

Dear Friends of Softball,

Welcome to our 12th Anniversary of our Hall Of Fame Inductee's Dinner. As we have been the first eleven years, we are thrilled by the response and participation of our inductees, their families, and all the guests who come together to honor the players, managers, umpires, sponsors, and organizers who have excelled at and contributed so much to Chicago's Game.

Good things continue to happen in Chicago softball, such as Chicago's public high schools continuing to promote and foster participation in 16-inch. Approximately 60 softball teams competed at the high school level in the Chicago Public League, with Lane Tech winning their sixth City championship. This sort of exposure is the best chance for softball to remain popular with enough young people to help our sport flourish in the 21st century.

As you can see in the pages of this Awards Program, softball does indeed continue to flourish, if on a smaller scale than in past seasons. The ASA Major Nationals saw 40 teams compete in Marshalltown Iowa with 45's Champions for the 5th time in a row 2003-2007, Stover 2nd and Garv Inn Entourage taking 3rd. Meanwhile, 36 teams played at the ASA Class "A" Nationals in Crystal Lake Illinois with Thunder taking the championship, Wallace 2<sup>nd</sup> and Raiders taking 3rd.

There was the 39th Forest Park Invitational, our "No Gloves Nationals," which was won by the 45's. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> time that the 45's have won this tournament, which is more than any other team in the history of the Forest Park Invitational.

Our intentions are to establish a permanent exhibit for our Hall Of Fame. With the assistance of Mark Frighetto, and his committee we continue to search out interested parties who are willing to provide a permanent space for the 16-inch Hall. There we can honor and enshrine the greats of this wonderful game with plaques, photographs, biographies, histories, and other softball memorabilia. Once that is in place, we can begin to seriously market this exhibit, and through it, the great game of softball, to a much wider audience. It is especially important that we let our youth, who are the future of this sport know all that it has to offer.

Of course, all this will take time, effort, and money. So your involvement and contributions are needed. Please consider helping us with our endeavors in any way you feel comfortable. Your participation would be warmly welcome.

In closing, I remind our 2007 inductees, as I do every year, that this is your night! It is your talent, accomplishments, and love of the game we celebrate here tonight. Without your contributions, there would be no point in having a Chicago 16-inch Softball Hall of Fame.

Tonight, it is our pleasure to honor and thank you.

Sincerely,

Gary Thorsen  
*President*

January 19, 2008  
Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame

# CONGRATULATIONS

to this years 1964-1979 era Chicago  
16" Softball Hall of Fame inductees

**John Ben Rossi • Paul Gunther**

**Jim "Juice" Mikuta • Dennis "Punchy" Wallace**

---

**1996**

**Bill Bereckis  
Jake Jacobi  
Willie 'Steamer'  
Simpson  
Mike Tallo  
Ed Zolna  
Tony Reibel**

**1997**

**Al Cech  
Bob Grippio  
Ron Olesiak  
Ed 'the Champ' Surma  
Rich Urbanski**

**1998**

**Willie Fencel  
Billy Johnson  
John Straley  
John Berekis**

**1999**

**John Hornacek  
Jerry Kelleher  
Frank Lentine  
Jerry Schmitt  
Clyde Stary**

**2000**

**Bob Hobson  
Ken Kamradt  
'Hammerin' Hank Kemp  
'Jake' Schmitz  
Bob Warnock**

**2001**

**Hank Zitnick  
Bill Massuci  
Jack 'Whitey' Johnson  
Leonard West  
Ben 'The Thumper' Holt**

**2002**

**Fred Wolf  
Mike Mareno  
William 'Willie' Schmitz  
Anthony 'Zeke' Crement  
William 'Bill' Holford**

---

*- from the 1964-1979 Selection Committee -*

**John Hie - Sy Warchol - Bob Lamont - Walter Papierz**



# Chicago's Game 16" Softball

Hosted by Jack Brickhouse • Produced by Al Maag and Tom Tillisch



From the game's origin in 1887 to the Bobcats, Sobies and Lettuce Great photos and film footage plus interviews with Hall of Fame inductees.

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# PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

## 1996

### PIONEERS 1887 - 1949

Lewa "Rocco" Yacilla  
 Harry Hannin  
 Nate "Sweetwater" Clifton  
 Redmond "Red" Hurter  
 Ben "Nicky" Branman  
 Mel Thillens  
 Bill "Willie" Pierucci  
 Jim DiVito  
 Dan Dumas  
 Willie Klemchuk  
 Sam "Dusty" LaBarbera  
 Babe Godlewski  
 Harry "Swede" Roos  
 Zeke Ireland  
 Vern Parry  
 Vito "Tasty" Yario  
 Leo Fischer  
 George Hancock  
 Bennie Feinblatt  
 Art "Lefty" Goldfeder  
 Chester "Whitey Maytag"  
 Matykiewicz  
 Frederick deBeer

### 1950 - 1963 ERA

Bob Lamont  
 Ray Topolski  
 Charlie Serpe  
 Joe "Geetz" Gucwa  
 Cy Abata

### 1964 - 1980 ERA

Willie "Steamer" Simpson  
 Ed Zolna  
 Bill Bereckis  
 Joseph "Jake" Jacobi  
 Mike Tallo

### PLAYER/MANAGERS

Tony Reibel  
 Frank Holan

### ORGANIZERS

Bob Campbell, Tom Bonen

### 1980'S & 90'S ERA

Larry "Mucles" Kelly

### WOMEN

Mary Pat McGuire

### UMPIRES

Jim Murphy  
 Rich "Chico" Driscoll

### RICHARD J. DALEY FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD

Dominic Carfagno

### MAN OF THE YEAR

Al Maag

## 1997

### PIONEERS

Mel Turner  
 Martin "Marty" Bush  
 Jim "Nugie" Watkins  
 Bill "Eggs" Bromley  
 James "Shiek" DiNardi  
 Tony Canna  
 Jack "Goldie" Goldstein  
 Harry Wilson  
 Bobby Fallon  
 James Holmes  
 Terrell Jackson  
 Claude Rhodes

### 1950 - 1963 ERA

Ed Earle  
 Don "Ducky" Dulbis  
 Gene Hrabek  
 Bill "Lefty" Hunt  
 Robert Lemon

### 1964 - 1979 ERA

Ron Olesiak  
 Bob Garippo  
 Rich Urbanski  
 Al Cech

Ed "Champ" Surma

### 1980'S & 90'S ERA

Wally Filkins

### WOMEN

Mary Kay Schaefer Monaghan

### UMPIRES

Burt Levinthal  
 Dominic Paparatto

### PLAYER/MANAGERS

Dick Cooper  
 Nick "Moose" Camillo

### ORGANIZERS

Jim Sarno &  
 Dave Novak / Forest Park  
 George Morse &  
 Frank Afable / Clarendon Park

### MEDIA

Bill Gleason  
 Tim Maher

### FRANK C. HOLAN AWARD

Rich Melman

### RICHARD J. DALEY FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD

Bill King &  
 Larry Sowa / Miller Brewing

## 1998

### PIONEERS

Frank Vodicka  
 Barney Nemeck  
 John Galvin  
 Jim Brennan  
 Bill Davis  
 Andy Karkoska  
 Augie Ruff  
 Paul Bute  
 Jim Edgeworth  
 Bob Werderitch  
 Steve Donchez

### 1950 - 1963 ERA

John Abbatacola  
 Al Oziemkowski  
 Ken Furlanetto  
 Ed Mulligan

### 1964 - 1979 ERA

John Bereckis  
 Willie Fencel  
 John Straley  
 Billy Johnson

### 1980'S & 90'S ERA

Mike Caputo  
 Jack Kelly  
 John Kelleher

### WOMEN

Mary Defiglia  
 Mary Ann Walter

### PLAYER/MANAGERS

Jim Lang  
 Les Messinger

### UMPIRES

Pete Dawkins  
 Tom Frangella

### ORGANIZERS

Bob Ancona and Les Duncan

### MEDIA

Mike Conklin and George Bliss

### FRANK C. HOLAN AWARD

Jack Stout

### RICHARD J. DALEY FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD

Pete Crnjak of Pete's  
 Hideaway

## 1999

### PIONEERS

Kenneth Speirs  
 Pete Monaco  
 Eugene Leo  
 Peter Bondi  
 Sol Mosillami

### 1950 - 1963 ERA

Jerry Dowling  
 Joe Hutmacher  
 Wally Mader  
 Bob Perna

### 1964 - 1979 ERA

John Hornacek  
 Jerry Kelleher  
 Frank Lentine  
 Jerry Schmitt  
 Clyde Stary

### 1980'S & 90'S ERA

Randy "Stretch" Lee  
 Bob McClelland  
 Ron Ziemann

### WOMEN

Chick Lillis  
 Gail "Bucky" Pistello

### UMPIRE

Ken Hansen

### PLAYER/MANAGER

Ron Braash, Sr.

### ORGANIZER

Ed Kelly

### MEDIA

Don DeBat

### FRANK C. HOLAN AWARD

Fritz Zimmerman

### RICHARD J. DALEY FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD

Phil Sutera  
 Walter Papierz

### TEAMS HONORED

Sobies

# PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

**2000**

**PIONEERS**

Richard Triptow  
John Hechinger  
Santo Bruno  
John "Butch" Backshis  
John "Mickey" McCallum  
Stan Norka  
Paul "Pee Gee" Van Meter

**1950 - 1963 ERA**

Dave Arnoux  
Vic Jasaitis  
Vic Kariolich  
Dennis Migala  
Stan "Rabbits" Zajac

**1964- 1979**

Bob Hobson  
Ken Kamradt  
Hank Kemp  
Robert "Jake" Schmitz  
Bob Warnock

**1980,S & 90,S**

Rich Ladewig  
John O'Connor  
Sammy Taylor  
Dave Bishoff

**WOMEN**

Connie Bruegman  
Toni Stachon Paolini

**UMPIRES**

John Hie  
John Malloy

**PLAYER/MANAGER**

Mike McGovern

**ORGANIZERS**

Ron Kubicki  
Tom O'Neill

**FRANK C. HOLAN  
AWARD**

Art Lurie

**RICHARD J. DALEY  
FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD**

Sy Warchol

**TEAMS HONORED**

Bobcat's  
Rose N Crown

**2001**

**PIONEERS**

Joe Brankis  
Edward Lenoard  
Stan Szukala

**1950 - 1963 ERA**

Bobbie Blackstone  
Henry Currie  
Edward Zaitz  
Ted Tomczak

**1964- 1979**

Ben Holt  
Jack Johnson  
Bill Massuci  
Hank Zitnik  
Leonard West

**1980'S & 90'S**

Ken Flaws  
Rick Monday  
Brian Panick  
Ray Topps

**WOMEN**

Pam Michalski Vidovic  
Beverly Dagenais  
Roxanne Fox Gura

**UMPIRE**

Pete Schmit

**PLAYER/MANAGER**

Wally Pecs

**ORGANIZERS**

Charles Jensen  
Jack Ratkovic

**MEDIA**

Mike Royko

**FRANK C. HOLAN  
AWARD**

Al McFarlane

**RICHARD J. DALEY**

**FRIEND OF**

**SOFTBALL AWARD**

J.P. "Pat" Malone

**TEAMS HONORED**

The OJ's Women's  
Kuppenheimer's  
Lyon's 45s

**2002**

**PIONEERS**

Wally Meyers  
Ladislaus "Bingy" Boblak  
Leonard "Sarge"  
McKinnon  
Bruno Pinkos  
Sano Scavuzzo  
Michael Hanas

**1950 - 1963 ERA**

John "Wimpy" O'Connor  
Edward "Dooner" Koss  
Jack Lyman  
Vic Kostecki

**1964- 1979**

Fred Wolf  
William "Willy" Schmitz  
William "Sweet Billy"  
Holford

Michael "Reno" Mareno  
Zeke Crement

**1980'S & 90'S**

Odell Humphrey  
Matt Biondic  
Patrick "Padyo"  
Moran, Sr.

Terry Moran  
Bill Dvorak  
Steve Prostran  
Tom Jurevis

**WOMEN**

Margaret Olawoye  
Denise "Dee" Hancock

**UMPIRES**

John Mitchell  
James Gemskie  
Paul Leonard

**PLAYER/MANAGER**

Sal Vasta

**ORGANIZER**

Donald Jens

**MEDIA**

Tim Weigel

**FRANK C. HOLAN  
AWARD**

Jimbo Levato

**RICHARD J. DALEY**

**FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD**

Patrick O'Conner

**TEAMS HONORED**

Dwarfs  
Angels

**2003**

**PIONEERS**

Frank Dalesandro  
Joe Neumann

**1950 - 1963 ERA**

Jimmy Nallen  
George Wagner  
Eddie Miller

**1964-1979**

Lou Lusignan  
Matt Dosen  
Jim Moore  
Louis Zielinski

**1980-1992**

Mike Flynn  
Mike Ellerby  
Tom "Eggs" Czarnik

**1993 - CURRENT**

Paul Brezinski

**WOMEN**

Christine Hurrins  
Kim Summers

**UMPIRE**

Ron Dunlap

**PLAYER/MANAGER**

Mick Balestri

**ORGANIZER**

Al Maag

**MEDIA**

Bill Dwyer

**FRANK C. HOLAN  
AWARD**

Holmes "Daddy-O" Daylie

**RICHARD J. DALEY  
FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD**

Butch McGuire

**WALL OF FAME**

Jim Spidale

**TEAMS HONORED**

Molex  
Taggers  
Mixed Company

# PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

## 2004

### PIONEERS

Jimmy Cann  
Emil Flerick  
Casey LaRocco  
Tony "Buzz" Norka

### 1950-1963

Mike Coyne  
Ed Whitman

### 1964-1979

Butch Gordon  
Hank Magicra  
Frank Szczech

### 1980-1993

Michael Lee  
Tom Newman  
David "Smokey" Swiatek

### 1993 - CURRENT

Stan Bachusz

### WOMEN

Gail "Boydie" Livingston  
Cheryl Small - Mikolaitis

### ORGANIZER

Joe Umana

### UMPIRE

Bernard "Bud" Lucchetti

### MANAGER

Tommy Kelleher

### MEDIA

Irv Porter

### FRANK C. HOLAN AWARD

Jack Dowling

### RICHARD J. DALEY FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD

Joe Rizza

### WALL OF FAME

Jerry Duchon

### TEAMS HONORED

North Shore Congregation  
Playboys  
Sulky Inn

## 2005

### PIONEERS

Larry Coutre  
Tom Cramsie  
Julio Sachetti  
Alex Kuhn

### 1950-1963

Peter Rocco  
Robert McCormack  
John Salovitch

### 1964-1979

Jim Fuller  
Gino Petramale  
Tony Struppa

### 1980-1993

Andrew "Buddy" Doroskin  
Mike Clifford  
Larry "LaLa" Washington

### 1993 - CURRENT

Tim Decker  
Mike Stout

### WOMEN

Del Cecchini-Centanni

### ORGANIZER

Paul Rowan

### UMPIRE

Willis Miles

### MANAGER

Don Gardner

### MEDIA

Danny Cahill

### FRANK C. HOLAN AWARD

### Ken Doktor RICHARD J. DALEY FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD

Jim Taylor

### WALL OF FAME

Jimmy Walsh

### TEAMS HONORED

Butch McGuires  
Bud Louisville Takers  
McSchnapps

## 2006

### PIONEERS

Charles "Missy" Miceli  
Charles "Pee Wee" Wilson  
Stanley "Lefty" Stein  
Anthony "Anno" Ross

Thomas Curran

### 1950-1963

Joseph Pusateri  
Gerald "Jerry" Whitry

### 1964-1979

Buddy Haines  
Jimmy McCardle, Sr.  
Tom O'Malley

### 1980-1993

Mark Frighctto  
Rich Mahoney  
Al Placek

### 1993 - CURRENT

Kenny Cooper  
Bill Finnegan  
Curt Uidl

### WOMEN

Lynn Miceli  
Dolly Reardon

### ORGANIZER

Joe Sarna

### UMPIRE

Terry Reilly

### MANAGER

Floyd Glover  
Ron Schabinger

### MEDIA

### Bob Sirott FRANK C. HOLAN AWARD

Bob Pagorek  
Sally Gregory

### RICHARD J. DALEY FRIEND OF SOFTBALL AWARD

Terry O'Brien

### WALL OF FAME

Rich Delguidice

### TEAMS HONORED

Whips  
Rebels (Womens)  
Com Ed

# A Special Thank You & Acknowledgement

To All the Generous Donors to  
our Silent Auction & Raffle

*Their kind support helps make the Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame a reality. We ask attendees at our 2007 Awards Banquet to show their appreciation by patronizing these fine businesses over the next year.*

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## Roy “Books” Kindt



In nominating Roy Kindt to the Hall of Fame, fellow Hall of Famer, Bob LaMont, describes Roy as someone who was never in the limelight but was someone who had a profound effect on the popularity of 16-inch softball. As one of softball’s great managers, he played with some of Chicago’s great athletes during the pre-World War II days, earned three battle stars fighting in the Pacific during World War II, and then managed a Hall of Fame team during the 1970s

Roy Kindt grew up in the Belmont and Central area of Chicago’s West side and attended Steinmetz High School. He played hardball with the Chicago Romans and the Bel Central Cobras. As a center fielder hitting in the number three slot, at seventeen he was the youngest (and possibly the best) player on the team.

The Cobras were managed by Johnny Nigging, whose brother Johnny Nigging was known as the New York Yankee killer, and competed against some of the top hardball teams in Chicago: Winkler Motors, Benda Coals, Cole Boosters, the River Grove Nationals, Graylins, and the Giants, a team from Washington Park that featured players from the old Negro League.

These players competed for the Kansas City Monarchs, the Birmingham Black Barons, the Memphis Red Sox, and Chicago’s own American Giants, who played in the old Chicago White Sox Park. Even though they were beyond their peak playing years, they were still great players.

In 1942 Roy left for military service in World War II. He started his twenty-year career in organizing and managing softball teams in the early ‘60s when he managed the St. Pascal CYO team. He took them to three championships at Clarendon Park and at Grant Park. During the last ten years of his career, he managed the Lyon’s 45s, a Northwest side powerhouse and a Hall of Fame team that won numerous league and tournament titles. Because of his managerial skills, they competed against some of the notable South side teams of that era.

Roy is retired from softball. He is also a retired accountant for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. He and his wife, Anne, have a son, Tom, a daughter-in-law, Jacque and two grandchildren, Heather and Troy.

They now split their time between Chicago’s Northwest side and Arizona.

---

# **Congratulations Roy Kindt**

**(Manager)**

**On your induction into the  
CHICAGO 16" HALL OF FAME**

**We appreciate and thank you for all you did  
for us and 16" softball**

**Tom Lyons 45's**

.....

## **Congratulations Roy Kindt**

**for your induction into the  
Chicago 16" Hall of Fame.**

**Roy's family always came 1<sup>st</sup> but sports  
especially 16" softball were a close 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Your Proud Family with Love**

**Anne  
Jacquie  
Heather  
Tom  
Troy**

*Floyd Berrien*

**F**loyd Berrien grew up at 31st and Calumet. He attended Douglas Grammar School and Wendell Phillips High School, class of 1944.

Floyd started playing softball in 1942 with two teams: the Pepsi Cola Aces at 33rd and Wentworth and at 62nd and Calumet and with the Gaylords at Madden Park. He also played with the Vicks and the Van Dykes. He was a catcher who hit in the sixth spot in the line-up. He also played left field.

In 1957 he managed and coached youth softball teams before he started umpiring in 1960 for teams on Chicago's South and West sides. He retired in 1992.

He is a retired truck driver and is a devoted father and husband. They have twelve children, twenty-eight grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. He travels with his wife, a singer with the New City Mass Choir.

• 1 9 4 5 - 2 0 0 7 •

# Joe Mullarkey's CHICAGO "LITE" SENIORS



C. Tylinski  
J. Beecken  
W. Magnuson  
R. Kaz  
R. Kaczmariski  
M. Coyne  
R. Kaz  
J. Eshoo  
G. Mozdzierz,  
M.G.R.  
J. Clausen  
B. Prokopowicz  
G. Danz  
P. Alfasso  
G. Parker

## Congratulations **Gene Mozdzierz** on your induction into the Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame

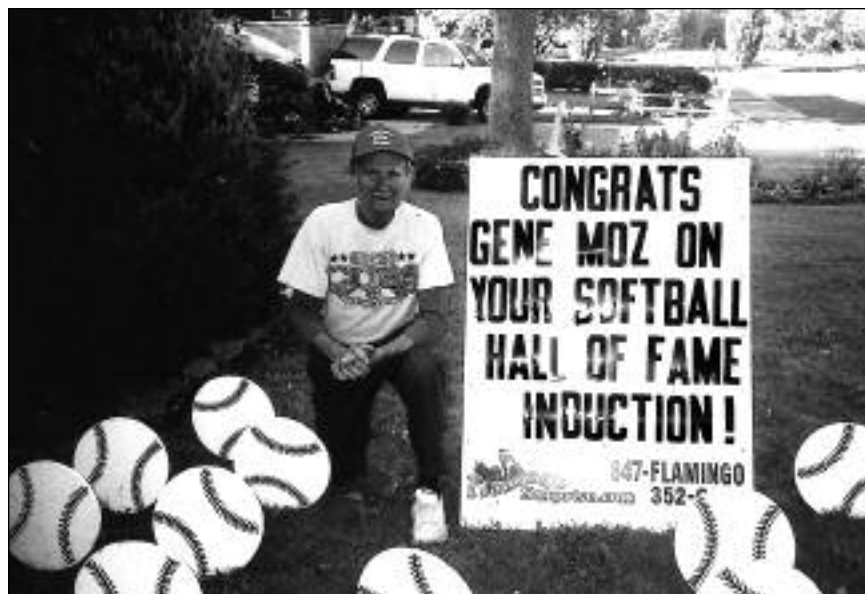
From your proud family,

Wife Lee

Tom, Gina, Donna, Joy, Gary,  
William, Courtney, Shayne

TEAM SPONSOR TERRY KATHY MULLAR KEY

## Gene "Moz" Mozdierz



Gene Mozdierz grew up in the Bucktown neighborhood of Chicago around Bloomingdale and Hermitage. He started his sixty-two year plus softball career when Father Jim Grzybowski from St. Mary's of the Angels, who also played in the Windy City league, started teams for students in the seventh and eight grades.

When it was time to go to high school, he took his baseball talents to Lane Tech where he played shortstop and helped Lane to a second place finish in the city high school league.

He started playing competitive softball at Thillen's Stadium with the Chi-Orioles club and the Northtown Vaults when he was just fifteen. In 1945 they took second place at Thillen's and in 1946 the Chi-Orioles won the Harold-American title when they defeated the Southside Cardinals.

He then went on to play against such legendary teams as Midland Motors, Kool Vent Awnings, Monica Orioles, Ma's Tavern, Wrightwood Park and Martin Jewelers. He played periodically with teams sponsored by Congressman Dan Rostenkowski. The Chi-Orioles and the Rostenkowski teams captured twenty-five

plus league titles. During his forty-four year playing career, teams he played on won 833 games against only 168 losses.

He played shortstop for forty-four seasons (from 1945 to 1988) and was known for his speed and outstanding defensive skills. He batted leadoff for most of his teams for most of his career.

Besides playing softball, Gene Mozdierz also played semi-pro baseball. His baseball team, the Kolski-Boosters, won six league titles, a state title, and finished seventh in nationals during a twelve year span (1952 - 1963). Since 1989 to the present, he has managed, pitched, and played shortstop for the Chicago "Lite" Seniors, a 12-inch softball team.

He is a semi-retired independent painter. He and his wife, Nana Lee, live in Addison, Illinois. They have four children (Gina, Joy, Donna, and Tom) and three grandchildren (William, Courtney, and Shayne).

He thanks his sponsors for the Chi-Lite seniors, Terry and Kathy Mullarkey.

Congratulations to  
**Gene “Moz” Mozdierz**  
2007 Chicago 16” Softball  
Hall of Fame Inductee  
*A well deserved honor!*



*from Iron Mike Coyne and all your friends at*

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*Gil Muratori*

**G**il Muratori arrived in Chicago from Italy in October of 1938 when he was just a few months old. But in 1948, when he was ten years old, he adopted Chicago's great game and started a twenty-eight year softball career that would change the way teams used a catcher.

He started playing in the streets of Chicago's North side. In 1952 he started organized softball with the Neighborhood Boys Club at Paul Revere Park. He then played in the CYO league with the Angels of Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1955. After that he played in leagues and parks around Chicago and the suburbs with fifteen different teams, including the Maple Lane Bobcats, Kenneth Allen, and the legendary and Hall of Fame Daily News team with Mike Royko. He competed in the Mission Bell Classic at San Jose, California and in five ASA World Championships.

During his twenty years as a catcher (although he also played third and first base and the outfield), only three runners were ever called safe after a play at the plate. One of them was Hall of Fame player Bob LaMont. During one game at Portage Park, he tagged out two runners in a row. Many believe that his style of play reinvented the position of catcher. Prior to his playing days, catchers were often great hitters but were also players with weak defensive skills. His style of play gave outfielders the confidence to challenge runners at the plate, knowing that the runner would probably be tagged out. Besides his defensive skills, he also was a power hitter early in his career who changed to a pinch hitter with

power later in his career.

The softball community recognized these skills by naming him MVP six times. In 1966 he won the triple crown title (homeruns, top batting average, and RBI leader) with the Kenneth Allen team at Lombard. He captured the batting title playing with the Bruins at the Mission Bell Classic in San Jose, California in 1973. He also provided commentary in the television booth along with Greg Gumbel, Tim Weigel and Mike Royko at the Windy City Championships.

Besides playing softball, Gil Muratori also played ice hockey in leagues throughout Chicago. In 1970 he won the MVP award for defensemen in the Rainbow Hockey League. He played defense for the Cougars, leading them to multiple league titles in the Prairie State League. He also refereed hockey and in 1979 served as referee director for the Illinois Amateur Hockey Association, an organization responsible for over seven hundred hockey referees throughout Illinois.

He started out as a meat cutter with Jewel Foods but joined Hoechst Pharmaceuticals in 1966, retiring in 1995 as the director of public policy and governmental relations. He and his wife, Mary, live in Miami, Florida where Gil spends most of his retirement fishing. He now has his U.S. Coast Guard captain's papers, so he can take clients out for a fee.

They have four children (Marina, Mike, Karen, and Anita), eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**GIL MURATORI ACKNOWLEDGES WIFE & FAMILY  
SPECIAL AND SINCERE THANKS**

**TO MY DEAR AND PATIENT WIFE OF 48+ YEARS, MARY.  
TO MY CHILDREN; MARINA, MICHAEL, KAREN AND ANITA.**

*Thanks to Mary, for bearing with me for all those days and evenings when I was playing. Many evenings we would travel many miles between parks to play those 2 games. Special thanks for her understanding when a phone call would come Friday evening asking me to play in 4-6 games during what would have been a open weekend. During a normal summer there would be no open weekends.*

*Thanks to my children who spent many an evening and weekend watching their dad play the game he loves. They stayed out late and still met their school obligations.*

*Thanks to all those players I played with and against for making those games and times such an important and memorable part of my life.*

*I love you all.*

**Willie Frenzel  
Willie Simpson  
Mick Balestri  
Bob Warnock**

*Congratulations Inductees  
and Continued Success*

**Chicago 16 Inch Softball  
Hall of Fame**



**Joe Gucwa  
Al Cech  
Ed Zolna  
Pete Monaco**



**ST. ALBERT THE GREAT**  
Council No. 3935

64 - 79 ERA

*Paul Guenther*

Paul Guenther began his twenty-six year softball career in the early '60s playing in the park leagues of Berwyn and Cicero. Although he spent most of his career playing second base, he could play any infield position with skill. When he moved to the Sobies, he was a great asset because he could also play any outfield position.

Paul was not the biggest or the strongest player, but he was blessed with excellent speed and sure hands, skills that any team would love to have. Besides his excellent defensive skills, he was also a great hitter who could drive in runs with singles and doubles.

He helped the Sobies / American Rivets teams to two state titles, two Chicago Metro championships, three Chicago Park District titles, and the 1974 Windy City Chicago championship. They also won the Clarendon Park title five times, took four Andy Frain titles, and won three world championships.

Paul and his wife, Bonnie, live in Las Vegas, Nevada with their daughter.

# **CONGRATULATIONS**

## **Paul Guenther & Jim Mikuta**

**on your Induction to the**

### **Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame**

Sobies Softball



Standing L-R Sonny Padula, Dennis Andritis, Bill Massuci, Tony Bertuca ,  
Tony Petruzzi, John Hornacek, Doc Papierz, Wille Vail, Bill Bonk, Dennis Schafer,  
Frank Schmalz, Jim Mikuta, Hank Zitnik, Jerry Schmitt, Tony Reibel, and Jim Jalowiec.  
Front Row L-R Tony Valosek, Gene Pingatore, Dick Tschereeny , and Ed Surma

**From Your Teammates of the**  
**Sobies-American Rivet Team**

## James J. "The Juice" Mikuta



Jim Mikuta started playing softball at 37th and Albany in the Brighton Park neighborhood of Chicago. Like thousands of kids before him, he and his friends played "sewer to sewer" until they were too big for the street corner and moved to the schoolyards or the neighborhood parks. In Jim's case he moved to gravel lots along at 38th Street during recess where he received valuable lessons on hitting from the nuns at St. Joseph and St. Anne's Grammar Schools.

He attended St. Rita High School until his family moved to the Midway Airport area in 1962 and Jim transferred to Gage Park High School. Because of this move, he spent a lot of time at Pasteur Park watching the older guys play. Once he got older, he and his friends started the Chancellors. They played at Pasteur and other neighborhood parks. Around 1964 - 65 they combined players with some former Whips players and created the Hustlers.

It was a two-day tournament with the Hustlers at Trumbull Park that would change Jim's softball fortunes. They were playing Red's Tap (aka the Bobcats) in a 9:00 game on Sunday morning and many of the players for Red's Tap were late in arriving, so the Hustlers were holding their own. Once the stragglers started arriving, the game turned from being a good game to being a great game. Although the Hustlers lost the game 7-6, Jim did especially well on the field and at bat, hitting two homers and a triple.

After the game, Pete Monaco, the Hall of Fame manager, asked Jim if he wanted to play for the Cats. That was every playground rat's dream, so he quickly said yes. However, before he started

playing at Clarendon, he put in some practice time in a gravel lot by Gage Park to get used to the "juiced-up" ball used at Clarendon.

With that it was softball five nights a week with double headers at Clarendon and Kelly Parks. They played in weekend tournaments, in classic money games, and on Sunday mornings at Lake Shore Park. Jim also played with Sgt Peppers and Butch McGuire in the Rush Street League.

Unfortunately Jim's first appearance in a national tournament with the Bobcats didn't go as he planned. He and two other players were benched in favor of some ringers brought in for the tournament. The Bobcats lost to the Sobies 10-0 and Jim's loyalties quickly changed to the Sobies. He stayed with them a few more years before retiring from softball.

1968 was a life-changing year for Jim. He started his carpenter apprenticeship with Local 10 and met his future wife, Carole Mary. He has since worked as a building inspector for Chicago, was a union steward for the new Comiskey Park (has the first brick from the old park), worked for the Chicago Housing Authority for ten years, and is currently finishing his career as a carpenter for the CTA at the South shops.

He and his wife, Carole Mary, have been married forty years and have three sons, Christopher, Adam, and James. Unfortunately, his youngest son and great sports enthusiast, Jim, passed away in 2005. Jim, Sr. dedicates his induction to his sons. He cherishes the memories of all the great games and all the friendships he made because of softball.

Home of The  
**"NO GLOVE NATIONALS"**  
*A Tradition in 16" Softball for 40 years!*

**Proudly Brought To You By:**

*Park District Board of Commissioners*

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**Celebrate**  
**40 years**  
*of*  
**memories,**  
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**Teams of Fame**

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1969 Maywood Agents  | 1988 Bud North            |
| 1970 Bruins          | 1989 Bud North            |
| 1971 Cheifs          | 1990 Pete's HideawayWhips |
| 1972 The Cabin       | 1991 Lettuce              |
| 1973 Strikers        | 1992 Splinters March      |
| 1974 Bobcats         | 1993 Lettuce Softball     |
| 1975 Sobees          | 1994 Lettuce Softball     |
| 1976 Bobcats         | 1995 Thee Doll House      |
| 1977 American Rivet  | 1996 Bud 45's             |
| 1978 Bobcats         | 1997 Lettuce Softball     |
| 1979 Mr. A. Lucky    | 1998 Rizza Rockers        |
| 1980 Stompers        | 1999 Puglise Softball     |
| 1981 Ottos           | 2000 Bucks                |
| 1982 Ottos           | 2001 Miller 45's          |
| 1983 Budweiser Whips | 2002 Licorice             |
| 1984 Budweiser Whips | 2003 Miller 45's          |
| 1985 Budweiser Whips | 2004 Miller 45's          |
| 1986 Bud Chicago     | 2005 Flash                |
| 1987 Bud North       | 2006 Miller 45's          |

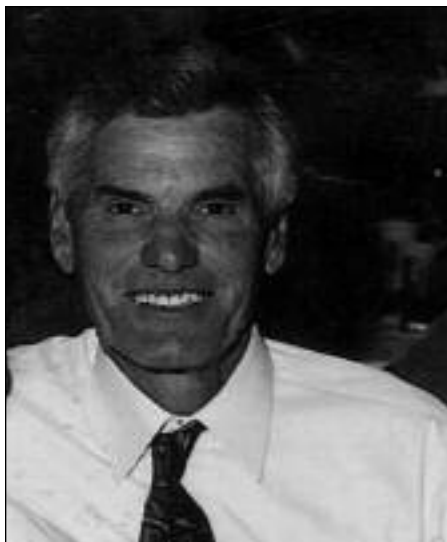
2007 Miller 45's

**NO GLOVES, NEVER HAD THEM, NEVER WILL!!**

**40th Annual Invitational Tournament**

**July 24th - 27th**

*The Park District would like to thank everyone who has made this tournament great throughout the years. We are looking forward to the best one yet!*

*John Ben Rossi*

John Rossi's voyage to playing major softball in Chicago took a few detours along the way. After graduating from Mendel Catholic High School in 1955 (where he played football), he attended and played football for Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, Citrus Junior College in Azusa, California, and Adams State in Alamosa, Colorado. He was then drafted into the Army and was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington where he played baseball for the fort team.

After the army it was back to Chicago where he started playing softball. During his twenty-five year career, John Rossi played with some of the top teams and top players of his era: the South side Loafers with Les Messinger (HOF) as manager and with Jake and Willie Schmidt and Fred Woolfe (all Hall of Famers) as teammates and with Beetle Bomb and Ron Braash on the North side (HOF) with Hall of Fame teammates

Wally Mader, Tony Reibel, and Zeke Crement.

He competed at Clarendon Park with Beetle Bomb, at Kelly Park and Summit Park with the Loafers, at Kosciusko Park with the Loafers and Beetle Bomb and in the legendary Daddy O Daily League with the Loafers. He also played in parks all over Chicago for the Chicago Fire Department.

Of all the great moments John had while playing softball, he most remembers beating the Bobcats at Trumbull Park in the late '50s and beating the Chicago Police Department at Thillen's Stadium while he was playing with the Chicago Fire Department team.

He is a retired bricklayer of forty-four years with Local 21 and a retired firefighter of thirty-three years with Local 2. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Homewood, Illinois. They have twin girls, Francesca and Michelina.

# **BARRACO'S RESTAURANT**

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And Their Friends

Congratulate

## **BEN ROSSI**

On his induction into Chicago's 16" H.O.F.

We-Your Teammates from Moore Business Forms/Loafers

Also join in honoring you

"Jake" Schmitz

Freddie Wolf

Willy Schmitz

Allan Wolf

Les Messinger (In Memorium)

## **CONGRATULATIONS 2007**

**Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame Inductees!**



OVER 50 YEARS OF  
TAFFY APPLES  
& 16" SOFTBALL!

## Dennis "Punchy" Wallace



Dennis Wallace's softball career began when he was only four years old. His brother gave him a 16-inch softball and the rest is history. His natural talent was apparent early because whenever sides were picked, he was always one of the first players picked, even though he wasn't always one of the bigger kids. He was selected because he was often the most consistent hitter and one of the best fielders because he learned a lot from the older players.

When Dennis was nine years old he was noticed by David Wells and was asked to play baseball in the Ida B. Wells Little League. That year he never came to bat without getting a hit and was selected to the league all-star team for his efforts. But his fortunes were about to change when the team went to the Little World Series.

Whenever Dennis came to bat during these games, he never got a hit. He would hit in practice but wouldn't get a hit during the games. The team finished in third place. The next year he learned to play all outfield positions, he could pitch, and he could play first base. At thirteen he joined the Red Boys, a pony league team from Washington Park. His pitching prowess shined as he went on to throw twenty-five no hit games.

The next year scouts from the Chicago Cubs came to watch him play. He was told that he would get a contract when he was seventeen. But that year he pitched too much and threw out his arm, so his chance at the majors was gone.

With baseball out of the picture, Dennis tried

to play softball with a neighborhood team but couldn't compete due to his injured arm. At fifteen he made a successful return to softball when he and his friends formed the Junior Nobles out of Madden Park and began to dominate teams in cash games throughout the South side. One team that they beat had Cazzie Russell, the future NBA star, playing third base. He said that they had never played such a great team.

At eighteen he joined the Chicagoans, a team playing out of the Altgeld Gardens. Unfortunately he went into another hitting slump but his defense kept him in the starting lineup. After he realized why he wasn't hitting, he was able to hit to all fields and could hit with power. When he played with the Senators in the Windy City League and at top parks around Chicago, he was known as one of the best left-handed hitters of his time.

He finished his career with the Flamingoes in the tavern league at 75th and Jeffrey.

They took first place during the three years he played for them. He also played with the Challengers in the Post Office league on Sundays. They also captured first place every year he played with them. He was named the MVP of the Flamingoes in 1980.

He and his wife, Sharron Perrie, have eight children (Dennis, Davin, Deaundee, Arylius, Justen, Romell, Lashonda, and Angellica). They live on Chicago's South side.

Congratulations to all of  
this year's Inductees from  
**Westchester Park District**



**Home of the  
Pro League of Champions and  
Tournament of Champions**

2007 Pro League Teams

Miller 45's	19-3	ASA National Champions
Entourage	18-4	3rd place ASA major nationals
Maxim	15-7	5th place ASA major nationals
Mudville	15-7	13th place ASA major nationals
Hype	14-8	7th place ASA major nationals
Windy City	14-8	5th place ASA major nationals
Cash	11-11	
Universal Iron	10-12	9th place ASA major nationals
Dogg Pound	10-12	
Finger Lickin Good	10-12	33rd place ASA class A nationals
Impact	9-13	7th place ASA major nationals
March	9-13	4th place ASA class A nationals
Crush	8-14	9th place ASA class A nationals
Young Guns	7-15	17th place ASA major nationals
Wicked Squids	5-17	
Ten Deep	2-20	25th place ASA class A nationals

2007 Tournament of Champions

Champions	Miller 45's
Runnerup	Windy City
3rd place	Twist
4th place	Mudville
5th place	Maxim
	Boom
7th place	Universal Iron
	Young Guns

2008 League play begins May 1s

2008 Tournament of Champions  
May 15th - 18th

*Jim Kraus*

**J**im Kraus has always loved sports. As a boy, you could always find him at the park playing baseball with his brother Joe. This interest in baseball led him to be a starting pitcher at Proviso East High School.

He started playing softball in the early '70s with Spirit, a team made-up on high school friends, at Forest Park. Though he pitched in high school, he switched to playing first and third base.

In 1975, Jim was asked to play for Cecelia (managed by Rich Huska). He stayed with them for five years before Otto's (managed by Chris Baraglia) took over as sponsor. In 1980 he played in his first national competition. It was a memorable beginning when he hit a homerun in his first at-bat.

Otto's broke up after the 1981 season and Jim moved to the Whips. In 1982 the Whips won the USSSA Nationals. During his time with the Whips, Jim was named MVP in the Forest Park Tournament, hitting .600 for one of the tournaments.

Over the years he had the opportunity to play with many great players. He played in many ASA and USSSA Nationals and in several Forest Park championships, his favorite tournament. Jim continued to play with the Whips until he retired from softball in 1992.

He works for School District 87 in Berkley, Illinois. On the weekends he works with longtime teammate Wally Filkins and WF Decorating. He resides in Addison, Illinois with his family.

*Mark Wilson*

**M**ark Wilson's softball career began when he was fourteen and started playing in the Friday night high school league at Peak's Park in Worth, Illinois. From that early beginning, he would go on to play with some of softball's great teams (Barrel of Fun, Francanello's, Whips, Bud Runners, Renegades, Bats, Hollywood Casino, Men from Uncle, Jelly, and Grasshoppers) and would win numerous team and individual honors.

Six years later he made his move into softball's major league when he joined the Eye of the Tiger team in the Blue Island League. Two years later (1983) he played in his first of many nationals. That year he was named an ASA Second Team All American. Before his career was over, he was named an ASA First Team All American four times (1984, '88, '90, and '91), a USSSA All American three times (1985, '88, and '89), and a NSA All American twice. He was also selected to numerous ASA, USSSA, and NSA second and honorable mention teams.

He won the batting title at the 1996 ASA Nationals in Brookfield, Wisconsin when he played with Francanello's and was named Most Valuable Player in the 1988 ASA Nationals in Marshalltown, Iowa with the Whips. Teams he played for appeared in final four finishes four times at Forest Park. They appeared in the ASA final four seven times and won four ASA National titles (Whips, Hollywood Casino, and Men from

Uncle) and won three NSA National titles.

Throughout his career in "A" and "Major" softball, he played second base, first base and catcher. In time, catcher became his primary position where he was recognized for his knowledge of the game and for his ability to know the strengths and weaknesses of the opposing hitters. Besides his defense, Mark's offensive skills featured numerous clutch-hitting performances with his signature line drive to the right center field gap.

When he wasn't playing softball, Mark worked as a project manager during the day and sports director at night for the Alsip Park District. During his tenure at the Alsip, enrollment increased to 147 teams in the summer of 2004, second only in Illinois to the Rockford Park District.

He currently directs the softball program at the Blue Island Park District. Because of his efforts, the park district was awarded an ASA "A" National bid to the 2006 and 2007 summer league season winners.

He continues playing with the Grasshoppers and hopes to win another "A" National title before retiring from softball. He is also an ASA registered umpire.

He and his wife, Laura, live in Frankfort, Illinois with their two children - Douglas and Jessica.

*Clayton Jones*

Clayton Jones, one of softball's premier shortstops, played with the Safari Tigers during the 1980s and with the Be-Athletes into the '90s. As a three-time All-American selection in 1985 and 1986 and again in 1995, Clayton's excellence at shortstop excited fans for over twenty years.

Playing with La La Washington (HOF) and Stretch Lee (HOF), Clayton rounded out one of the strongest infields playing during their era. His exciting plays during the 1985 and 1986 ASA Nationals helped the Tigers to advance into the finals, narrowly missing winning back-to-back titles.

Besides his excellent defensive skills, Clayton helped the Tigers and the BE-Athletes with his ability to hit consistently with power and accuracy. With his great speed added into the mix, Clayton was truly a fully rounded athlete who earned the respect of his teammates and competitors alike.

He and his wife, Neola, live in Chicago.

# MARCH



**Proud Sponsor of  
Major 16" Softball  
and the Chicago 16"  
Softball Hall of Fame**

**March Manufacturing Co.  
Glenview, Illinois**

## Pat Heraty



One of the top leadoff hitters of his era, Pat Heraty was known for his precision hitting, a skill that frustrated infielders and outfielders alike.

He started his career in 1975 playing for Dino Franch on the Franch & Sons Trucking Team. In 1981 he joined fellow College of DuPage baseball teammate Bob Fogarty's Magic team. With a strong squad that featured Bill Spingola, Tom Cahill, Mike Ellerby, Bruce Hill and eventually Mark Malouf, Tim Decker and Johnny Morris, Pat gained valuable experience.

Magic won several tournaments and Metros, playing regularly in the Major Nationals and at Forest Park. It was during this period that Wayne Page, an old friend, taught Pat how to "cut" a softball. This skill made him a tough out for the remainder of his career.

In 1988 Pat and four other Magic players hooked up with Dick Cooper and the Meadows. At that time it was led by Hall of Famer Terry Moran. Heraty stayed with them for two years until Dick Cooper's retirement. Pat then joined Fritz Zimmerman's newly formed March Manufacturing, managed by Joe Mercadante. For the next two years, he had the opportunity to play with Hall of Famers Pat Moran, Jack and Larry Kelly, and Mark Frighetto.

In 1992 he was invited to play for Frank Holen and the Miller Taggers. The camaraderie on this team made 1992 one of the most enjoyable years he would experience playing softball. He then moved to March Manufacturing for two years, rejoining Dick Cooper and Terry Moran in 1993 for a run at the national championship. That team came up a game short when they lost in the title game.

In 1994 Dick Cooper went back into retirement and Rick Gancarz took over the reins of the new March Manufacturing team. This was a scrappy team that won the state tournament and finished second in Forest Park, losing 1-0 in the single elimination

championship game. In 1995 Pat started what was to be an eleven-year run with Hall of Fame coach Bob Rascia and the 45's.

In 1998 Pat helped bring Rick Gancarz to the team and that started the flow of top caliber players like Frank Mustari, Israel Sanchez, Joe Dooley, Rich Villa, Dan Jalowiec, Mike O'Neill, Tony Prochenski, Kurt Uidl, and more recently Mark Holstein, Jeff Berger, Jim Matlock, and Brian Miller to the 45's.

In 2001 with the team now stronger than ever, Pat and the 45's won its first national championship, a victory that Pat will always cherish. Between 2001 and 2005 this powerhouse team went on to win three more national championships, three Forest Park Championships, and an astounding thirty-eight tournament titles during that five-year period.

Over the course of his career, Pat has been named to twelve ASA All-American teams, the All Classic League Team at Mount Prospect, numerous all-star teams, and was honored with the 2007 Terry Moran Sportsmanship Award.

Pat credits his success in softball to top notch coaching, great teammates, and the best batting practice pitcher and number one fan, who never complained at how many pitches he threw or how many games he played in, his wife, Mary.

Pat considers it a privilege to have played memorable 16-inch softball for the past thirty-three and to have formed life long friendships.

At age fifty-three, Pat continues playing with Sal Milazzo's Windy City Softball Team in hopes of bringing them a national title. Pat thanks the Chicago 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame committee for his nomination, and thanks his wife, Mary, his son, Tom, and all of his family, friends, and teammates for their support in making this great honor possible.

# Congratulations Patrick on your induction into the 2007 Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame . . . . .



Patrick,  
After 20 plus years of pitching batting practice, and attending hundreds of games in the rain, cold and (most preferred) sun, I still love watching you play this great game of 16" Softball. You've worked hard to remain competitive and I hope you can continue to enjoy this sport you love for many years to come. Congratulations to one of the best lead-off hitters 16" Softball will ever see, to the great sportsman, terrific father and the **very** best husband anyone could ask for - Congratulations on your induction into the Hall of Fame. From your #1 fan,  
Love always, Mary

Dad,  
Congratulations on being inducted into the Softball Hall of Fame. I'm very happy and proud to have a father who always puts his sons' needs first and still found time to accomplish so much.

Love, Tom

Pat,  
Congratulations on your induction into the Hall of Fame. This is an honor that is well deserved and definitely well earned.  
Tom, Denise and Danny

Pat,  
We've enjoyed watching you play over the years and know how much this means to you.

Congratulations,  
Joe & Donna

Pat,  
Congratulations on the Hall of Fame! You are truly a gentlemen of the game and no one deserves this honor more. Your talent, dedication, sportsmanship and love of the game make it easy to see why you were selected to be among the best.

Love, Jennifer

Patrick, Pat, Patty, Harris, "H", Patty O . . . . .  
From all your Teammates Past; Franch & Sons Trucking, Magic, Meadows, March Manufacturing, Miller Taggars, 45's and Present, Windy City, Congratulations on your induction into the Hall of Fame.

## Frank Mustari



After a record-breaking baseball career at Illinois State University and two professional seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Frank Mustari focused his talents on 16-inch softball when he joined his neighborhood friends on Custom Tape. His talents were quickly noticed and Ken Cooper added him to the Cooper's Sporting Goods roster. With Frank at shortstop, Coopers would become one of the dominant teams of their era and Frank would become one of the most sought after shortstops of that era.

During the late 1980s, Frank joined Bud North and helped them to three consecutive Forest Park No Glove championships. Bud North was loaded with future Hall of Fame members Ken Cooper, John O'Connor, Tom Czarnik, Ken Flaws, Buddy Dorskin, and Mark Frighetto.

In 1991, with the help of Ken Cooper and Al McFarlane, Frank started Splinters Sports Club, arguably one of the best teams in 16-inch softball. As player/coach, Frank led the team on the field and from the bench. These efforts produced an ASA title in Arizona, the first such title by a North side team.

From 1993 to 1995, Frank brought his talents to Rick Melman's Lettuce. He helped Lettuce to a national title in the 1993 Nationals and Marshalltown, Iowa. During that tournament, he won the batting title, the home run title, and was named tournament MVP.

After lettuce, he rejoined Splinters and led them

to a national championship in 1997. He also helped the Rizza Rockers win a Forest Park title.

To finish out his softball career, Frank joined Bob Rascia and the 45s, a team that dominated the softball scene and won numerous national titles. Frank was a member of teams that won eight Forest Park titles and six ASA National championships. Personally he was named to the First Team All Mt. Prospect League; he won one ASA Major Home Run titles and two ASA Major Batting titles; he was an ASA Second Team All-American and was selected eight times as an ASA First Team All-American.

Frank would like to thank all of the great sponsors that he played for throughout his career, specifically Dick Cooper, Rich Melman, Lane Nieman, and the best sponsor he ever teamed with - Al McFarlane and Splinters Sports Club. He also had special thanks for his great teammates Rick Gancarz, Jeff Berger, Ken Flaws, Israel Sanchez, Tom Czarnik, Ken Cooper, John O'Connor, Angelo Alesia, and Jim Matlock. He offers special thanks to his brother Dan Mustari and his defensive partner and dear friend, Tony Prochenski.

Most importantly, he would like to thank his wife and number one fan, Karin, who cheered him on at every game he played. He thanks his sons, Justin, Jeff, and Matty, his parents, Art and Elaine Mustari, and his in-laws, Bob and Hedy Clausen. Unfortunately, Bob passed away, but he would be thrilled to see Frank inducted into the Hall of Fame.



# CONGRATULATIONS



**Frank Mustari**

Shortstop

Offense

Family man

Team player

Believer

All star

La Dodger

Leader

on your

**Induction into the softball**

**Hall of Fame.**

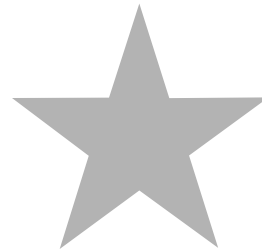
**From your entire family**

**and friends.**

**You will always be our**

**MVP.**

**Mom & Dad**



## Jerry Rhea



Jerry started playing softball in the seventh grade with Leo Priebe's after school program.

After transferring to St. Benedict's in the eighth grade, he continued playing softball in school leagues around the North side of Chicago. He graduated from St. Gregory's (where he played basketball and baseball) and joined the Flying Circus, a team comprised of friends from local high schools.

Jerry started out playing shortstop until one of his coaches realized his great speed gave him the ability to chase down fly balls, so he switched to the outfield. During the mid-'70s, he played with the Hitmen and the Malnati brothers, winning the Paul Revere League and the Sting, taking the titles at Hamlin and Dunham Park Leagues.

After graduating from Aurora College where he played baseball, basketball, and soccer, Jerry moved to the softball's upper echelons when he joined the Playboys. They won the Portage Park title and the Northshore Tournament. In 1984 he had a brief stint with Eye of the Tiger and the Bobcat-Registers, a team combo of Hall of Famers Wally Pecs and Eddie Zolna. He stayed with them through the '85 and '86 seasons. He also played with the Naturals and Bob "Snake" Jirsa.

In 1986 the Jaybirds came calling and Jerry helped them to win a state championship and the 1986 USSSA World title in Muncie, Indiana. In 1987

and 1988 he played for Hall of Fame manager Dick Cooper and Meadows. They won the Mt. Prospect Classic League and were runners-up in a 2-1 game to the Whips in the USSSA finals.

In the 1990s he played with the 45s and March Manufacturing (who placed fourth in the ASA Nationals in Kingman, Arizona) before joining Wally Pecs and the Rabbits in 1991. They took second place in the Chicagoland Classic in 1991 and '92 and captured the national title at the 1992 USSSA World Championships in Sturtevant, Wisconsin.

He then moved to Red Dog and helped them to two 16-inch Softball Hall of Fame Tournament titles, the championship at the Maher Tournament, and runner-up in the Chicagoland Classic.

After twenty-plus year in the outfield, Jerry switched to second base, prolonging his career a few more years. He played briefly for the Bucketheads, March, Registers, and Off. During his career, Jerry played on teams that finished in the top ten of the ASA Nationals eleven times, won two USSSA championships (and were runners-up once). He was named to the North Side All-Star Team and was named an All-American.

Jerry thanks his wife, Karen, and son, Neil, for their patience and support during his twenty-plus year playing career. He dedicates his induction to his daughter, Kailyn, who passed away earlier this year.

**Congratulations to  
JERRY RHEA  
and all  
2007 Hall of Fame  
inductees**



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**Congratulations**

**Kim**

**From Cullinans Stadium Club  
&  
Posse Softball**

## *Kim Pino Panozzo*



**S**ink the paddleboat. Rosie dances moves. Just tape it up; it will be fine. These and other sayings are some of the memories that Kim Panozzo retains from her years of playing in the top echelons of women's softball.

After moving from Roseland to the Beverly area of Chicago, Kim Panozzo begged her father to let her play in the boy's baseball league at Kennedy Park because they did not have girls softball. At a young age, she pitched, caught, and played shortstop with her father as her coach. She moved to playing third base when she switched to softball.

She attended Mother McCauley High School where she played volleyball, basketball, and softball, earning all-conference honors for four years in basketball and for three years in softball.

Her big break in softball came when she was thirteen and her friend asked her to play that summer for her parents' team, the Burbank Southfield Sting. While playing for the Sting, Ron Hurry, the coach for Bidayo's, saw her play and recruited her for what would become a twenty-five year partnership.

Ron Hurry took a group of team members from different geographical areas and a variety of backgrounds and molded them into a powerful force in women's softball. They were successful because Ron took their talent and competitive nature and made them life-long friends and legendary softball players by keeping the core of the team together.

Kim Panozzo's primary team was the

Bidayo's, but she also played with Irish Express and Seldomly Sober. She played five nights a week in Oak Lawn, Blue Island, Worth, Alsip and at Ridge and Kennedy Parks.

From the late 1990s to the early years of 2000, the Bidayo's won the Grant Park Tournament nine of ten years. They also won many ASA and USSSA tournaments during that time period.

As a third baseman for the Bidayo's, Kim was best known for her defense, winning all-tournament team awards from the '80s to the '90s. But she could also hit the ball and drive in runs. During one Metro Tournament at Hart Park in Blue Island, she went thirteen for fourteen for the tournament.

She was named team MVP of the Bidayo's in 1992 and 1995, but she especially remembers the 1992 award because her parents, who rarely missed any of her games, were there to see her receive the award. Her father, who was also her first coach, passed away shortly after she received the award.

Besides softball, she also excelled at women's football. In 2002 she was inducted into the Women's National Football Hall of Fame. As a member of the Orphan's, she was selected to two offensive All-American teams and was selected ten times as a First Team All-American Defensive player.

She has worked for the Cook County Information Technology Office for twenty-five years as a systems analyst and has given up softball for the much more tame sport of golf.

*Pat Pasko*

Pat Pasko grew up in the Bucktown neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest side. Her athletic talents were apparent from an early age. She attended St. Hedwig Elementary School and Resurrection High School where she played basketball, softball, and bowled. She received M.V.P. honors in all three sports before going on to DePaul University to earn her MBA and her teaching degree.

She started playing softball when she was fifteen at Shabonna Park with coach Bernie Kadek. She also played at Hamlin, Kosciusko and Lake Shore Parks and at Mitchell Playground. She entered her prime playing years in the late '60s when she played for Casey's Girls, Hidden Cove Lounge, and the Shags, teams that dominated the competition at many North side parks.

Pat was a talented left fielder early in her career and moved to pitcher later in her career. She was a line-drive hitter with good power (lifetime average over .600) who could hit to all fields. She also had an uncanny ability to play the hit-and-run.

Besides being talented on the field, Pat was also an excellent player/coach of the Slo-Pokes (HOF) during the mid-'70s. She not only played for and managed them, but she also supported

them financially. During their three-year reign, they were considered the finest team on the North side, compiling a record in 1976 of 61 wins and only two losses. That season they won three league championships and won four single day tournaments.

She was also a tremendous promoter of women's athletics at a time when strides were being made in equalizing athletic opportunities for women. She got her teams showcased at Thillen's Stadium and once played a charity game against the Bobcats during a Jerry Lewis telethon.

Besides being an outstanding softball coach and player, she was the head girls varsity basketball coach at Addison Trail High School and was the assistant women's basketball coach at North Central College. She also coached the boys gymnastics team at Addison Trail and once took them to downstate competition. She also coached the semi-pro 12-inch team, the Chicago Blue Jays.

Pat was always a smart and talented player, but her greatest asset was her fierce competitiveness. It was this competitiveness that helped her overcome multiple birth defects on her way to athletic greatness. Unfortunately, the softball world lost a great player, coach, and promoter when she passed away in 1989.

*George Schaaf*

George Schaaf grew up in the South Englewood neighborhood of Chicago and attended Chicago Christian High School where he played baseball. He started his thirty-five year playing and organizing career at a young age with the Englewood I Church team and the Calvin Church team. Both teams won their respective leagues most of the years that they competed.

He then played for the Bobcats, Shoes, ERV, Moore's, Alsterda - Ready Paving, Don's World of Sports and the Calvin Church Reformed League at the top parks around Chicago and the suburbs. He spent the early days of his career at shortstop but moved to become a top defensive pitcher later in his playing days. As a power hitter, he normally hit third or fourth in the line-up. He was selected to numerous all-tournament teams and won many all-star awards.

As an organizer, it didn't take him long to have a positive effect on the game. He started and ran the Holland-American Church League from 1951 to 1957. In the mid-70s he built the Windy City Stadium in Bridgeview. After the stadium

was closed, he donated the lights to Chicago Christian High School and donated the stadium seats to the Oak Lawn Park District. He also sponsored hundreds of park district and church teams through his family business, Schaaf Window Company, and coached many men's and women's softball teams. He is currently building a new gymnasium for Chicago Christian High School and an athletic complex for Trinity Christian College.

George was known as a gracious winner and a good loser. Throughout his playing and organizing days, he taught the game by playing hard and always striving to be his best. As an example of this character, he missed playing in a lot of tournaments (and missed a lot of recognition) because he never played on Sundays due to his religious convictions, but these convictions strengthened his character on and off the field.

George lives in Frankfort, Illinois. He has five children, George Jr., Donna, Barb, Linda, and Bob. His wife, June, passed away.

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# CONGRATULATIONS

## GEORGE "BUTCH" SCHAAF

### On your induction into the 16" Softball Hall of Fame

Your tremendous talent and competitive drive, along with your unselfish desires to give back to the game are an inspiration to us all. We'll never forget watching you play and the time you took teaching us to play the game.

Thanks for all you've done for the sport of softball.

*We are very proud of you!*

Love, your family,  
George Jr., Donna, Barb, Linda, and Bobby,  
Rich, Jackie, Dave, Carla,  
Rachel, Tiffany, Brian, David, Justin,  
Joel, Andy, Bobby Jr.,  
Mark, and Tommy



*Jim (Ack Ack) Acanfora*

**J**im Acanfora was born and raised on Chicago's West side where he attended Quigley North High School, graduating in 1966. He lettered in baseball, basketball, football, track, and wrestling and was also involved in choir and debate.

He then went on to Loyola University and in 1971 earned his degree in Public Accounting (CPA) with a minor in Business Law, Finance, and Classical Languages. He played basketball, football, baseball, hockey, and ran track. He is also a member of the Phi Kappa Theta (PKT) fraternity.

In 1964 he began a playing career that would last into the 1980s, but in 1972 he started an umpiring career that would take him to the major leagues of 16-inch softball. He started umpiring in church, school, and park district leagues around the West and Southwest suburbs of Chicago. Little did he know that from these humble beginnings he would go on to umpire over five thousand softball games, many at softball's highest levels.

In 1978 he became a registered/licensed ASA umpire and began to officiate men's and women's 12-inch and 16-inch games for Tom O'Neill, Bob Ancona, and Joe Hoffman at the top parks in Chicago and the suburbs. That year, he also began

umpiring at ASA regional, sectional, and national competitions. He has officiated at eleven national tournaments, nineteen state tournaments, seven Forest Park Tournaments, twelve Grant Park Tournaments, all six North-South Tournaments, and at numerous 12-inch tournaments.

In 1999 he achieved Gold Status as an ASA umpire, after achieving Blue, Platinum, and Silver levels. During his umpire career, he always stressed fairness in calling the game, respected the players and the integrity of the game, called the game to the best of his ability, and realized that the game is more important than one person.

Currently he has reduced the number of games that he officiates, but does assign an elite group of umpires for 16-inch major leagues and tournaments.

He was the chief financial officer (CFO) and treasurer for Royal Crown Bottling Company of Chicago from 1981 until the company closed in 2005. He is semi-retired and is a consultant for select companies and clients.

He and his wife, Bonnie, live in Palos Park. Jim has two children, Debra and Julie, from a previous marriage.

Announcing an open 16" softball tournament  
March 15/16 in Tempe, Arizona

## Avnet 5th Annual Phoenix Business to Business 16" Softball Tournament Attracts 28 Teams



Coed Champions  
Avnet



Men's Champions  
Dirks Moving Services

Avnet is Arizona's largest public company at \$17 billion in sales of technology products from leading suppliers like IBM, HP, Molex, Sun, Motorola, On Semiconductor, ST Micro, Microsoft, AMD, Intel and Oracle. We are the global leader in distribution services, enterprise networking solutions and dedicated to customer service.

Avnet believes in being a responsible corporate citizen. Many of our employees donate time, talent and monetary contributions to causes, charities and foundations. The Company targets corporate funds to Educational-related programs and events and Children, their well-being and enrichment.

Avnet also believes softball is a great sport to enjoy and network with peers...The recent event held in November raised funds for the local YMCA.

Lead by Al Maag and with great community support from Radio 910, SCF AZ, Coyotes, Bowne, KMPG, Budweiser, Business Journal, Spark Design, Maricopa Sports Commission and Don & Charlie's we expect the event to expand in 2008.

**Avnet has announced a new open tournament to be held in Tempe, Arizona March 15th and 16th. For more information please email [al.maag@avnet.com](mailto:al.maag@avnet.com).**



[www.avnet.com](http://www.avnet.com)

## *Paul Frerking*



Like most 16-inch softball players, Paul Frerking began his softball career playing in local park district games with his high school friends. He grew up in River Grove and attended East Leyden High School where he was named all-conference in basketball and football.

He moved into the major levels of softball when he played with the Amalga Monsters, Bobcats, Budweiser Whips, Relatives, and Sportstation. He was a member of Sportstation when they won a national title, with the Whips when they won two nationals, and with the Bobcats for seven national titles. His favorite playing moment occurred when the Relatives beat the Bobcats at Forest Park.

In 1985 he started a twenty-two year umpiring

career that took him from calling balls and strikes at Forest Park, Grant Park, and at Mt. Prospect to a twenty-year career officiating at ASA National tournaments. Besides his career at the ASA Nationals, he umpired for twenty-one years in the Mount Prospect Classic League. He officiated ten times at ASA Major championship games and is the only umpire to have achieved both the National Indicator Award and have a plaque in the ASA Hall of Fame.

Besides umpiring, Paul has officiated in the Arena Football League and has coached high school baseball and football.

He and his wife, Lura, live in Chicago with their children, Cody and Dakota. He is a teacher in the Norridge Elementary School District.

# **Congratulations!**

**On your Induction  
into the 16" Softball  
Hall of Fame**

*Love, Your Family,  
Lura, Cody, & Dakota*



## **CONGRATULATIONS "Coach Ferik"**

**for starting us in this great game!**

**Your former players:**

**Bob Amelio  
Pete Catalano  
Cori Frioli  
Dino Gorder  
Tom Labeck  
David Mack  
Jim Powers**

**John Bernardi  
Mike Fanelli  
Mike Gale  
Eric Johnson  
Mike Lopez  
Tom Mazolla  
Richie Schroeder  
Paul Zabratanski**

**Renzo Berardi  
Vince Fanelli  
Chris Geron  
Jeff Koss  
Ross Luchiwski  
Tony Portincaso  
Joe Zabratanski**

*Robert Rascia*

Bob grew up in the Galewood neighborhood at North Avenue and Harlem. He attended Holy Cross High School where he earned varsity letters in football, baseball, and track. He is a member of the Holy Cross Hall of Fame for football and track. He also played hockey with the Oak Park Park District at Ridgewood Commons.

Bob's longtime friend, Nick Sposato, helped him start his legendary softball career in grammar school when he and some little league friends formed an under-eighteen team at Sayre Park in 1974. They modeled their team after Lenny Nuzzo's High Times team.

His knack at winning championships started early in his career when his teams won league titles at Merrimac, Sayre, Shabonna, and Franklin Parks from 1976 to 1985. He also honed his skills by playing at Clarendon Park, skills that would later carry him and his teams to a record number of victories and national titles. Besides playing and managing the 45s, he also played for Lightning, the Jets, and O'Briens.

He played primarily left and right field and was known as a line drive, doubles hitter who hit in the first through fifth spot.

In 1988 he took over as manager of the 45s in the Classic League and managed them every year until his retirement at the end of the 2007 season. At first the team struggled to compete at the major level. In 1992 the fortune of the 45s changed with the acquisition of former Touch star, Tim Flanagan and his brother John Flanagan, a star baseball player at Notre Dame. Hall of Fame players Mike Stout and Mike Caputo along with Kurt and Eric Kiesel, Larry Downes, and Tony Portincaso joined the 45s in 1993. From 1993 to '97 the Bud 45s won

their first national tournaments and became a consistent competitor in the upper division of the Classic League.

In 1998 the team took a major step forward when Hall of Famers Frank Mustari, Pat Heraty, Tom Czarnik, Mark Frighetto, Paul Brezinski, and Curt Uidl joined the team. This coup was made possible by Rick "the Franchise" Gancarz. With the help of these very talented players the 45's won their first of six ASA Major National Titles.

In 2003 the dynasty was complete when Jeff Berger, Jim Matlock, and Hall of Famer Ron Kubicki joined the 45s. Additionally, Israel Sanchez, Mark Holstein, Brian Miller, Rich Villa, Jim Dooley, Anthony Avila, Keith Filkins (HOF), John Wolnick, Dave Singer, Fred Grief, Chris Downes, Len Nuzzo, and Marty Dosen were responsible for 468 wins against only 52 loses from 2003 to 2007.

During the years that Bob managed the 45s, they won forty-six tournaments, including five straight ASA National titles. In 1996 they won their first Forest Park Invitational championship and took their first ASA title in 2001. In 2001 the team was down 14-0 in the first inning but went on to defeat Traffic 18-16 in a game that lasted three and a half hours. In 2005 the 45s posted a record of 86 wins against 6 losses. He proudly managed them to an ASA tournament record of 44-3 from 2001 to 2007.

Over the 27- year history of the Classic League, Bob Rascia holds the following records as a manager: 331 wins, seven championships, 26 wins in a single season, two seasons of 22 wins, the highest winning percentage of .958 and most games managed at 472.

Bob and his wife, Melissa, live in Park Ridge, Illinois. They have three children. He is a criminal defense attorney.

# *Congratulations Bob*

On your induction into the Chicago 16 inch  
softball hall of fame

Your journey that started at Sayre Park and  
various other parks has now taken you to  
Hawthorne Park. Your success in 16 inch  
softball has been attributed to your hard  
work, dedication and passion for the game.



We are very proud of you  
And your accomplishments  
Love your family,  
Melissa, Taylor, Carly, & Joe

# *Bob, Congratulations!*

Your commitment to excellence shows in softball, work and every other area of your life. You put everything you have into everything you do.

We are lucky to have such a great “coach” here at work everyday.

Pablo, Yanira and Olivia

# Congratulations Bob!!

For your Hall of Fame honor and in recognition for your pride and dedication to softball. Your drive for success in life has also carried onto the ball field.

We are proud of you,  
Mom, Dad, Ron, Dianne, Ronnie, Grace and Peter

## Congratulations Bob

3 cheers for you on a job well done. Who would have thought it could be so much fun!

Love,  
Aunt Pat, Uncle Roger, Tom, Tommy,  
Mark, Debbie, Pat, Lisa and Kiara

2008

— MAYOR RICHARD J. DALEY —

AWARD

## *John Garvin*



**J**ohn Garvin, a life-long sports enthusiast, graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1948. In 1968 he opened Garv-Inn, a small neighborhood tavern in Berwyn. Even though it measured only a thousand feet in space, it was a huge presence in the softball community because of the teams John sponsored. Since its creation in 1968, John Garvin and Garv-Inn have sponsored as many as fifteen teams a year for the past thirty-nine years.

Garv-Inn has sponsored a variety of men's and women's teams, ranging from some that played at the highest levels of competition to those that played "D" ball. During the last ten years, Garv-Inn has sponsored several co-ed men's and women's teams as well as such

notable teams as Crush, Entourage/Binge, Nemesis, Out There, and Mudville, the 2002 "A" National champions. They also sponsored teams in the North / South Tournament at Janura Park in Berwyn and in the Killer "B" Tournament at Clyde Park in Cicero.

John loved the players and the camaraderie they shared. Whether they won or lost, he was always thrilled to watch them play.

Unfortunately, John passed away in 1990, but his son, Mike Garvin, and Mike Duplancich, co-owners of Garv-Inn, continue his tradition of supporting softball teams.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THIS YEARS IDUCTEES AND  
TO ALL PAST INDUSTEES  
WHO PAVED THE WAY FOR  
THIS GREAT GAME.**



**THANK YOU**

**THE CHICAGO 16" HALL OF FAME  
COMMITTEE**

*Jayne Zolna*

So what do you do during the summer when you're the daughter of one of softball's great players? Well, you go to a lot of softball games, of course. Jayne Zolna started attending her dad, Eddie's, games when she was ten. She was the batgirl when her brother wasn't there. When she got older, her dad gave her the cardboard top of the softball box so that she could keep score. She saw and scored many great games at Clarendon and Kelly Parks. She never received perfect attendance honors at school because of the Labor Day national tournaments the Bobcats played in. They won thirteen of them, so her father would let her stay home on the Tuesday following Labor Day to celebrate these Bobcat victories.

At Kennedy Park her duties expanded when her dad taught her how to chart the hitting tendencies of opposing batters. Jayne had the privilege of watching the children of many great players turn into great players themselves. She also saw some of softball's greatest characters. She once had to wash Jeff Hornacek's (before his basketball days) Bobcat's jersey because his father

wouldn't let him bring it in the house. His father, John (HOF), played first base for the Cat's legendary foe, the Sobies.

She watched future White Sox pitcher Kevin Hickey play the outfield and she traveled on Ron Olesiak's (HOF) motorcycle from Kennedy Park to Lake Shore Park for Sunday double-headers. Ron would become an NBA referee. She also found two friends in Rich Melman (HOF) and Joel Zimberoff during the heyday years of the Lettuce Entertain You teams.

In 1976, when her father was hospitalized, she helped Bobcats manager Bo Joens when they won the nationals in South Dakota.

Jayne graduated from Providence High School. She lives in Frankfort with her parents, Ed and Lorraine, and works at a market research firm in Mokena. She thanks the Holan family for this honor.

With this award, she joins her father and her uncle Eddie Zaitz as members of the Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to  
**John Barrett**  
Chicago 16" Softball  
2007 Hall of Fame Inductee  
A well deserved honor!



From your teammates on the "Aces".  
Looking forward to our 40<sup>th</sup> softball season this year!

Bill Abplanalp	Mike Alex	Ted Barlas	John P. Barrett
Mike Burke	Paddy Burke	Gary Buscemi	John Dongo
Herb Freundt	Jamie Heber	Wally Johnson	Jim Kartheiser
John Kosick	Tom Krier	Tom Lyons	John P. Mackin
Jim Mazukelli	Al Placek	George Ristau	Larry Seiwert
Tim Seiwert Jr.	Tim Seiwert Sr.	Tom Seiwert	Dennis Stangel
Ray Sugrue	Chris Vesper	Mike Vesper	Tom Wenzholz

*John C. Barrett*

John started playing softball in 1960 at the age of eight at the Neighborhood Boys Club (NBC) on Chicago's North side. It was at the NBC that John fell in love with the game of 16" softball. His love of the sport continued through high school at St. Benedict's and in college at DePaul University.

In 1968, students at St. Benedict's formed the "Aces", a softball team that played at Paul Revere Park. John and another friend, Tom Wenzholz, joined the team in 1969 and have played for the Aces ever since. In 1971, John reorganized the Aces when he picked up members of the Alpha Chi fraternity and other friends from DePaul University. John has played, coached, and managed the Aces for every season since 1971. He has coached approximately 1400 games in the last 36 years.

While the Aces remained John's main team, he was also the pitcher, coach, and manager of the Allstate Insurance Northwest Metro softball team. They played during the mid 70s and early 80s in the Lincolnwood Industrial Park League. In addition, John played for the Howard family team, the "Sunshine's, and pitched for the team that won the Eugene Field title in 1977.

The Aces were very competitive and played almost every evening either at Paul Revere, Clarendon or Portage Parks on the Northwest side of Chicago and played tournaments on weekends. Over the years, they accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments: 1971

Clarendon Park Saturday League Champs, 1972 and 1973 Paul Revere Park Champs, 1976 and 1977 Paul Revere 2nd pl, 1978 Portage Park B League Champs, 1982 Paul Revere Champs, 1983 River Park Champs, and 2000 Horner Park Champions.

Some of the team's greatest memories included the invitation to play in the 1976 Andy Frain tournament at Clarendon Park. The Aces drew the reigning city champions, Murderer's Row, in the first round and won by a score of 3 to 2. The Aces next faced the "Bobcats". Although the Aces lost, it was quite an experience playing one of the most legendary teams in softball history. Another great moment occurred when the team won the prestigious Ed Kelly Tournament at River Park in 1977. The Aces faced four "A" league teams to win the tournament, beating the Silver Streak in the semi finals and the Circus in the championship game. Other great moments include the great rivalry against the Lifters and Blues in the 70s and 80s.

Other than the longevity and the success on the field, John's legacy is that nine players with more than thirty-five years experience continue to play as the Aces enter their fortieth season. The players are John and Bill Abplanalp, Mike Burke, Jim Kartheiser, John Mackin, Jim Mazukelli, Tom and Tim Seiwert, and Tom Wenzholz. In addition, Tom Krier and Wally Johnson have played for fifteen-plus years. While no longer playing, John Kosick, Herb

Freundt, and George Ristau played for more than twenty years.

Perhaps John's greatest moment is being fortunate enough to coach his son, John Patrick, and the children of three other players.

Currently, there are four father/son combinations on the Aces (John Barrett and son, John Patrick; Mike Burke and son, Paddy; Tim Seiwert and son, Tim Jr; and Mike Vesper and son, Chris).

John has also influenced many boys and girls in sports through volunteering and coaching at St. Thecla Grade School and Edison Park Youth, Inc on Chicago's Northwest side over the past twenty years. John is currently the president of Edison Park Youth, Inc and an active alumni of

the Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club.

John is married to his wonderful wife of 30 years, Maureen. They have three beautiful children (Sheila, a special ed teacher with the Chicago Public schools, Katie, a graduate student at St. Xavier University, and John, a sophomore at St. Norberts College).

John has worked at Allstate Insurance Company for the past thirty-three years and is currently a Senior Claim Manager in Northbrook. John and his family currently live on the Northwest side of Chicago.

John and the Aces are still playing at Indian Road Park and are looking forward to their fortieth softball season in 2008.



**Congratulations to**

**JOHN  
BARRETT**

**Bill Abplanalp (Aces)  
Service Insurance Agency  
1655 N. Arlington Heights Rd  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
847-870-0400**

## *Chicago Daily News/Chicago Sun-Times*



In 1970, Chicago Daily News reporter Don DeBat tacked a note on the newsroom bulletin board asking if anyone was interested in playing 16-inch softball just for fun. That same day, Mike Royko, the paper's Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, put his hand on DeBat's shoulder and said: "Lad, I understand you are starting a softball team. Here's how we'll do it."

### **CHICAGO DAILY NEWS TEAM (1970-1977)**

With future Media Hall of Famers Royko as manager and DeBat as captain, in its first season the Daily News recruited staffers Bob Billings, Bill Jauss, John Nocita and others and played exhibition games against the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Today and Lerner Newspapers. Besides recruiting these players to start the team, the Daily News team also looked for a sponsor. And what better sponsor could a team filled with media types have than the legendary Billy Goat Tavern? The Billy Goat has sponsored the team for each of its thirty-seven memorable years.

Royko reminisced about playing for the Blue Sky Lounge – his father's saloon softball team – and in 1971 he urged DeBat to organize the Media Softball League, comprised mostly of teams from the daily newspapers, TV and radio stations. The Daily News played a full schedule on Sunday mornings in Lincoln Park for the next three years. Most of the players were staffers, including future Media Hall of

Famer Tim Weigel, who made a memorable catch sliding into the Thillens Stadium fence face first in his debut game.

In 1973 and 1974, the Daily News won consecutive Media League championships and participated in tournaments and exhibitions. Between 1974 and 1977, the team also played in the Grant Park Industrial League. In 1975, the Daily News won a Grant Park championship, ran off eighteen wins in a row and ended the season in the Tournament of Champions final with a tough 15-12 loss to Environmental Control.

With the addition of "Royko's Legmen" – future Hall of Famers Tom Bonen and Gil Muratori – along with stars Don Garbarino, Clark Bell, Ken Gilard, Jerry Jess, Mike Skowronski, Paul Sortal, Dean Karouzos and Moe Hines, the Daily News posted an overall record of 22-6 record while participating in several Winston "A" Tournaments. The team also played charity games and exhibitions games against world-class teams such as the Bobcats, American Rivet/Sobies, ERV-Strikers, Marauders and Silver Streaks.

In 1976, the Daily News beat such top teams as the Warriors in the Mather Park "A" League, and Royko broke his leg in a game, got two hits and continued to play. Another memorable event in team history occurred that year when Royko filed a lawsuit against the Chicago Park District to halt the proposed use of fielder's gloves in Grant Park's 16-

inch softball leagues and won. Over six years of Chicago Park District Industrial League competition, the team posted a 90-30 record.

In 1977, the final season before the Daily News closed, the team played in the Portage Park "B" League against such competition as the Aces, Jokers, Rascals, Alley and Lickers. Over eight seasons, the Daily News record was 133-70 in leagues, tournaments and exhibition games against some of the toughest competition in the Windy City. With the Daily News out of business, DeBat, Jess, Karouzos and several other players formed a Saloon League team at Oz Park in 1978 and won a championship.

In 1997, a Daily News Reunion Game was organized by DeBat, and more than twenty-five players from the original team came out for the festivities. Now in his early 60s, Royko pitched and got a base hit even though he hadn't played in fifteen years. In 1998, less than a year later, Royko passed away.

#### **CHICAGO SUN-TIMES TEAM (1979-2007)**

In 1979, Mike Royko, Don DeBat and other staffers moved to the Chicago Sun-Times, and re-launched the team. Over the next twenty-eight years, the Sun-Times softball team would go on to win more than twenty league championships and several major tournaments.

In 1979, after winning eighteen games in a row in the Grant Park Industrial League, the Sun-Times met the CTA in the Tournament of Champions finals and lost 10-7 as Mayor Jane Byrne and husband, Jay McMullen, a Sun-Times reporter, cheered for the CTA. This fine championship team included such Sun-Times staffers as Bob Gorzynski, John Nocita, Clark Bell, Herb Gould, Jim Warren, Dan Gorman and Al Hansen, plus a host of Royko Legmen—Dave and Paul Sortal, Don Garbarino, Sam Gendusa, Steve Loh, Len Cudzilo and Dean Karouzos.

In the early 1980s, "Royko's Raiders," the Sun-Times Saloon League team, played with the "juiced" ball in the Clarendon Park "B" league against teams such as the Jets, Rox, Scorpions, Hitmen and Alley. In 1983, Royko retired from softball at age 50 to become a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

In the decade of the 1980s and early 1990s, the Sun-Times team, led by player/manager Don DeBat, was a powerhouse in the Grant Park League with such stars as Dan Cahill (Media Hall of Famer), Steve

Kus, Glenn Placek, Rob Placek, "AA" pitcher Tommy (Bomber) Horn and two-time Hall of Fame player Al Placek (Playboys), Roger Franzek, Bob Gorzynski, Tony Dudek, David Southwell, Larry Comstock, Mark Masterson, John Nocita, Phil Velasquez, Big John Meyers, John Unhock and many others.

In the 1990s Grant Park became an Open Saloon League, and the Sun-Times team emerged as a major tournament force. The DeBat managed team won the World's Largest Softball Tournament, the Old Style Chicago Classic, in 1993.

In 1995, sports reporter David Southwell took over as captain and led a revamped team to another Chicago Classic championship, this time sponsored by Miller Lite. Tommy Horn broke a tie in the seventh inning with a grand slam in the final. As player/manager, Southwell led the team to seven championships until 2004, when advertising executive Bill Wossow took over the league team and Bob Egan ran the tournaments.

Since 1995 the Sun-Times won nine championships including two Grant Park Tournament of Champions titles, four Mike Royko Memorial Tournament championships, one Chicago Classic championship, and two league titles at Grant Park. The team qualified for the league playoffs every year and never placed lower than fourth place in the Chicago Classic.

During the final thirteen years, this incredible "money team" also placed second fourteen times in various leagues and tournaments and placed third or higher an amazing twenty-six times. Key contributors were Jimbo Diaz, Gary Dellert, Don Trush, Gregg Steinnagle, Gerald Collins, Jimmy DeFalco, Keith Dickens, Gary Bergner, Mark Gaffney, John Escher, Mike Miramba and Vic Matteucci.

In 1999 Glenn Placek, Ray Horn and Tommy Horn shared the mound to win the Tournament of Champions. In 2003, DeBat was lured out of retirement and pitched a 4-0 shutout to beat Peoples Gas for the Tournament of Champions title. In the late 1990s, the elite Sun-Times Tournament Team won the Mike Royko Tournaments in 2001, 2002, 2006 and 2007.

Over the years the Sun-Times continued this dominance despite a high turnover rate at both the newspaper and the softball diamond, forcing a constant cultivation of new players from a variety of departments. During its history, the team has

included players from every department: reporters, editors, pressmen, paper handlers, mail room workers, mechanics, drivers, driver helpers, machinists, advertising executives, salesmen, building engineers, and even a security guard.

Over the thirty-seven year year history, The Daily News/Sun-Times team won more than thirty league and tournament championships and won more than five hundred games at Grant Park, Lincoln Park, Mather Park, Lake Shore Park, Oz Park, Hamlin

Park, Horner Park and numerous tournaments.

In addition to more than twenty Grant Park Softball League championships, the Sun-Times/Daily News has won more than a dozen major tournaments including the coveted Grant Park Old Style Classic Tournament in 1993-1995, plus the Grant Park Tournament of Champions in 1999 and 2003, Grant Park's Royko Classic Tournament in 2001, 2002, 2006 and 2007. The Sun-Times was runner-up in the Mike Royko Tournament in 2003 and 2004.

## CHICAGO DAILY NEWS 1970 - 1978

Clark Bell	Sam Gendusa	Mike (Moe) Hines	Dan Miller	Bill Sidlauskas
Jim Berklow	Ken Gilard	Don Hoff	John McDonough	Mike Skowronski
Bob Billings	Dave Gorak	David Israel	Gil Muratori	Tom Siebel
Tom Bonen	Dan Gorman	David Jackson	John Nocita	Dennis Sodomka
Jim Bowman	Terry Gorman	Bill Jauss	Al Phillips	Dave Sortal
Jack Bruza	Herb Gould	Jerry Jess	Mike Royko	Paul Sortal
Don DeBat	Mark Gravante	Roy Johnson	Max Saxinger	Doug Von Boven
Steve Desecki	David Hall	Tom Johnson	John Sciackitano	Tim Weigel
Ken Fitze	Dave Hardt	Dean Karouzos	Tom Sellers	Steve Yahn
Don (Garbo) Garbarino	Rick Hardt	Chip Lorenz	Sam (Billy Goat) Sianis	

## CHICAGO SUN-TIMES 1979 - 2007

Abbatacola, Bill	Davis, Ron	Ghoston, Steve	Masterson, Mark	Roth, George
Anstett, Kurt	DeFalco, Jim	Giacalone, Tony	Mastrud, Jay	Schultz, Ray
Ayala, Mario	Dellert, Gary	Gordon, Eric	Matteucci, Vic	Schwartee, Jeff
Arroyo, Javier	Denicolo, Ron	Gozyński, Bob	McHattan, Trinity	Serkland, John
Eric Benderoff	Diaz, Jimbo	Hansen, Al	Mikrut, Bob	Solomon, Al
Bergner, Gary	Diaz, John	Hines, Bill	Miramba, Mike	Southwell, Dave
Brichetto, Dan	Dickens, Keith	Horn, Ray	Moon, Jerry	Steinnagel, Greg
Brody, Todd	Dudelson, Tom	Horn, Tom	Oleksy, Joe	Trush, Don
Brown, Harrison	Dudek, Tony	Jacobsen, Jeff	Olney, Chuck	Unhock, John
Byrne, Mike	Duensing, Scott	Jakobi, Bill	Otto, Charlie	Velasquez, Phil
Cahill, Dan	Dunne, Phil	Johnson, Chris	Pettke, Dennis	Verkuilen, Ron
Carkeek, Tom	Dzielawa, Larry	Kalupski, Ed	Placek, Al	Vernon, Pete
Castillo, Chuck	Egan, Bob	Kaminski, Frank	Placek, Bruce	Vische, Joe
Catalano, Len	Engelhardt, Dave	Kelly, Ron	Placek, Glenn	Walter, Andy
Cherney, Chuck	Escher, John	Kus, Steve	Placek, Rob	Warren, Jim
Chomiczewski, Joe	Foster, Rory	Ladowski, Casey	Porro, Terry	Weber, Bill
Collins, Gerald	Franzak, Roger	Ladowski, Larry	Puschkar, Dee	Wilkinson, Jack
Comstock, Larry	Frontier, Dave	Lagear, John	Rivera, Sebastian	Wossow, Bill
Connelly, Sean	Furlong, Bill	Landman, Jon	Rochelle, Tom	Wronski, Rich
Cook, Jason	Gaffney, Mark	Langer, Bob	Rochelle, Greg	Wysocke, Steve
Cudzilo, Len	Ganir, Dave	Lohentry, Dave	Rosinski, Bill	Zartler, Russell
Davia, Paul	Gash, Chuck	Loh, Steve	Rossi, Lou	Zielenziger, Mike
		Martindale, Mike		

# Chicago 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame



The 1989 Chicago Sun-Times Softball Team - Grant Park Champs

**DeBat Media, Inc. Congratulates the Chicago Daily News / Chicago Sun-Times Softball Teams for 37 Years of Excellence on the Field and in the Saloon.**



Chicago Sun-Times - 1993 Grant Park Old Style Tournament Champs

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# Chicago 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame



THE 1974 CHICAGO DAILY NEWS SOFTBALL TEAM - MEDIA LEAGUE CHAMPS

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Since 1970 the Chicago Daily News/  
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Chicago. Now in 2008, this historic  
team is being inducted into the  
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**CHICAGO SUN-TIMES**

*SloPokes*

Although they were only together for a few years, the Slo-Pokes made their mark on women's softball on the North and Northwest sides of Chicago. Like many great teams, they were a compilation of teams that had played against each other. And like other great teams, they had a strong organizer who could spot and recruit the best talent.

Pat Pasko (HOF) was the player / coach, financial supporter, and head motivator for the team. She would hand out Slo-Poke suckers after the game to team members who played exceptionally well. The team wore red, white, and blue uniforms to honor America's bi-centennial in 1976.

During that 1976 season, they won three league championships and four single day tournaments, losing only two games that season.

The team played at Kosciusko Park, Athletic Field, Wells, Touhy, Hanson, and Clarendon Parks. One player remarked that she ordered so many championship jackets that year that she started ordering them for her sister and other family members.

But like all teams, they some day have to say good-bye to one another. Slo-Pokes broke up because some of the older players began to cut back on their playing and some of the younger players went on to play eleven-inch ball. Two former Slo-Poke players, Jan Wilson and Mary Malpede, were inducted into the USSSA Hall of Fame for eleven-inch ball. Mary Kay Schaeffer-Monaghan was inducted into the 16-inch Softball hall of Fame.

Many Slo-Poke players continued to give back to the game by becoming teachers and coaches.

## *Rizza Rockers*



The Rizza Rockers, a team made up of public service employees from North Riverside and Riverside - Brookfield High School graduates, started playing in 1986 in the North Riverside Fall Ball Rec. League. The next year they struck gold when they won the North Riverside Summer League. With confidence firmly in hand, they started playing some softball tournaments.

Because of their great play, they won an "A" bid to the ASA Nationals in Indiana, taking fourth place in their first "A" Nationals despite having only two players who had played in a national tournament before. They were led by pitcher (Chops) Chiappetta and First-Team All-American Jeff Berger at shortstop.

Fresh from their success at the "A" Nationals, the Rockers looked to challenge themselves to be as good as teams like the Blues, Jinx, and Touch, so they started playing in the toughest leagues around Chicago, including Forest Park, Bensenville, and Mt. Prospect. In 1993 they won the Suburban Life Tournament. That year they played in the No Gloves Nationals, the Hawthorne Tournament, the Grant Park Tournament, and in the ASA Nationals. They appeared in the ASA Major and "A" Nationals from 1987 to 1999. They also played in the short-lived Sports Channel Television League.

As many teams climb the ranks of competitive softball, they often abandon the players they started with in favor of stronger players from other

teams. The Rockers believed in an opposite formula - stick with younger players. This strategy paid off because they were able to develop their talent. It often failed, however, when some of the top teams would recruit these younger players. For a number of years, the Rockers seemed to be a farm team for some of the top teams.

Their strategy of sticking with younger players and playing in the toughest leagues began to pay off as the Rockers started to hold their own with the era's top teams, the Whips, Sports Station, Bud North, Dollhouse, Primetime, Splinters, and Bucks.

In the late-90s, they went head-to-head with Lettuce and were able to hold their own against this legendary team. In 1998 they won the No Glove Nationals, beating Lettuce in the semi-finals and Pugliese in the finals. That year they were led by short center and Forest Park MVP, Greg Ziegler.

Ziegler also played with the Rockers the longest and formed a bond with the Rockers' manager that will last a lifetime. Many fine young players wore the Red & Black of the Rockers. It was said that manager Lane Neimann had the biggest phone book in the game.

With a great sponsor like Joe Rizza Ford, the Rockers were always well stocked with players and looked sharp on the field. Joe Rizza continued his sponsorship during the entire time the Rockers played softball. His only requirement was that they looked good. And they did.

# “Thank You”

## Hall of Fame Volunteers, Board Members and Suppliers

*Without your cooperation, ideas and support, the Hall of Fame would not be possible.*

To our president, **Gary Thorsen**, for his leadership and vision.

**Ray Topps** for his leadership and support and being a committee chair.

**Art Lurie** for his efforts, especially our Silent Auction and marketing.

**Debby Cornacchia**, our outstanding secretary, and for many details.

**Howie Fagen** and **Tom Carey** for their sponsorship of our events, the use of the facility, the marketing and the belief in our dream from the beginning.

**Jack Stout**, our man behind the camera with the help of his wife every year.

**George Bliss** for his softball hotline and his P.R. efforts.

**Jack Dowling** for his historical documentation and research.

**Ed Zolna** and **Jane Zolna** for all their help.

**Mickey Balestri** and **Jerry Schmidt** for the input and support.

**Frank Holan**, will always have a chair set aside at our board meetings.

**Stan Patek**, our Treasurer who keeps our books balanced.

**Ed Surma** for being chairman of 1964-1979 era.

**Irv Porter** for coverage of our game in [ilsoftballreport.com](http://ilsoftballreport.com).

**Wally Pecs** for his silent auction support.

**MaryPat McGuire** and **Marsha Amraen** for their efforts on behalf of the women playing this great game.

**Dave Novak** for hosting the greatest “No Glove” Nationals tournament in the world.

**Chet Matkyiewicz** for his continued sponsorship.

**Olympic Trophies** for the beautiful awards.

**Mark Frighetto** for his advice on our banking and his work on our permanent Hall location.

**Rich Cornacchia**, **Bob Hobson**, **Jack & Willie Schmitz**, **Jack “Whitey” Johnson**, **Bobbie Blackstone**, **John Hie** and for their input and support and help whenever needed.

**Bill Wadington** for his outstanding writing producing inductee’s bios.

And last, but far from least, our “Girl Friday” **Pam Payne** who handles all our phone calls, ads for our program book and this year handling the book, printers, ads, etc. Good luck!

*-from Tony Reibel and Al Maag*

(Our sincere apologies to anyone whose name was omitted in error or due to old age or stupidity.)



# Application for Nomination to the Chicago 16" Hall of Fame



This form must be filled out *completely* and mailed to the appropriate selection committee official listed on the lower left of this page to be formally considered by the Chicago 16" Softball Hall of Fame.

Pioneer Era  
Jack Dowling  
P.O. Box 333  
La Fox, IL 60147  
630-232-6453

1950-1963  
Ed Zolna  
8041 Old Mill Road  
Frankfort, IL 60423  
815-469-1787

Tony Reibel  
16 Albion  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
847-698-2514

1964-1979  
Ed Surma  
9100 S. Ridgeland  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
708-599-1076

1980-Current  
Ray Topps  
5214 New Castle  
Chicago, IL 60638  
773-229-8694

Women  
Mary Pat McGuire  
11246 S. Talman  
Chicago, IL 60655  
773-779-1183

Umpires  
John Hie  
496 Ferndale Ln.  
Prospect Heights, IL  
847-398-3878

Organizers & Managers  
Gary Thorsen  
169 Cardinal Drive  
Bloomingdale, IL 60108  
630-894-0414

1. Nominee's full name and address (if deceased, please list address of next of kin.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Nickname)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number and Street)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Birthday: Month \_\_\_ Day \_\_\_ Year \_\_\_ 3. Sex: Male  Female

4. Marital status: Married  Single  Widowed

5. Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

6. Children (List names and ages) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. INDUCTION CATEGORIES

Female Player  Manager/Coach  Male Player  Organizer   
Sponsor  Pioneer  Umpire  Media

8. Nominees phone numbers (include area codes)

Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Recommended ( sponsored) by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature/ date \_\_\_\_\_

(please turn to other side)



# Application for Nomination to the Chicago 16" Hall of Fame



## Page two: Applicant's Softball History

Please note: PHOTO of Nominee MUST accompany this application to be considered.

1. Year nominee retired \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Years playing 16" softball \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Players 'peak' years \_\_\_\_\_

3 A. Organizers and Umpires: List leagues and/or Major, state , national tournaments you were involved with:

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3 B. List teams on which nominee played, and parks played at:

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4. List all positions played, including primary: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Approximate lifetime batting average: \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Approximate lifetime homers: \_\_\_\_\_ RBI \_\_\_\_\_

8. Lifetime pitching record: Won \_\_\_\_\_ Lost \_\_\_\_\_ No hitters \_\_\_\_\_ (date) \_\_\_\_\_ One hitters \_\_\_\_\_

9. List any tournament and/or league MVP Awards and years they were won: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. List any All-state, All-American and all-tournament awards won: \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Managers: List over-all record. Won- \_\_\_\_\_ Lost \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Umpires: Note number of games umped \_\_\_\_\_

12. List any additional comments/reasons for considering candidate for induction into the Chicago 16" Hall of Fame:

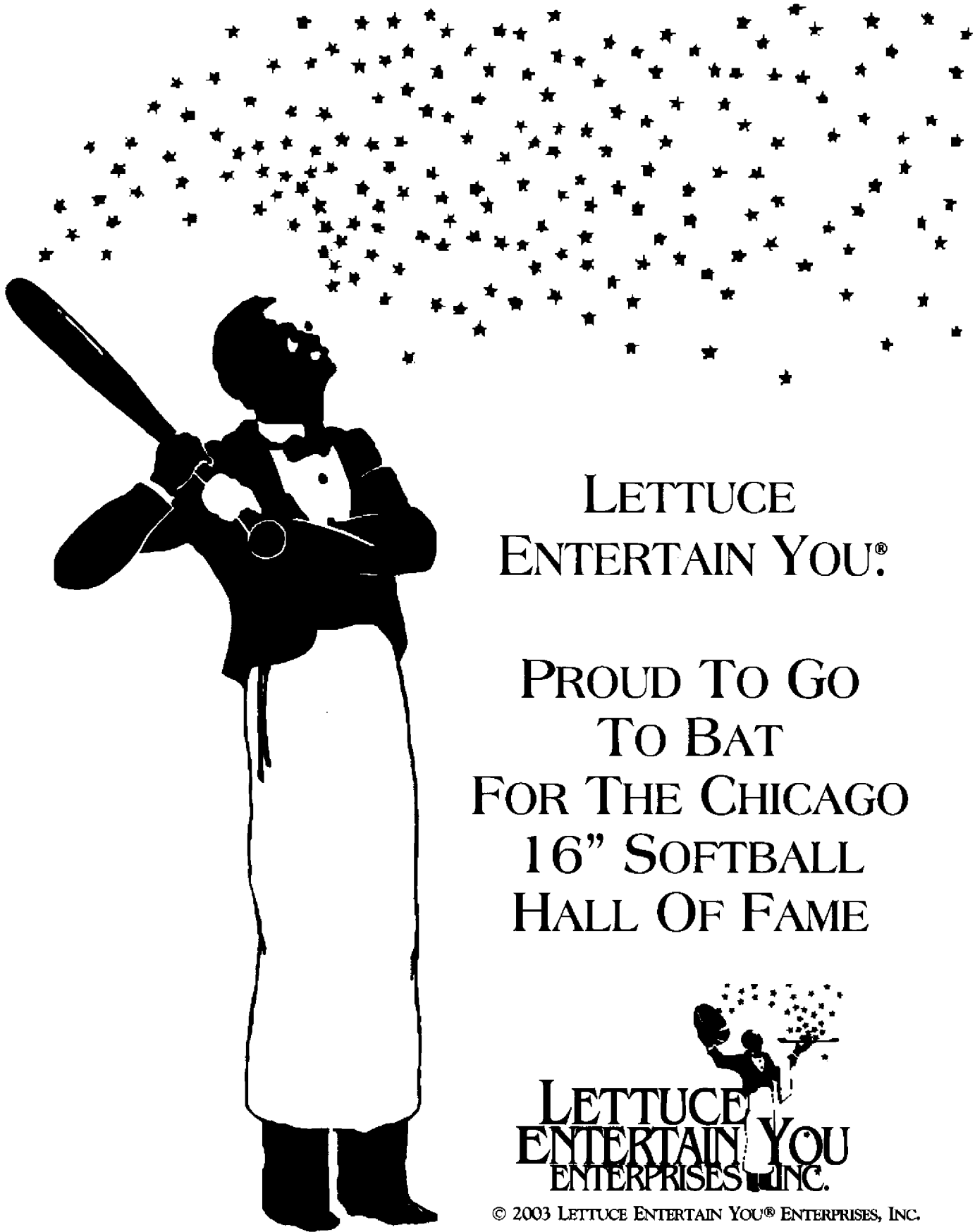
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