



The All-Star

Official Newsletter of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association

Fall 2010

News and Notes

Bat Rule Changes

Composite barrel bats are illegal for high school baseball for the 2010-11 school year unless they have been approved by the NFHS (rule 1-3-2 through 5).

The two bats that meet the ball exit speed ratio (BESR) and the accelerated break in (ABI) procedure and have been approved by the NFHS are the DeMarini CF4 and the DeMarini Vendetta C6.

Anderson new IHSA Baseball Director

Craig Anderson has been named the new baseball director by the IHSA. Besides his new duties, Anderson is in charge of football, wrestling, wheelchair basketball, the Officials Department, and the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee.

IHSBCA Clinic

This year's IHSBCA clinic at Bulls/Sox Academy in Lisle should be a special one. It marks the 50th anniversary of our organization and clinic director Chuck Gandolfi promises the clinic will be the best yet. The dates are Friday, February 4 and Saturday, February 5. Mark your calendars. More details will follow in the winter newsletter.

Milano, Roadrunners win summer title

Head Coach Lee Milano and his Nazareth Academy Roadrunners baseball team did something this summer that had never been done by any other sport at the LaGrange school — they won a State Championship. “This was a great experience,” Milano said, “and we were so proud to bring a trophy back to Nazareth for the first time. These kids worked so hard, and it paid off.”

Hard work certainly did pay off for the Roadrunners, who continued their winning ways in the summer after winning a sectional title and going 28-10 in the spring. “We had eight starters back from the spring squad, so we knew we had a good team that would be able to compete with some of the bigger schools in the area.”

In their first four play-off games, the Roadrunners outscored their opponents a combined 43-2. They continued their dominance at state with a 5-2 win over Streamwood and an 8-0 victory against St. Charles East. According to Milano, though, the team “had a test of its character” in the semi-final game when St. Laurence scored seven runs in the first inning. “We battled back and eventually won 13-10,” said Milano. It was a great game!” Nazareth played Streamwood again in the championship game and won 9-2.

Finishing with a 33-4 mark this summer, Nazareth was led by a pair of junior pitchers, Ryan Marske and Dominic Purpura, who combined to go 15-1. However, when it came to the tournament, senior Ryne Powers stepped up as well. Powers threw 6.2 innings in the semi-final game and hit a grand slam in the championship to earn tournament MVP.

Milano credits much of his team's success to his two assistant coaches, Dave Minella and John Sime. “They have so much experience and knowledge of the game that they make my job a lot easier.”

“Winning the Summer State Title was a wonderful experience,” Milano commented. “We got to play on some great fields and Naperville Central did a great job hosting. I am also pleased by how much exposure our kids got playing in the extra games.”



Fundraisers help build Stagg's Field of Dreams

For years, when opposing teams came to Stagg high school to play the Chargers, it was difficult to fit its players and coaches in the out-dated, cramped dug-outs. This is certainly no longer a problem after the extensive renovations that have been done to the Palos Hills field.

Besides constructing new, spacious brick dug-outs with an extended area for storage, the Charger baseball program has added a brick backstop, newly sodded baselines, and a renovated mound and home plate area.

Head coach Matt O'Neill and his coaching staff definitely deserve much of the credit for the improvements



made to the field. Soon after O'Neill was named head coach, he organized a group called Friends of Stagg Baseball, comprised mainly of his players' family members and baseball alumni. Through various fundraisers such as a golf outing and a dinner/auction night called Octoberfest, the organization was able to write a check for \$15,000 to the district to help pay for the renova-

tions. Additional funding came from Stagg Booster Club donations.

O'Neill says the key to generating money for events like his golf outing and auction nights is to try to get as many things donated as possible. For this year's Octoberfest, for example, the brother of one of O'Neill's assistant coaches who is a musician, is playing at the fundraiser and another friend of

the program is donating custom benches made entirely out of wood baseball bats.

Coach O'Neill plans to continue the remodel of his field. "In the future," he said, "our plans are to finish the brick backstop to make it dug-out to dug-out and to build a wooden homerun fence."



Recent Milestones

Coach	School	Wins
Doug Sutor	Sandburg	500
Lee Milano	Nazareth	200

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 2010, please e-mail Don Erickson at derickson@d220.org. Please include the following information: name, school, number of wins, and number of years coaching.



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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. 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: