

# THE ALL-STAR

Official Newsletter of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association



Fall 2009

## News and Notes

### Wilson becomes official baseball of the IHSBCA

The IHSBCA is proud to announce its partnership with Wilson, making the Illinois-based company the official ball of the IHSBCA. Wilson's contract with the IHSA will officially end this year and Baden will begin its much-debated five-year deal with the IHSA in 2009-2010. Many baseball coaches were unhappy with the IHSA's decision to change companies from Wilson to Baden as the Baden baseball is new to the Midwest market and is largely untested.

### Membership reaches All-time highs

At the September Board meeting, Membership Chairman Don Sutherland (Cary Grove) reported that there are currently 692 members of the IHSBCA. Membership is at an all-time high in the 49-year existence of the organization.

## St. Rita wins summer championship

St. Rita Head Coach Mike Zunica and his Mustang squad certainly had a banner year in 2009. After a great run in the Spring State play-offs—they made it to the finals before losing a heartbreaker to New Trier—the Mustangs went 19-2 and defeated Sandburg to win the Phil Lawler Summer State Championship.

“Winning it all was definitely a goal for us when the summer began,” said Zunica. “The loss to New Trier was tough, but it was really nice to come back and win State a couple months later.”

This is the second summer championship (2005) the Mustangs have captured in the past five years. For Zunica, who has been at the helm of St. Rita since 1997, playing in these games can really help his team when the spring season comes around. “The play-off atmosphere is such a benefit for our young kids. They learn how to play under pressure and with big crowds. It really prepares them for the big games in April, May, and June.”



It certainly was a dominating performance for the Mustangs this summer. They went undefeated in pool play and outscored their four opponents 26-10, capping off the season with a 9-0 victory in the finals against the Eagles.

Zunica credits his coaching staff—John Nee, Vince Fiori, and J.J. Standring—and selfless team play as the reasons for the sustained success of his program. He did, though, specifically mention the added value of one of his stand out players, Arizona State-bound Mark Payton. “Payton is really special. Even though he was extremely busy with many summer show cases and tournaments, including playing for Team USA, he committed himself for the two week run and played amazing baseball in the play-offs.” Payton's play earned him the Jack Kaiser Summer State Series MVP award.

**In his 14 year coaching career, Zunica has a stellar record of 392-140.**

# Changes on IHSBCA Board

This year marks several changes on the IHSBCA Board in terms of officers' duties and job responsibilities.

First off, Dan Schoessling (Wheaton North) will replace Jeff Bonebrake (Benet) as our organization's President. After serving as the head of the IHSBCA for the past three years, Bonebrake will be taking on the new position of Sponsorship. One of his responsibilities will be to generate funds for the organization by soliciting businesses/corporations.

Don Sutherland (Cary Grove), who served as Membership Chairman for the past two years, will take the Vice-President position previously held by Schoessling.

The IHSBCA Board of Directors is also pleased to announce its newest member, Dave Kalal (York). Kalal, who was a long-time assistant at several Chicago-area schools, including Downers Grove South, will become the new Membership Chairman for the organization.

## Letter from the President

Fellow members,

As your new President, I look forward to leading one of the strongest coaches' associations in the nation and invite you to become more involved in it. Along with the IHSBCA Board, we will continue to improve our organization and hope to better represent the membership as a whole. Please let us know your ideas, concerns, or questions so we can continue to thrive as a group. As we enter the 49th year of the IHSBCA, I am honored to represent you.

Dan Schoessling  
IHSBCA President

### Coaching Milestones Form

The IHSBCA would like to recognize high school and college head coaches who have recently reached a milestone in career wins (ie. 100, 200, 300, etc.) The names of these individuals will be published in our next newsletter. If you reached a milestone in the spring of 2009, please fill out the following form and mail it to Reavis High School, Attn: Don Erickson, 6034 W. 77th Street, Burbank, IL 60459, or e-mail it to drerickson@d220.org.

Milestone Victory #: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Years Coaching \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Coach: \_\_\_\_\_

Present School: \_\_\_\_\_

## More News and Notes

### Veterans' Committee formed for Hall of Fame

Last year the IHSBCA Board of Directors voted to add a Veterans' Committee to the Hall of Fame election process. The committee, made up of Hall of Famers Terry Ayers, Kirby Smith, Bill Bonk, Wayne DeMaar, Jim Hall, Ron Klein, Dave Elko, Tony D'Anza, and Phil Lawler, will be able to name one person to the IHSBCA Hall of Fame per year.

The reason behind this change in election policy is that some Board members felt too many deserving coaches who have been away from the game for some time were being overlooked by nominators and/or Board members.

In the past, the only way a coach could enter the Hall of Fame was to first be nominated by someone and then be elected by the Board of Directors at its annual Hall of Fame meeting in November.

Traditionally, the Board votes in a maximum of six coaches each year. With the new system in place, the Board will lower that number to five to compensate for the Veterans' Committee's automatic bid.

### Rise in clinic fees

During its September meeting, the Board of Directors voted to raise the team membership/clinic fee from \$200.00 to \$225.00. Individual fees will remain the same.

### Recent Milestones

Coach	School	Wins
Dave Greer	Pleasant Plains	400
Max Kreps	Macomb (Retired)	350
Don Erickson	Reavis	300
Tim Lyons	Brother Rice	200
Paul Babcock	Lincoln-Way East	100



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## **Recently upgraded your baseball facility? Tell us about it!**

Over the past few years, many coaches have made amazing renovations/improvements to their program's facilities. The IHSBCA would like to showcase these programs and the work the coaches, players and community members have put into their fields. If you have recently completed any work on your baseball facility (ie. new infield, batting tunnels, bull pens, dug outs, storage buildings, etc.), please send Don Erickson a list/description of the improvements you have made. You can fill out the portion below and send it via mail to Don at Reavis High School, 6034 W. 77th Street, Burbank, IL 60549 or you can e-mail the information to [derickson@d220.org](mailto:derickson@d220.org). Also, if you have any photographs of the completed work, please send them in the mail or in an attachment to the e-mail. An upcoming newsletter will have the compiled list of teams who have upgraded their facilities, a short description of the improvements, and photographs of some of the renovations.

School:

Head Coach:

Improvements/Renovations: