



The All-Star

Official Newsletter of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association

Fall 2011

News and Notes

Venue Change for IHSBCA Clinic

The IHSBCA Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2012 clinic is moving to the Westin Hotel in Lombard. One of the major reasons for the change is the convenience of having the clinic, hotel, and Hall of Fame dinner and awards night all at the same location.

More information about the clinic will be in the winter newsletter and online at illinoishighschoolbaseball.org.

Meeting Dates

All meetings (except Wednesday, December 8, and the IHSBCA Clinic) take place at 7:30pm at Home Run Inn Pizza at 75th and Lemont Road.

This year's meeting dates:

- Wednesday, October 12
- Thursday, December 8 (location to be announced)
- Wednesday, January 11
- Friday, January 20, Saturday, January 21 (IHSBCA Clinic, Hall of Fame Dinner)
- Thursday, May 24 (All-Area Selection Night)
- June 8, June 9 (3A/4A State Finals in Joliet)

Each meeting is a mini-clinic with college coaches or other baseball dignitaries sharing their knowledge. All meetings are open to any member of the IHSBCA.

Skarbek, LWN destined to win summer title

As baseball coaches, we can be fooled into believing that we have more control over what ultimately happens on the diamond than we truly do. It's a wise and humble skipper who knows that bat doesn't always find ball and ball, glove; that the most talented player often slumps at inopportune times; that the marginal athlete can have his greatest game when we need it most; that a flare can fall between three fielders for a hit, while a hot smash can be gobbled up harmlessly by a fielder for an out; that the best team doesn't always come away with the state title.

In short, baseball, and life for that matter, seems at times to be controlled by a higher power -- Fate. Destiny. Karma. Providence. The Baseball Gods.

Lincoln-Way North coach Joe Skarbek certainly can attest to the give and take of fate. Just as the fourth year coach was set to play Joliet Catholic Academy in the Regional Final game of the IHSBCA Phil Lawler Summer State Tournament this past July—the winner earning a trip to the Summer State Finals—doctors informed him that his nine-year-old daughter Abby had a rare form of leukemia.

"I was floored," said Skarbek. "The news really put things into perspective for me in terms of the important things in my life." The Phoenix played that night without their head coach—Joe's dad, an assistant coach on the squad, took over the managerial duties, while Joe tended to his daughter and her needs. "I told the team I couldn't be there for them; that my family needed me now. My team was so supportive and they wanted to win that game so badly for me and my family."

Things didn't go as planned for the Lincoln-Way squad during the first half of the game, however, as they fell behind early 12-0 and were in danger of losing to JCA in five innings.

And that is when fate took over. The Phoenix scored 13 unanswered runs including six in the bottom of the seventh inning and one in the eighth inning to pull off a miraculous win and advance to the state series. "I was checking Game Changer on my phone and when we started scoring all those runs in the seventh, I knew we were going to win," Skarbek said. "I could just feel it."

According to Skarbek, things definitely went LWN's way late in the game. A few JCA defensive miscues allowed the Phoenix back in the contest, and in the eighth inning, even poor execution on the part of Lincoln-Way North, turned out in their favor. With junior Mike Irace on second base, Tyler Gaynor was called on to bunt him over to third. He failed in two attempts and with two strikes, hit a flare over the shortstop's head for the game-winning hit.



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Lincoln-Way North's Summer State Title

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"The players never gave up and kept chipping away at the lead. Junior pitcher Josh Reid was amazing and came up big for us in relief," commented Skarbek. Reid, a role player for Lincoln-Way North, literally saved the game, holding Joliet Catholic scoreless for the final 4 2/3 innings. And, if you still don't feel the Phoenix were destined to win this game and ultimately the state crown, then consider this incredible coincidence: Reid's older brother suffers from the same rare form of leukemia that Skarbek's daughter does.

The Phoenix had two other come-from-behind games earlier in the week against perennial powerhouse teams Lockport and Providence. "We were certainly playing good ball going into the State Series and we were excited to see what we could do," said Skarbek.

However, they lost to Prairie Ridge 4-2 early in pool play and had to work their way through the loser's bracket to get to the championship game. "We played well against Prairie Ridge and were still confident even after the loss. There was no panic and the kids weren't nervous. They kept saying, 'Let's just have fun'."

After guiding his kids through the

rest of pool play without another blemish, Starbek and the Phoenix defeated Maine South 11-3 in the semi-finals, setting up a rematch with Prairie Ridge for the State title.

There were several lead changes in



the championship game and in the sixth inning Prairie Ridge tied the score 5-5. Before Lincoln-Way had a chance to answer in the top of the seventh inning, the game was delayed due to lightning in the area. The wait became so long that talk began of not finishing the game and calling both

teams co-champions. "We were not in favor of that happening," said Skarbek. "We came this far and we were going to see this thing though, win or lose."

The two teams decided to come back the next day to finish the game. The Phoenix scored three runs in the seventh and held off Prairie Ridge in the bottom of the frame to take the championship. The big hero in the seventh for Lincoln-Way was their four hitter who had an RBI double. His name? Reed Hero.

Skarbek gives much credit of his team's success to his assistant coaches. "They all played a roll in the run we had this summer. Even our freshman coaches Joe Infantino and Jeff Tarala did some coaching this summer with the varsity squad. I am truly lucky to have a great staff."

"The team did a lot of celebrating that day both on the field and back at school. For me, though, I drove straight to the hospital after the game and celebrated with Abby. I even brought the trophy, so we could take a picture together with it."

Note:

Currently, Abby, Joe says, is doing well and is attending fourth grade while preparing for a round of chemotherapy.

2011 IHSBCA Phil Lawler All-Tournament Team

1B	Nick Blackburn	Neuqua Valley
2B	Jesus Saavedra	Maine South
SS	Brad Bohlen	Marian Catholic
3B	Jack Troike	Lincoln-Way North
C	Jimmy Frankos	Maine South
DH	Lucas Keller	Prairie Ridge
OF	Parker Anderson	Machesny Park-Harlem
OF	Josh Reid	Lincoln-Way North
OF	Jordan Getzelman	Prairie Ridge
P	Ryan Harris	Prairie Ridge
P	Tyler Tennant	Prairie Ridge
P	Bo Venezio	Lincoln-Way North

2011 Jack Kaiser Most Valuable Player Award

Reed Hero Lincoln-Way North

Recent Milestones

Coach	School	Wins
Joe Rodeghero	Lemont	500
Dean Stavrakas	Lane Tech	400
John Schultz	Pittsfield	400
Tim Funkhouser	Edwardsville	400

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 2011, please e-mail Don Erickson at derickson@d220.org. Please include the following information: name, school, number of wins, and number of years coaching.

2011 All-State Teams

CLASS 1A

Ryan Bailey	P	Pawnee
Joey Coonrod	P/SS	Carrollton
Sammy Coonrod	P/IF	Carrollton
Blake Uhlman	IF/P	Tremont
Trey Rogers	P	Fisher
Matt Krause	IF	Deer Creek - Mackinaw
Luke Etnier	P/3B	Meridian
Zachary Jacobs	SS/P	Peoria Heights
Tyler Giedd	P/1B	Lanark (Eastland)
Alex Bullard	P	Streator (Woodland)
Jake Sale	SS	Putnam County
Kyle Pool	P	Iroquois West
Logan Tabor	P/SS	Marissa
Nick Andros	P/1B	Goreville
Andrew Grahn	P/SS	Louisville (North Clay)
A.J. Webb	P/OF	Woodlawn

CLASS 2A

Bobby Kuntzendorf	P	Aurora Christian
Chris Stevens	SS	Walther Lutheran
Kevin Elder	P	Westminster Christian
Ryan Perez	P	Westminster Christian
Dan Reiser	P	Pleasant Plains
Derek Thompson	P/OF	Teutopolis
Brandon Ley	P	Quincy Notre Dame
Jerod Pellman	P	Rochester
Jakob Junis	P	Rock Island
Eann Cox	P/1B	Prophetstown
Brock Adcock	P	IVC
Cody Hinson	P	Rockridge
J.C. Davis	SS	Rockridge
Keelin Rasch	SS	Harrisburg

CLASS 3A

Chad Johnson	C	Galesburg
Tanner Scott	C	Burlington Central
Josh Ferry	P	Lemont
Tyler Farrell	P	Galesburg
Kyle Funkhouser	P	Oak Forest
Phil Maton	P	Chatham Glenwood
Ryan Powers	P	Nazareth Academy
Michael Barajas	IF	Nazareth Academy
Joe Kelch	IF	East Peoria
Kevin Goergen	IF	Lemont
Austin Miller	IF	Grayslake Central
Eric Stoudt	IF	St. Francis
Bobby Thorson	IF	Kaneland
Mike Hurwitz	IF	Sacred Heart Griffin
Tim Barry	OF	Oak Forest
Dan Fifer	OF	Lincoln-Way West
Ray Hunnicutt	OF	Burlington Central
Caleb Howell	OF	Jacksonville
Dontrell Rush	OF	Harlan
Garrett Schlect	OF	Waterloo

CLASS 4A

Austin Bosart	C	O'Fallon
Blake Hickman	C	Simeon
Jack Picchoitti	C	Oak Park-River Forest
Dan Potempa	C	Providence
Rob Rabakozi	C	Reavis
Connor Cuff	P	Lyons Township
Luke Harrison	P	Glenbrook South
Mathew James	P	Normal West
Dan Ludwig	P	Naperville Central
Zach Remijas	P	Lyons Township
Kevin Defillipis	IF	Providence Catholic
Brian Evak	IF	Plainfield North
Jake Harper	IF	Lincoln-Way North
Jack Landwehr	IF	Prospect
Spencer Mahoney	IF	Lyons Township
Tony Rallo	IF	St. Charles East
Sam Travis	IF	Providence Catholic
Michael Vilardo	OF	Carey Grove
Jared Pyatt	OF	Pekin
Zack Reks	OF	Sandburg
Chris Sujka	OF	Mt. Carmel



Derek Thompson—Teutopolis



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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: