations to our own Naomi Erdahl for being selected to work the Women's College World Series this year in Oklahoma City. It is indeed quite an accomplishment to work this level of the Fast Pitch game.

We look forward to sending five players and a coach to the 12U GFP All American Games in Oklahoma City in 2018. This was a great event in 2017 for the GFP program and I would like to thank Brian Neuhardt and his team for all the work on this program and GFP in North Dakota.

Lastly, take advantage of the following National Tournaments in our Region in 2018. MSP Master's 35, 45 and WSP Master's 35 in Mandan, North Dakota, MSP Northern D in Fargo, North Dakota, USA MSP B and C in Prairie Island, Minnesota, GFP 8U, 10UA, 12UB, 10UC, 12UC,

14UC in Yankton, South Dakota, GFP 12UA, 10UB, in Wausau, Wisconsin, GFP 14UA, and 16UB in Rochester, Minnesota. Lots of great opportunities for players and fans to enjoy USA Softball National Championships right in our back door.

Thank you once again to all the people who work hard throughout the year to make the USA Softball of North Dakota a successful program for all to enjoy. I would also like to offer a special thanks to our friends at the USA Softball National Office. Craig Cress and his staff are truly a group of dedicated professionals and work extremely hard every day for USA Softball and all the programs throughout the country.

Sincerely,
Dick Gulmon
USA Softball of North Dakota
State Commissioner



Class A tournament umpires: Chad Kambeitz, Bismarck; Ryan Gellner, West Fargo; Ben Birkmeyer, Bismarck; Marcel Krieger, Jamestown.

Mandan and Fargo to host National Tournaments

If you are looking to add a National Tournament appearance to your softball resume, North Dakota would be a good place to look this season. Mandan will host the Men's Slow Pitch Masters 35 and 45 as well as the Women's Masters 35 August 24 through 26, 2018. Fargo will also host the Men's Class D Northern National from August 31 through September 2 at the new North Fargo Softball Complex.

In addition, Mandan was also awarded the Men's Masters 35 and 45 and the Women's Masters 35 for the 2019 season. The Women's 35 was added to Mandan's Men's 35 and 45 tournament for the 2018 season and also for the 2019 season.

North Dakota has been the home for several National tournaments the past several years with Mandan actively bidding on a number of slow pitch events with great success. In addition Fargo has been active in the bidding process at the National Council Meetings. Bismarck, Minot and Grand Forks have also been the homes of National events.

North Dakota teams have supported efforts to attract National tournaments which have enjoyed local support for each event. Further details on the 2018 tournaments will be published in the Summer issue of North Dakota Softball News.

**COVER ALL
YOUR BASES**

**DO BUCKLE
DON'T BOOZE**

WBSC reveals Tokyo 2020 Olympic Qualifiers for Baseball, Softball

PARIS -- 24 March 2018

Following the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Executive Meeting held today at the headquarters of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee, the WBSC revealed the qualification system for the six-team baseball and softball events at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, as approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

ROAD TO TOKYO 2020 - SOFTBALL

The first opportunity to qualify for the Olympic Softball medal event at Tokyo 2020 will be this August at the WBSC Women's Softball World Championship 2018 in Chiba, Japan. The 1st Place Finisher in Chiba will be awarded direct entry into Tokyo 2020 without having to pass through Qualifiers. (Should Japan win the WBSC World Championship in Chiba, the 2nd Place Finisher would be granted the Olympic spot.)

Africa/Europe Qualifier

The Africa/Europe qualification event will be an eight-team tournament, where the winner will earn a place at Tokyo 2020. Competing in this Qualifier will be top six finishers from the European Softball Championship 2019 and the top two teams from the African Softball Championship 2019.

Americas Qualifier

The Americas Olympic Qualifier will be a maximum 16-team tournament, with the winner and the 2nd Place nation advancing to Tokyo 2020. Eligible nations to compete in this Qualifier will be based on the

final standings of the Pan American Championship 2019.

To participate in any of the four qualification events as well as the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 tournament, Professional players are eligible. Athletes must comply with Olympic Charter Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions).

WBSC will announce dates, locations/hosts and respective broadcast rights agreements of the Qualifiers in future news releases.

Baseball - Path to Olympic Games Tokyo 2020	Baseball - Path to Olympic Games Tokyo 2020
Nov 2019: WBSC Premier12 (2 Qualify)	Aug 2018: WBSC Women's Softball WC (1)
TBC: Africa/Europe Qualifier (1)	TBC: Africa/Europe Qualifier (1)
TBC: Americas Qualifier (1)	TBC: Americas Qualifier (2)
TBC: Intercontinental Qualifier (1)	TBC: Asia/Oceania Qualifier (1)



Designate a driver and live.

Field Clinic Training Guideline

Updated 2/24/17

****Umpire Dress-if you look good and look the part, they think you know about the game and that you are serious about your job as an umpire.**

****Arrival Time**

****Check Playing Area for Condition of Field/Fences/Gates/Open Areas**

****Check Bats-Bats with dents are illegal.**

****Pre-Game Conference-Cover items on card you received. Start on time. If they are not ready for in field do not permit if the game will start late**

****Don't waste time in between innings. Three pitches maximum if they hustle out to the mound. If darkness or weather is an issue, they don't need the warm-ups-keep game moving. After first warm-up pitch tell them ball in if they are throwing the ball around the in field.**

****Don't waste time between games. Tell them you are ready to go as soon as**

the line-up cards are ready. If they need a bathroom break tell them to hustle.

****We can't teach good judgment when making calls, but we can give you the tool to put you into a position to make judgment calls easier.**

****Hustle-Hustle-Hustle-Position-Position-Position. 95% of the game.**

PLATE POSITIONING

****6 foot minimum arc-10 foot maximum arc-also DEMONSTRATE ILLEGAL PITCH MECHANIC and discuss the timing in making the call**

****Work the slot-shift for right hand and left hand batters**

****Hold play until you and the batter are ready to play (cover mechanic)**

**** When ready to play give play ball mechanic (show them)**

****Get to set position as pitcher begins delivery (show) (don't get too low)**

****GPA (Good Pelvic Alignment) Pelvis aligned with the outside front corner of the plate. Don't hook the catcher or get too close. (Demonstrate for both left and right handed batters) After determining your good GPA, make a mark so when you reset, you know where to go and you will then be consistent throughout the game.**

****Cover strike zone-batter being in normal position even with the plate.**

****Track pitch-when you determine ball or strike make verbal call while in set position. Then if a strike, make strike signal in upright position. Do not move feet when making strike signal. (Demonstrate)**

****Demonstrate correct strike call mechanic. Use good strong voice**

****When calling a ball call from set position-with strong voice-this way players may not question as much because you are showing confidence.**

****Black part of the plate and it is a ball if the ball hits the black.**

**** After strike signal is completed or after a ball, move a bit and reset for next pitch. This allows you to focus for the next pitch.**

****Correct way to give the count.**

****Size of batter's box-discuss those who step forward**

****Position of batter within batter's box. **Stepping out of batter's box**

MOVEMENT FROM THE PLATE AND BASE POSITIONING

****Move to your left and into the field on a batted ball-on a potential fair foul ball, move up the line a bit and then get set to make the call. DEMONSTRATE FAIR BALL SIGNAL AND FOUL BALL SIGNAL**

****No runners on base-good position to see a swipe tag and to see that foot is on the base.**

****DEMONSTRATE MECHANICS for correct routine out call, overhand out, routine safe call and sell safe call. GET SET to make the call.**

****DEMONSTRATE CORRECT WAY TO CALL TIME after the play is over. Make sure in set position when calling time-don't be moving-GET SET**

****STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD MECHANICS-better respect from players**

****With Runners on base, always read the play to anticipate where the play could take you. Always think ahead of where the ball may go. If you do this you are on top of things such as in field fly rule. If you are thinking ahead that you could have the in field fly, you will be ready to make the call right away.**

****Runner on First-cover positioning with ground ball in in field**

****Runner on First & Second-positioning with ground ball in in field**

****Runner on Second that could score-anticipate-if you don't think there will be a play at the plate, get out into the field**

****Bases loaded-anticipate where the play could go-if you don't think there will be a play at the plate, get out into the field. However, things could change as the play develops**

****With a ground ball to in field with bases loaded or a runner at third, (show positioning with ground ball to in field)-may feel out of place, but you are in the right position. Once the throw is made to first, start moving toward first as far as you can-get set and make call. These will usually be close plays if less that one out because the fielder will try and look back the runner at third and make the throw at the last second. Since these will usually be bang bang plays, be ready to throw a confident overhand out or a sell safe with strong voice-you are going to need to sell your call.**

****Get good 90 degree angles when making calls on second and third. Getting these sometimes in**

a one man system is tough, but do your best to get there. You will have a much better angle for your calls.

****With tag play at the plate, get into holding zone and then follow the play to the plate and get a good 90 degree angle to make your call. Sell that call if close-either overhand out of safe sell.**

****With Runners on base-ANTICIPATE-where the throw from out field may go.**

GAME SITUATIONS

****Interference-offensive player is interfering with defense to make a play. There is always an out.**

****Obstruction-delayed dead ball signal. The defense obstructs the offensive player. Not always protected**

****Infield Fly-think ahead-be ready-be vocal**

****Double Base-cover situations. Becomes one bag after runner touches it.**

**** Protests-try and handle the best you can in league. Don't be stubborn that you are right. Document the situation, inning, outs, etc in case we ever have to resume the game. In tournaments, if there is a protest, game must stop immediately and get the UIC to resolve protest**

****Forfeits/Forfeit Times-Must have 8 to play-both men and women.**

****Field Conditions-better to be safe than sorry. Don't let players intimidate you to continue playing. WOMEN-If one diamond stops, all diamonds stop. Get together with the other umpires. MEN-each diamond decided on its own.**

****Rain/Lightning-better to be safe than sorry. Don't let players intimidate you to continue playing. WOMEN-If one diamond stops, all diamonds stop. Get together with the other umpires. MEN-each diamond decided individually. It is a good idea to let other fields know you called the game for lightning-some umpires may not have a good view to the lightning. If called for lightning, you must wait at least 30 minutes and/or wait 30 minutes between lightning strikes.**

****Jewelry-whatever deemed dangerous in eyes of umpire. For umpire liability my personal recommendations are to still tape earrings, no spikes in chin or cheeks, no rubber wrist bands, small necklaces OK, big chains that could be a danger-no or tape down. No big women's wedding rings. Be careful with jewelry and being too lenient-if someone gets hurt wearing it, they are going to blame/sue you for not telling them to take it off!**

****Ejections-Get Needed Information-Don't deal with player other than getting their address-Get Managers Signature-If they refuse to give you information or sign the form don't pursue. Just make sure you get the players jersey #. Call Mike immediately after game if you have an ejection.**

USA Softball Region 8 Selects 30 athletes and four coaches to represent the Region at the 2nd Annual AllAmerican Games in Oklahoma City

USA Softball is made often regions throughout the United States that represents each state so that athletes throughout the country have representation at the National level for softball. Region 8 is comprised of Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and South Dakota. Each state held their own tryouts in the last 3 months and the 30 athletes selected will combine to form two teams.

USA Softball All American Games is a prestigious tournament to be hosted at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City. This event will provide National exposure to elite athletes in the 12u age division and has been designed to identify and highlight the best athletes from across the country. The event will feature a meet & greet with USA Softball National Team Members, Opening Ceremonies, intense competition in a 4 Game Guarantee Tournament and a swag bag for all participants. This year's event will be June 29th-July 1st, 2018 due to planned construction to the stadium at the end of the summer.

The 30 athletes have been divided into two teams to represent our Region. Tom Bye, Region 8 Representative stated. "Each state conducted their own tryouts to select athletes to represent them at the Games. All selections were then divided based on talent at the different positions on the field along with offensive skills."

USA Softball's Region 8 team selections are as follows:

Team Red - Coached by Kyle Christiansen (North Dakota) and Dan Dohse (Minnesota).

Minnesota - Signe Dohse, Grace Conaway, Brooklyn Swanepoel, Evelyn Wolfgram, Norah Levelhagen

Wisconsin - Brooke Steinhorst, Madyson Baker, Hayden Schabel, Harley Schabel, Rbyann Ireland Adam

North Dakota - Keeley Jo Schiermeister, Taylor Christensen, Brielle Wrangham

South Dakota - Emily Ann Frenndt, Emilee Stoerahn

Team Blue - Coached by Troy Kressel (Wisconsin) and Todd

Rasmussen (Minnesota)

Minnesota - Emerson Bowne, Rylie Rasmussen, Lacie Lilyquist, Brooke Holmes, Brooke Doebler

Wisconsin - Sarah Hamnerton, Ashley Wolfe, Ashley Lisiecki, Caitlyn Kessel, Gretta Grassel

North Dakota - Ondrea Betner, Gabriella Bird

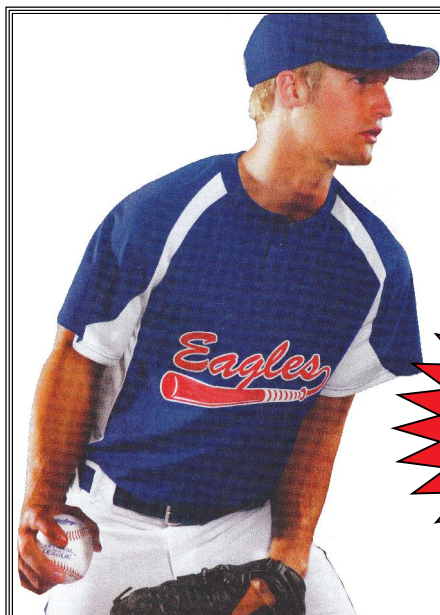
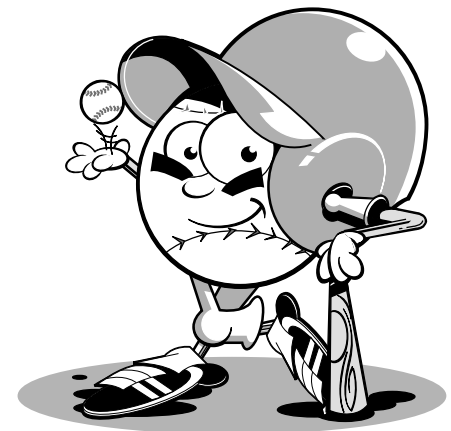
South Dakota - Jordyn Oines, Jordan Gabert, Makayla Hudson

For additional information on the All-American Games, please visit the website at www.usasoftballallamericangames.com.

About USA Softball

USA Softball is a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and is designated as the National Governing Body (NGB) of Softball in the United States and a member of the United States Olympic Committee. One of the nation's largest sports organizations, USA Softball sanctions competition in every state through a network of 69 local associations and has grown from a few hundred teams in the early days to over 150,000 teams today, representing a membership of more than 2 million. USA Softball is dedicated to providing people of all ages the opportunity to play the game they love at a variety of levels by offering recreational, league, tournament and competitive play for fast pitch, slow pitch and modified pitch. USA Softball annually conducts thousands of tournaments throughout the country including over 100 National Championships. The USA Softball umpire program is among the nation's largest and are widely known as the best trained umpires in the game.

As the NGB for the sport of softball, USA Softball is responsible for training, equipping and promoting the six USA Softball National Teams that compete in events such as the Olympics, Pan American Games, World Championships and other international and domestic events. For more information on USA Softball, including its founding and history as the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA), please visit, www.USASoftball.com



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Softball umpire reaching the top

By Dave Selvig
Bismarck Tribune

When Naomi Erdahl got the call, she was at an airport on a layover.

Such is the life of a Division I umpire.

After learning she was one of eight umpires selected to work the NCAA Division I College Softball World Series in Oklahoma City earlier this month, Erdahl's thoughts quickly turned to those who helped her reach the top of the profession.

"It's one of those things where you think back to all the people that helped train you, all the people that supported you along the way," she said. "I think our national coordinator (of umpires) said it best that you want to be on the field for the last pitch of the season. The opportunity to do that is humbling, it's very humbling."

When Florida State defeated Washington to win the national championship on June 5 in Oklahoma City, that's exactly where Erdahl was. The Minot native, Bismarck resident and recreation manager at Mandan Parks and Recreation Department also worked home plate twice in the College World Series, which was broadcast live on ESPN.

In true umpire fashion, Erdahl was focused on the task at hand on softball's biggest stage.

"It was a super intense atmosphere. Those teams have worked their whole lives to get there so



you're just trying to make sure you're on top of your game, stay out of the way and let the players decide it," Erdahl said. "Don't get me wrong, it was amazing to be there, but I think the enjoyment and reflection of being there happens more so after it was over. In the moment, you're just trying to focus on every pitch and make sure to administer the game fairly."

Erdahl has 24 years umpiring experience. She began her career doing men's fastpitch softball in Minot. She received her first Division I assignment in 2008 and now primarily does Division I softball. She umpires about 40 games per season, mostly in the Big 10 Conference and American Athletic Conference. Prior to getting the World Series nod, she had worked NCAA regional and super regional tournaments.

Getting the opportunity to um-

pire Division I games doesn't just happen.

"The process starts with being seen and for me that meant investing in going to camps where there are assigners and evaluators," she said.

Plenty of people have taken notice. In May, Erdahl was selected as one of 16 umpires from 16 countries to work the USA Softball International Cup in Irvine, Calif.

Erdahl is understated in talking about her achievements.

"You're only as good as your last call," she said. "Nothing is automatic or guaranteed. You have to continue to improve and work hard."

Erdahl spends most spring weekends on the road, but has flexibility in her day job to make things work.

"I take vacation time, but my employer is very fair. Cole Higlin, our director, is very supportive," she said. "Mandan should get some credit. I love my job and the people I work with."

Modern times also allow for getting work done away from the desk.

"With technology, I can still work when I'm on the road," Erdahl said. "Whether it's answering emails or talking on the phone with staff, user groups or patrons, we do have the ability to work remotely."

Umpiring remains a very important part of her future.

As long as I feel passionate about it and feel like I can succeed and do it at a high level, I'll keep plugging away," she said.

USA Softball launches the USA Softball International Cup

BY CODI WARREN (CWARREN@USASOFTBALL.COM) | MARCH 30, 2018

OKLAHOMA CITY — Softball fans in Southern California will have the opportunity to catch the world's best softball July 9-15 in Irvine, Calif. at the inaugural USA Softball International Cup. Following the launch of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Softball World Cup flagships in place of World Championships, the USA Softball International Cup will take the place of the World Cup of Softball, which USA Softball has hosted since 2005.

"We're looking forward to welcoming the top teams in the world and introducing the USA Softball International Cup," said USA Softball Executive Director, Craig Cress. "We can't wait to take this event to the West Coast and showcase the talents of these international teams. With all eyes on the softball world in anticipation of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, we're excited to once again televise select games through the ESPN networks and provide fans all across the United States the opportunity to watch the world's best softball."

With renovations expected to begin at the USA Softball Hall of Fame Complex, the USA Softball International Cup will be hosted by USA Softball of Southern California and games will be played at Bill Barber Park in Irvine, Calif. In addition to free online broadcasts of non-televised games through USASoftball.com, fans will also have the opportunity to catch Team USA in live televised games on the ESPN networks.

Teams expected to participate at the USA Softball International Cup,

a WBSC-sanctioned event, include: No. 1 USA, No. 2 Japan, No. 3 Canada, No. 5 Chinese Taipei, No. 6 Puerto Rico, No. 7 Mexico, No. 10 Czech Republic, No. 12 China, No. 15 Philippines, No. 17 Venezuela, No. 19 Peru and No. 31 Colombia. Both USA Softball Women's National Team rosters, which includes the WBSC World Championship and Japan All-Star Series rosters, are slated to compete in this event.

General Admission tickets (\$15) and Stadium seating tickets (\$25) are expected to go on sale in the coming weeks and links to purchase (when available) can be found on the tournament website at USASoftballInternationalCup.com. A complete game schedule, including televised coverage, special promotions and autograph sessions, will be announced at a later date.

About USA Softball

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conducts thousands of tournaments throughout the country including over 100 National Championships. The USA Softball umpire program is among the nation's largest and are widely known as the best trained umpires in the game.

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About the World Baseball Softball Confederation

Headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland -- the Olympic Capital -- the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) is the world governing body for baseball and softball. WBSC has 202 National Federation and Associate Members in 143 countries and territories across Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Oceania, which represent a united baseball/softball sports movement that encompasses over 65 million athletes and attracts approximately 150 million fans to stadiums worldwide annually.

The WBSC governs all international competitions involving official National Teams. The WBSC oversees the Softball World Championships (Men, Women, U-19 Men, and U-19 Women), Premier12, World Baseball Classic, and Baseball World Cups (U-12, U-15, U-18, U-23 and Women's).

2017 USA Softball Equipment Committee Review

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 have worked extensively this past year to develop a process to identify and establish a USA Softball Non-Linear Bat Protocol and 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 realize the same benefits of a significant reduction in the Impact Severity Index and the reduction in injuries when a ball strikes a player.

The Equipment Committee continues to study the 52/30012" ball for fast pitch. Ball weight, diameter and seam height will also be an important factor to consider if a future change is proposed for the fast pitch game.

USA Softball has invested in a new product called Flight Scope. This product will replace the Trackman Radar device to help with the equipment testing and certification of bats and ball. We feel the Flight Scope product will give us real time data on many aspects of what the committee needs to make decisions on bats and balls, such as batted ball speed, swing speed, flight of the ball and much more.

The 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 nondestructive test methods. If the results of this research is successful, a formal test plan and implementation strategy will be proposed in the near future.

This past year we shared a very positive Long Range Planning survey taken at the 2016 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 2018 the Equipment Committee plans will be to continue studying reaction time, improve the process to detect rolled bats, bat and ball compliance and continued lab and field studies.

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



REASONS WHY ANYONE AND EVERYONE SHOULD PLAY USA SOFTBALL

- 1 USA Softball is the National Governing Body of Softball in the United States as recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) and World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC).
- 2 USA Softball is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is an affordable competitive and recreational sport for men and women ages 8-90.
- 3 USA Softball values safety and provides affordable insurance to athletes, coaches and umpires as well as field owners.
- 4 USA Softball offers an expert coaching education program and expert training opportunities annually, which includes background checks on all coaches in USA Softball Championship Play.
- 5 USA Softball provides recreational leagues, tournament and National Championship play.
- 6 USA Softball is the leader in technology with state-of-the-art websites, mobile apps, rulebook apps, registration and tournament hosting.
- 7 USA Softball has the most knowledgeable and professionally trained umpires in the country.
- 8 USA Softball is the best in competition, providing the pipeline to all USA Softball National teams in fast pitch and slow pitch.
- 9 USA Softball is the leader in equipment standards and certification.
- 10 USA Softball is where CHAMPIONS PLAY!



Ump Chat

continued from page 3

its third 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 Pink Sox a local team from Bismarck and Healthcare All-Stars, a team made up of cancer patients and healthcare professionals squared off for a very entertaining coed 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 neon green and pink shirts and hats all day Saturday. Thanks goes out to many generous sponsors who purchased 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 Friday night Midco Sports broadcast the two exhibition games live. This was the second 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 as the game was decided by a three run walk off home run in the bottom of the seventh inning! We received many positive comments about the coverage from several people who were unable to get to the diamonds to watch it in person but were able to watch it on TV. Midco Sports will continue to run re-plays of all three games, so watch your local listings if you have Mid Continent Cable.

Softball 360 sponsored by Monsta was on-site all weekend long of the McQuade Tournament. They will be doing a show exclusively about the McQuade Tournament this year so watch your local listings for times. You can also usually catch the show on YouTube once the original show airs on TV. A big THANK YOU to Softball 360 and Monsta for supporting the tournament!

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 105 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. In addition, every umpire 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 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 wolfd8993@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.

2018 USA Softball of North Dakota Slow Pitch teams to be moved up

Men's Teams

To Men's B
É3X Gear/ The Box/ The Ballyard/ Sports Cards 4 U, Fargo (Class C, 1st Place)

To Men's C
ÉGround Round/ Trojan/ Hugo's, Grand Forks (Class D, 1st Place)
ÉLivewire Electric/ Burnn Boiler/ 9 Dragons/ Slapshot Pizza, Fargo (Class D, 2nd place)

To Men's D
ÉDickson Law/ Knife River/ VU, Bismarck (Rec 1 & E Natl, 1st place)
ÉCenter Merchants (Rec 1, 2nd place)

ÉKelly Chiropractic/ Central Power/ Bruno's Pizza, Minot (Rec 1, 3rd place)
ÉWahus Construction, Bismarck (Rec 1, 4th place)
ÉNorthern Energy Services, Williston (McQuades, 1st place; E Natl, 3rd place)
ÉRanger Lounge, Sydney, MT (E Natl, 4th place)

To Men's Rec 1
ÉDriftwood Lounge, Wahpeton (Rec 2 East, 1st place)
ÉSun Pro, Grand Forks (Rec 2 East, 2nd place)
ÉKensal Merchants (Rec 2 East, 3rd place)

ÉJR's Bar, Grafton (Rec 2 East, Consolation Champion)
ÉRubicon Mortgage Advisors, Bismarck (Rec 2 West, 1st place)
ÉPub 21 (Geer), Bismarck (Rec 2 West, 3rd place)

ÉHeilman/ Solitude/ Future Builders, Minot (Rec 2 West, 3rd place)
ÉBlarney Stone, Fargo (McQuades, 2nd place)
ÉMobile Ads/ Rio Lawn & Landscape, Mandan (McQuades, 2nd place)
ÉLisbon Lasers (Rec 1 challenge, 2 wins)
ÉJB Brothers LLC/ Weatherford, Williston (Rec 1 challenge, 4 wins)

To Men's Rec 2
ÉPremier Physical Therapy, Minot (Rec 3 West, 1st place)
ÉHometown Moving/ Jeremy Docket Construction, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 2nd place)
ÉAlibi's Lounge/ Union Bank/ Hazen Bottle Shop, Beulah (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)

ÉDavis Sinclair, Dunseith (Rec 3 West, 4th place)

ÉAnderson Cabinets, Mandan (Rec 3 West, Cons, Champs)
ÉPetro Hunt/ Snortums Landscape & Design, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Cons, Runner-up)
ÉTerhorst, Minot (Rec 3 West, Roughrider Champion)
ÉHealthways, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, Pioneer Champion)
ÉDietz Properties/ Loft Bar & Grill, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East, 1st place)

ÉRuby Tuesday, Fargo (Rec 3 East, 2nd place)
ÉHunter Insurance/ Verwest Construction (Rec 3 East, 3rd place)
ÉByte Speed LLC, Fargo (Rec 3 East, 4th place)
ÉRoto-Rooter, West Fargo (Rec 3 East, Roughrider Champion)
ÉDuane's Gun Repair, Fargo (Rec 3 East, Pioneer Champion)
ÉParadiso, Minot (McQuades, 2nd place)

ÉTrotter Construction/ Farmers Union Insurance/ Ryan Schnell, Mandan (McQuades, 2nd place)
ÉReloaded Softball, Wahpeton (Rec 3 challenge, 3 wins)
ÉLaw Dawgs, Minot (Rec 3 West challenge, 4 wins)

To Men's Rec 3
ÉCarrington (Rec 4 East, 1st place)

ÉRondiaz Rum, Fargo (Rec 4 East, 2nd place)
ÉBonzers, Grand Forks (Rec 4 East, 3rd place)
ÉHunter Merchants (Rec 4 East, 4th place)
ÉTown & Country Realty, Fargo (Rec 4 East, Cons. Champ)
ÉSpicy Pie, Grand Forks (Rec 4 East, Consolation Runner-up)
ÉPrecision Underground, Bismarck (Rec 4 West, 1st place)
ÉVeracity Motors, Mandan (Rec 4 West, 2nd place)
ÉGeorge's Tire, Dickinson (Rec 4 West, 3rd place)

ÉBar 9/ Bell Bank, Moorhead (McQuades, 2nd place)
ÉSouthgate/ Grand Sky, Grand Forks (Rec 3 East challenge, 2 wins)
ÉLingerwood Merchants (Rec 3 East challenge, 2 wins)
ÉHugo's Wine & Spirits, Jamestown (Rec 3 East challenge, 2 wins)

Women's Teams

To Women's C
ÉBases and Banks, Minot (Class D, 1st place)

To Women's D
ÉCorral Bar/ Ramada, Bismarck (Rec 1, 1st place)
ÉRookies, West Fargo (Rec 1, 1st place)

To Women's Rec 1
ÉSilver Dollar MFI, West Fargo (Rec 2, 1st place)
ÉMulligans, Williston (Rec 2, 2nd place)
ÉKCs Krushers, Jamestown (Rec 2, 3rd place)
ÉO'Brians (McNamara), Bismarck (classification meeting)

To Women's Rec 2
ÉMayport Insurance/ Hub, Grand Trail (Rec 3 East, 1st place)
ÉPlains Women, Mandan (Rec 3

West, 1st place)
ÉBuster's Bar/ Rockpile, Williston (Rec 3 West, 2nd place)

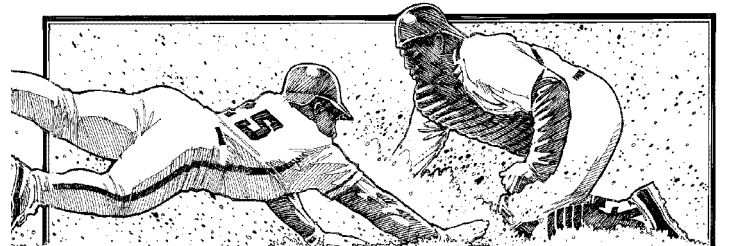
ÉKatie Kulzer, Bismarck (Rec 3 West, 3rd place)
ÉSolitude, Minot (Rec 3 West, Roughrider Champion)
ÉBroken Drum, Grand Forks (Classification meeting)
ÉHideaway, Bismarck (classification meeting)

ÉOur Place Tavern, Bismarck (classification meeting)
ÉRailway Credit Union, Bismarck (classification meeting)
ÉStadium Lodge, Bismarck (classification meeting)
ÉFried's State Farm, Bismarck (classification meeting)
ÉTriix Customs, Grand Forks (classification meeting)

USA Softball of North Dakota 2018 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.
Daryl Burckhard Minot	Illegal Participation Suspended until July 1, 2017; Probation in 2017 & 2018

State Tournament No-Show without Notification Entire team probation through 2018
Hill Lounge/ Herds & Horns, Fargo - Men's Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Wonder Bar, Jamestown - Men's Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Luneth Plumbing & Heating/ Ground Round, Grand Forks - Men's Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Wolding Trucking, Beulah - Men's Slow Pitch Rec 4 West Town Hall Bar, West Fargo - Women's Slow Pitch Rec 3 East Frontier Printing, Bismarck - Women's Slow Pitch Rec 3 East
PROBATION: Player with no-show probation starts the 2018 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.



2018 Invitational Tournaments

Womens

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
Grand Forks, July Classic
8 C - D, 8 R1, 8 R2, 8 R3,
8 R4, 3 GG \$175
Chris Hutton
Grand Forks Softball Assn.
9549 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-330-5798
chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
Rugby Geographical Center
12 R2 - R4, 5GG \$130
Mark Hamilton
1116 Main Ave S
Rugby ND 58368
701-208-1373
hamfam@gondtc.com

Sun, Jul 08 - Sun, Jul 08
Bismarck
8 C - D, 8 R1 - R2, 8 R3 - R4
3GG \$175
Scott Kinnischtzke
4250 Calahan Place
Bismarck ND 58504
701-527-5538
kinnischtzke@hotmail.com

Fri, Jul 13 - Fri, Jul 13
Wahpeton, Summer Classic
8 R3 - R4, 3GG \$125
Laree Bumgarner
304 5th St S
Wahpeton ND 58075
701-642-2811
laree_wopark@702com.net

Sat, Jul 14 - Sun, Jul 15
Dickinson, Miller Lite
5 D, 6 R1, 6 R2, 16 R3, 12 R4
3GG \$160
Ryan Nelson

2004 Fairway St
Dickinson ND 58601
701-495-0025
rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

Sat, Jul 14 - Sun, Jul 15
Oakes, Lite Bat
16 R2 - R4, 3GG \$120
Bob Ubben
210 S. 7th St.
Oakes ND 58474
701-742-2087 | 701-388-3083
bobubben@yahoo.com

Sat, Jul 14 - Sat, Jul 14
Devils Lake,
37th Annual Miller Lite
16 R2 - R4, 3 GG \$100
Terry Wallace
PO Box 446
Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-8243
twallacedlpb@gondtc.com

Sat, Jul 21 - Sun, Jul 22
Minot, 48th State Fair
60 C-R4, 3GG \$125
Tom Landsiedel
420 3rd Ave. SW
Minot, ND 58701
701-857-4730
tom.landsiedel@minotnd.org

Sat, Jul 21 - Sat, Jul 21
Lisbon; 8 R1 - R2, 8 R3- R4,
3GG, DE \$120
Brad Dahl
204 Blu Street
Ft. Ransom, ND 58033
braddahl.21@gmail.com

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
Fargo, Can-Am
16 R3, 16 R4, RR \$175

Greg La en
3813 17th St. S.
Fargo, ND 58103
701-306-3813
greg@la.en.org

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
Center, Sheldon Rud Memorial
8 D - R1, 8 R2 - R3, 5 R4,
4 GG \$150
J D Hanson
Box 1836
Center ND 58530
701-794-8891
jerimiah_hanson@hotmail.com

Fri, Sep 07 - Sun, Sep 09
United Tribes Legends
24 R1 & above, 24 R2 & below,
3GG \$275
Steve Shepherd
United Tribes Tech. College
3315 Univerity Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-226-3987
sshepherd@uttc.edu

Sun, Sep 09 - Sun, Sep 09
Dickinson, Last Chance
5 R1 - R2, 16 R3 - R4,
3GG \$140
Ryan Nelson
2004 Fairway St
Dickinson ND 58601
701-495-0025
rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

Tourney Series Total
of Teams Total
Weekend Only Total

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
Grand Forks, July Classic
8 C - R1, 8 R2-R3, 3GG \$175
Chris Hutton
Grand Forks Softball Assn.
9549 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-330-5798
chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jul 14 - Sun, Jul 15
Dickinson, Miller Lite
6 R1 - R2, 6 R3, 3GG \$140
Ryan Nelson
2004 Fairway St.
Dickinson, ND 58601
701-495-0025
rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

Sat, Jul 14 - Sat, Jul 14
Devils Lake
37th Annual Miller Lite
8 R1 - R3, 3GG \$100
Terry Wallace
PO Box 446
Devils Lake ND 58301
701-662-8243
twallacedlpb@gondtc.com

Coed 2018 Invitational Tournaments

Sat, Jul 07 - Sun, Jul 08
Grand Forks July, Classic
8 Open, 3GG \$100
Chris Hutton
Grand Forks Softball Assn.
9549 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-330-5798
chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
Grand Forks, All-Nighter
16 Open, 3GG \$175
Chris Hutton
Grand Forks Softball Assn.
9549 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-330-5798
chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

Sat, Jul 21 - Sun, Jul 22
Minot, 48th State Fair
30 C - R3, 3GG \$125
Tom Landsiedel
420 3rd Ave. SW
Minot, ND 58701
701-857-4730
tom.landsiedel@minotnd.org

Fri, Sep 07 - Sun, Sep 09
United Tribes Legends
12 R1 and above, 12 R2 and
below, 3GG \$275
Steve Shepherd
United Tribes Tech College
3315 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-226-3987
sshepherd@uttc.edu

Sun, Sep 09 - Sun, Sep 09
Dickinson, Last Chance
6 R2 - R3, 3GG \$140
Ryan Nelson
2004 Fairway St
Dickinson ND 58601
701-495-0025
rnelson@dickinsonparks.org

Sat, Aug 25 - Sun, Aug 26
Jamestown, Scott Schafer
Memorial
16 Open, DE \$125
Gary Schmidt
1710 2nd PL. NE
Jamestown, ND 58401
701-659-1744
garys.eague@yahoo.com

Sun, Sep 16 - Sun, Sep 16
Grand Forks, Renae Thompson
16 Open, 3GG \$150
Chris Hutton
Grand Forks Softball Assn.
9549 DeMers Avenue
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-330-5798
chris.hutton@gfcounty.com

43rd Annual McQuade Tournament Completed

The 43rd Annual Sam McQuade, Senior Charity Softball Tournament was finished on Sunday, June 24 in the rain. The tournament started with rain showers throughout the three day event but managed to get in all but four games out of more than seven hundred that were played in Bismarck and Mandan. 456 Teams were registered to compete making it fourteen years in a row with over 400 teams with one exception, 2011 when rain cut the amount of games played to 227. As usual, the recreation divisions in both men's and women's play produced the most teams in eight recreation divisions. In the women's divisions, 40 teams showed up for the Rec III contests, 31 teams were entered in the Rec. II Division and 22 more were classified as Rec I teams. In the men's Divisions Rec III was big enough to warrant two separate divisions, the Bud Division with 64 teams and the Light Division with 56. In the Rec IV Division 47 teams were competing with the same amount of teams entered in the Men's Rec II Division while 31 teams vied for the Rec I crown. The only casualties of the rain were the championship games in Men's Class C Division and Men's Rec 4 Division. In the Women's Divisions, the Rec II and Rec III were washed out as well. In each of these divisions, the semi-final games were being played so the tournament Board decided to award co-championship in each of the Divisions.

Following is a list of the Division Champions, the runners up and the

third place winners:

Men's Open Division: Champion was Calimesa, Ca. Monsta with a win over another team sponsored by the same sponsor, Monsta Super with a score of 20 to 17. The winners came from behind in the bottom of the seventh inning to claim the title.

Men's Class C: Co-champions were declared as the rain halted the Championship game. Commerce City Smoke from Colorado and a local team Corral Bar of Bismarck shared the title.

Men's Class D: Katzer Trucking of Watertown, S.D beat Lucky's of Billings, Montana 21 to 7 for the first place trophy while Inge's Pub of Bismarck grabbed third place with a 23 to 5 win over Valley City Bridge City.

Men's Rec I: Williston JB Brothers won over Fargo Johnny's Bar 13 to 2 while Center Machine took third place with a 12 to 8 victory over Bismarck Pub 21.

Men's Rec II: Mandan Dakota Mini Storage won first place with a 17 to 10 win over Bismarck's Lang's Lawn Care. In the third place game, Minot Ammo won 11 to 7 over Lee's Bar from Rugby.

Men's Rec III Bud: Newtown Sportsman's Bar won a squeaker over All Rise from Mitchell, South Dakota 15 to 14. The third place game was won by Aberdeen Shockers of Aberdeen, South Dakota over Lincoln Sioux Warriors 9 to 3.

Men's Rec III Light: Rugby Eagles claimed the first place trophy with a one run win over Lisbon Gentzkow Trucking 7 to 6. Third

place went to Fargo Devil Dog Brew which claimed a one run shut-out 1 to 0 over Bismarck Dekalb.

Men's Rec IV: The championship game in this Division was rained out so Co-Champions were declared with Bismarck Badlands and Billings Tap in sharing the crown.

Men's Masters 35: Rapid City Team Primed won over Fargo Precision Plumbing 11 to 4 while Minot Arrowhead Ace beat Bismarck Bowers for the third place trophy.

Men's Masters 50: Mandan Bower Excavating won first place over Mandan Third Generation. No score for this game was available. Third place went to Mandan Mariner Construction 8 to 4 over Shiner Bock.

Women's Class C: Wahpeton Team Grind came back in the fifth game to defeat Bismarck Moritz Sport and Marine 20 to 6 after Moritz had forced a second championship game by beating the Wahpeton squad 17 to 15.

Women's Class D: Bismarck Walzak Building won over Billings Bones Arcade 15 to 1.

Women's Rec I: Bismarck Corral Bar defeated Fargo's Stringers and Dingers 10 to 9.

Women's Rec. 2: Minot Prairie Women and the Mandan Elbow Room were rained out in the Championship game and declared Co-Champs.

Women's Rec. 3: Jamestown Shady's and Grand Forks Speedway were in the Championship game which was rained out. They were declared Co-Champions.



SWING FOR THE FENCES

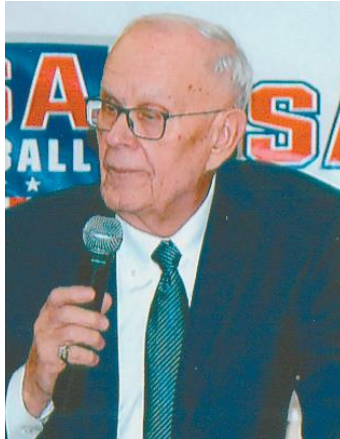
2018 Hall of Fame Banquet



2018 Hall of Fame inductee Tom Harty acknowledges his acceptance of Hall of Fame honor.



2018 inductee Dennis Bense responds to the presentation of his Hall of Fame honors.



Emcee Walt Stack greets attendees at Hall of Fame banquet.



State Softball Commissioner Dick Gulmon greets Wayne Beyer of Wahpeton as all attending Hall of Fame members were introduced at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet.



2018 Hall of Fame inductee Tom Harty listens as he is introduced. He isanked by his sponsor Marshal Kreiger of Jamestown and by his wife.



Sharon Morgan of Fargo is greeted by Commissioner Dick Gulmon as one of several Hall of Fame members introduced at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet.



2018 Hall of Fame inductee Greg Kaeding of Fargo amuses the crowd with his acceptance speech.



Commissioner Dick Gulmon addresses the large crowd at the Hall of Fame Banquet.

JP's answer & 42 rules for life

Tell the truth.

Do not do things that you hate.

Act so that you can tell the truth about how you act.

Pursue what is meaningful, not what is expedient.

If you have to choose, be the one who does things, instead of the one who is seen to do things.

Pay attention.

Assume that the person you are listening to might know something you need to know. Listen to them hard enough so that they will share it with you.

Plan and work diligently to maintain the romance in your relationships.

Be careful who you share good news with.

Be careful who you share bad news with.

Make at least one thing better every single place you go.

Imagine who you could be, and then aim single-mindedly at that.

Do not allow yourself to become arrogant or resentful.

Try to make one room in your house as beautiful as possible.

Compare yourself to who you

were yesterday, not to who someone else is today.

Work as hard as you possibly can on at least one thing and see what happens.

If old memories still make you cry, write them down carefully and completely.

Maintain your connections with people.

Do not carelessly denigrate social institutions or artistic achievement.

Treat yourself as if you were someone that you are responsible for helping.

Ask someone to do you a small favor, so that he or she can ask you to do one in the future.

Make friends with people who want the best for you.

Do not try to rescue someone who does not want to be rescued, and be very careful about rescuing someone who does.

Nothing well done is insignificant.

Set your house in perfect order before you criticize the world.

Dress like the person you want to be.

Be precise in your speech.

Stand up straight with your shoulders back.

Don't avoid something frightening if it stands in your way -- and don't do unnecessarily dangerous things.

Do not let your children do anything that makes you dislike them.

Do not transform your wife into a maid.

Do not hide unwanted things in the fog.

Notice that opportunity lurks where responsibility has been abdicated.

Read something written by someone great.

Pet a cat when you encounter one on the street.

Do not bother children when they are skateboarding.

Don't let bullies get away with it.

Write a letter to the government if you see something that needs fixing -- and propose a solution.

Remember that what you do not yet know is more important than what you already know.

Be grateful in spite of your suffering.

Contact Information

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