

Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame and Honor

**October 7, 2014
Troy, Michigan**

"The history of sports has been marked by the occasional appearance of an athlete who seems to have been touched by a magical hand, whose extraordinary skills are embellished by an intangible spark of greatness, an athlete who seems destined to leave an indelible stamp on his or her chosen avocation. Greatness assumes many shapes and forms, like subtle colors blending into a deep blue hue, but in any form, greatness separates the legends from the mere mortals in the arena of sports. Proficiency and skill can be honed by practice and dedication but the really outstanding athletes, the Hall of Famers, come to the arena with greatness already programmed into their personalities. The purpose of the Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame and Honor is to recognize and honor those metro Detroit men and women who have played so brilliantly and competed so well during their careers, managed, umpired, sponsored, or provided that special touch to the game of softball, and who at the same time have contributed to the development and growth of their sport."

Categories are as follows:

Player

Umpire

Manager

Sponsor

Commissioner

Meritorious Service



Metro Detroit ASA

"The Best in Softball"

www.metrodetroitasa.com

National ASA web site: www.softball.org



Metro Detroit ASA Hall of Fame and Honor Inductees

1982

George Caloia-FPP
Bill Cole-SPP
Carl "Tex" Collins*-SPP
Mike Gouin-SPP
Bonnie Jones*-FPP
Sam Lombardo*-FPP

1985

Al Dolecki-S
Joe Gauci-SPP
Charles Justice*-FPP
Anthony Lutomski*-C
William Svochak*-C

1988

Thomas Chappelle-SPP
Sammy Gee*-FPP
Bob McCaffrey*-U
John "Jack" Trompicks-MS
Jack Westerlund-SPP

1991

Milo Karhu-SPP
Tony Mazza-SPP
Percy McConner*-FPP
Evans Telegadas-FPP
Jack Tobias-U

1996

Mike Engan-MS
Paul Gatto*-FPP
Jim "Torch" Scullen-S
Ed Shankin-SPP
Mike Turk-SPP

2004

Mike Busch-SPP
Tim Doyle*-C
Angie Fielder-FPP
Gary Urbanczyk-M
Ted Younce-U

2010

Bob Green – SPP
Tom Fitzsimmons – U
Carol Hutchins – MS
Mike McDowell – SPP
Evelyn Micol – MS
Dennis Troshak – MS

1983

Ed Figelski*-FPP
Mike Ilitch-S
Beatrice Lollar-SPP
Roy Lombardo*-MG
Jim Snyder*-S

1986

Mike Axelson-SPP
George Gillies*-U
Wilbur Landis*-C
Rocco Palmeri*-FPP

1989

George Corona*-SPP
Jackie Huggins-SPP
Fred Nothdurft-S
Karl Nothdurft-S
Tom Trompicks-SPP
Ed Tyson-FPP

1992

Diane Laffey-MS
Bob Malicki-SPP
"Buck" Polonczyk*-MS
Charlie Williams-SPP

1998

Al Hortop-MS
Shelley Larned-FPP
George Lerchen-SPP
Frank Pilarowski*-P/MG
Al White-MP

2006

Mike Barel-U
Dick Collard-M
John Eckstein-SPP
Danny Lipinski*-C
Kelly Thayer-FPP
Doug Zimmerman – U

2012

Gary Bryce – MS
Bob Kost – U
Al Land – MS
Julie Liljeberg- FPP C – Commissioner
Tony Profita* – MS
Don Sheffield – SPP
Tim Whitson – MS

1984

Mike Adray*-S
Bob Auten-SPP
Mack Phillips*-S
Johnny Spring*-FPP
Frank Verbanac*-SPP

1987

Joe Castrodale-FPP
Felix Michaels*-S
Jim Puckett-SPP

1990

Wally Galba*-SPP
George LaPlata-S
Don Lair*-C
Linda Mueller-SPP
Carl Walker-FPP
Jerry Zarick-FPP

1994

Ernie Flowers-FPP
Leon Grunalt-MG
Robert Kaump*-U
Andy Kovalcik-MG
Gary LaDue-SPP
Sally Whalen*-MS

2002

Mike DeLeo-U
Scott Grace-S
Tom Kaminski-SPP
Don Stuckey*-MS
Bob/Sandy Thompson-M

2008

Bob Allen – U
Peter Karmanos Jr-S
Jeanne Martin –U
Mike O'Connor-SPP
Pam Ossenheimer-FPP
Mike Zdrodowski-SPP

KEY

SPP –Slow Pitch Player
S – Sponsor
MS-Meritorious Service
MG – Manager
FPP -Fast Pitch Player
MP - Modified Player
U – Umpire

21st Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association

Hall of Fame Awards Banquet



* Deceased

Bob Lawson Umpire

Everyone knows a person who plays a key role to the success of a program...and Metro Detroit is honored to have a person who fits that bill in Bob Lawson who has been a staple of the Metro Detroit Umpire program since 1980 when he began umpiring.



Bob has been a member of the MDASA umpire staff since 1984; and served as the Umpire-in-Chief from 2001-2013. He has also served as a local umpire assignor in Westland (1990-95) and Plymouth league supervisor (2007-14). Bob has attended three national umpire schools, served as a national umpire school instructor in 2012, a coordinator in 2010; and has been a national UIC clinic presenter three times.

Bob is a gold level member of the ASA Medals program, a member of the ASA national indicator fraternity member (2000), an ASA/USA Elite fast pitch umpire (2004). His honors also include being selected as the Region 8 umpire Award of Excellence in 1990. Bob has umpired in four national tournaments; and served as the UIC in numerous MDASA and region tournaments throughout his career. His behind the scenes involvement includes being an umpire coordinator for the national tournaments being held in the metro Detroit areas.

Bob has not only been an outstanding umpire and role model for all umpires, but his background includes being a player in both slow pitch and modified. He also appeared in three national men's major modified championships. Bob's career in the umpire arena for metro Detroit is one that is recognized as impeccable and one that deserves the honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame!

Hall of Fame on Display

The current Hall of Fame is on display at Canton Softball Center – Victory Park located at 46555 West Michigan Avenue, approximately two miles west of I-275.



Steve Bienkowski Slow Pitch Player

Steve's started playing softball in recreation leagues in 1965 working his way up the ladder to the competitive level; and still continues playing in senior leagues today.



The star first baseman played for some of the top slow pitch teams in the metro Detroit area including Eastside Sports, Strohs, Burt's Blackhorse Saloon, Little Caesars, Northwest Pipe, National Trails, Budweiser, Nothdruff, McQuires Steel, GM Adjusting and Doc's Sports Retreat..

His achievements with ASA has been instrumental as he was a member of five ASA national championship teams and three finalist teams. Steve received two ASA national all-american awards. He was also a two-time MVP at the ASA Senior World Series qualifier, and a two-time MVP state of Michigan K of C Class A state tournament.

Steve has been a dedicated strong team member of more than 70 ASA metro Detroit area tournament and league championship teams. His overall softball career includes being a member of 11 national tournament championship teams and recipient of six all-american awards.

Novi to Host National Junior Olympic Championship in 2015

The City of Novi, Metro Detroit ASA and the Detroit Sports Commission plan to host the 2015 Girls 16 & Under Fast Pitch Class A Northern National Championship July 30-August 2.



Dave Brubaker

Modified Pitch Player

The modified pitch softball scene in metro Detroit produces some top notch talent....and Dave Brubaker fits in that category. He has played 27 years as a modified player appearing in 19 ASA national tournaments.



Dave's career began in 1973 playing on such teams as St. Timothy, Livonia Lanes, Vico, Hummer Lounge Compuware, Pat Boyle Chevrolet, All American Sport Shop, Winter Garden Bar, TC Gators, Promos Pizza, team Budweiser, and Total Foods. A highlight in his career was the 1991 All American Sports Shop team that captured the 10 man national title; as Dave was selected as Most Valuable Player that year. The catcher was selected to three national tournament all-American teams hitting more than .600 in each tournament.

Dave was a dedicated coach for 22 years in the ASA girls fast pitch program; and currently still serves as the general manager for the Michigan Generals girls fast pitch program. He has also served 28 years as the North Farmington high school varsity coach garnering 458 wins and being selected as the all-county (Oakland) coach of the year twice.

Softball is part of Dave's life....not only as a player but as a coach!

Metro Detroit ASA Hall of Famers in the ASA National Hall of Fame

Johnny Spring – 1970, Fast Pitch
Charles "Choo Choo" Justice – 1974, Fast Pitch
Bill Cole – 1982, Slow Pitch
Bonnie Jones – 1983, Fast Pitch
Mack Phillips – 1986, Meritorious Service
Carl "Tex" Collins – 1987, Slow Pitch
Roy Lombardo – 1988, Manager
Carl Walker – 1989, Fast Pitch
Mike Gouin – 1989, Slow Pitch
William Svochak – 1990, Meritorious Service
Sam Lombardo – 1991, Fast Pitch
Fred Nothdurft – 1992, Sponsor
Karl Nothdurft – 1992, Sponsor
Al White – 2011, Modified
Leon Grunalt – 2012, Manager

Kelly Holmes

Fast Pitch Player

Kelly's outstanding softball career began when she starred at Plymouth Canton high school and in the Compuware youth program. Her career continued at the University of Michigan where she made all-american teams in 1996 and 1997 before being named Big Ten pitcher of the year in 1997.



Following her college career, she played for M&R Drugs in 1990, Compuware, and then joined the Daly Restaurant class A women's fast pitch squad in 1994 where she was a key force in their title runs. She made 99 appearances capturing 64 wins against only 14 losses in 545 innings pitched. Kelly was a tough foe for opponents as she had an impressive 1.23 ERA. She was selected MVP honor at numerous tournaments including ASA national qualifiers. She competed in four ASA class A national championships and was a four time all American included a first team selection in 1996. Kelly led Daly to one national runner up finish in 1995, two third place finishes and one fourth place finish. She was a force to be reckoned with that teams did not want to face her on the mound!

Margo Jonker

Meritorious Service

When one thinks of top college coaches in the state of Michigan, the name of Margo Jonker is one of the best. After 35 years at the helm as Central Michigan University softball coach, she continues to lead a program that consistently challenges for their league title. Margo earned her 22nd 30-plus win season in 2013 as the Chippewas claimed their 10th MAC tournament title that same year.



One of her accolades includes the renaming of the Chippewas facility in 2008. The Holland, Michigan native has collected numerous honors including NCAA Division I national coach of the year honor in 1987, the year the Chips made it to the college World Series. Margo has also been involved with USA softball's top international teams for several years. She has developed several outstanding individual talents including eight all-americans. Margo continues to be a mentor to youth in the state of Michigan; a person who is well respected in the circle of softball in the state!