



The All-Star

Official Newsletter of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association

Winter 2012-13

News and Notes

Riley, Wujcik reach milestones

Glenbard South skipper Mike Riley won his 500th game and Richards head coach Brian Wujcik reached the 400 win milestone last season.

Riley captured 197 victories from 1990-99 with Rockford Guilford before taking over the Glenbard South program in 2000.

Wujcik's entire coaching career has been spent at his alma mater, Richards High School. After a collegiate career at University of Iowa, Wujcik returned to Richards and took over the program in 1993.

Congratulations, Mike and Brian on your milestone victories. If you recently achieved a milestone in your coaching career, please contact Don Erickson at derickson@d220.org so you can be recognized in the IHSBCA newsletter.

Important Dates

The next IHSBCA meeting will be held Wednesday, January 9 at 7:30 at the Ram restaurant in Schaumburg.

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

La Russa to speak at clinic

The IHSBCA is excited to announce that former MLB manager and sure-fire hall of famer Tony La Russa will head up an all-star line-up of speakers for this year's clinic held at the Westin Hotel in Lombard on January 25 and 26.

La Russa, whose 2,728 career wins ranks third all-time behind only Connie Mack and John McGraw, brings a wealth of knowledge and insight to the clinic. During his managerial tenure, La Russa captured six league championships, including one with the White Sox in 1983. He also won three World Series titles—one with the Oakland A's in 1989 and two with the St. Louis Cardinals in 2006 and 2011.

When La Russa presents on Saturday, he plans to speak on his experiences as a coach and then open up the floor for an extended question and answer session.

The former White Sox manager also has a book out called *One Last Strike: Fifty Years in Baseball, Ten and a Half Games Back, and One Final Championship Season* in which he chronicles his strategies implemented during game six of the incredible 2011 World Series.

In addition to La Russa, Clinic Director Chuck Gandolfi has secured a stellar group of speakers, including Perry Roth from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, Bob Morgan from Indiana University, and the coaching staff from University of Illinois-Chicago.

Roth, who has been the hitting coach for UAB for the past five seasons, will be speaking both on Friday and Saturday about how to effectively organize batting practice. Under Roth's tutelage, the Blazers' offense has flourished and they have set school records in both runs scored and doubles.

On Saturday, former Indiana head coach Bob Morgan will be speaking on practice organization, specifically pre-game and practice infield and outfield drills. Morgan, who retired in 2005, won over 1,000 games at IU. He is one of only 30 Division I baseball coaches to achieve such a milestone.

The University of Illinois-Chicago coaching staff of Mike Dee and Sean McDermott will both be presenting on Saturday as well. Dee, the head coach of the Flames for the past 15 seasons who has guided his teams to 10 of the last 13 Horizon League crowns, will take on the subject of pitching, while his assistant, McDermott, will be speaking on individual and team infield defense.

For a complete line-up of speakers for the clinic, please visit the IHSBCA website at www.ihigh.com/ihsbca/



Six coaches inducted into 2012 HOF class

The IHSBCA would like to congratulate its Hall of Fame class of 2012. These men will be officially inducted on the evening of January 26 at the Westin Hotel-Lombard Junior Ballroom. Cocktails will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the program will commence at 6:30 p.m. The following is a short biography of each of our newest inductees:

Phil Bodine—Plainfield South High School

Over the past 20+ years, Phil Bodine has “thrown his coaching hat” in many arenas. Besides heading three high school programs—Mendota (1990-2005), York (2005-2008), and Plainfield South (2008-Present)—Bodine has also served as both an assistant and head coach of gold and silver medal U.S.A. baseball teams. Much of his success as a high school coach came at Mendota where during his tenure the Trojans won four conference titles, seven regional championships, four sectional championships, and two final four finishes, including second-place in 1996. Currently, Bodine’s over-all record stands at an impressive 470-285. His nominator, Tony Folino, had the following to say about Phil: “He is an outstanding communicator and teacher of the game. He also understands what it takes to be successful in the classroom, on the field, and in the community.”

Bob Huber—Hersey High School

Bob Huber, who is entering his 20th season at the helm of Hersey High School baseball, has had a great career with the Huskies. His teams have won 369 games and three straight regional titles from 2002-2004. Huber also guided Hersey to a Final Eight appearance in the IHSBCA Summer League. During his tenure at Hersey, 47 players have gone on to play college ball and four have played professionally. Assistant coach and Hall of Fame nominator Kevin Kelly said of Huber, “Bob is extremely knowledgeable passionate about baseball, but his first concern is always for the players: their well-being is foremost. He is a class individual and treats everyone with the same respect he expects.”

Ken Pickerill—Oswego High School

Pickerill has been coaching high school baseball for the past 44 years and he is still not ready to retire. In five years as head coach, Ken had a .708 winning percentage, and for the last 39 years he has held the position of assistant baseball coach at Oswego. To honor Ken and his wife Jackie’s contributions to the school, Oswego High School built Jackie Field of Dreams Stadium. Ken also coached football and wrestling and was athletic director at Oswego. Dave Elko, who was part of the veterans committee that elected Pickerill to the Hall of Fame, had the following to say about Ken: “He taught us what the words pride and work meant. Ken is truly a hall of famer in sports, but even more a teacher of life skills.”

Eric Regez—Herscher High School

In only 20 seasons as skipper of Herscher High School, Regez has arguably built his program into one of the best in the state. His teams have won over 500 games, 13 conference championships, 11 regional crowns, and eight sectional titles. Regez also guided the Tigers to two final four appearances, finishing third in 2012 and winning the state title in 1999. As a testament to his success on the field, Regez has garnered several awards during his tenure. In 1999, he won the Class A IHSBCA Coach of the Year award and he has also been named Interstate 8 Coach of the Year four times and the IHSBCA Area Coach of the Year twice. Recently, Regez was honored by the IHSBCA with its President’s Award, one of the association’s highest honors.

Dave Rodgers—East Peoria High School

Dave Rodgers won nearly 300 games in 15 years as head coach of East Peoria High School, but that is only the tip of the iceberg of his involvement in the sport of baseball in Illinois. Rodgers has coached at the collegiate level (Bradley University and Eureka College) and the junior high level (Peoria Central Junior High). He also has served on several boards and associations including Youth Baseball Coordinator of Peoria, treasurer of the Greater Peoria Baseball Association, and chairman for the Illinois Coaches Association. Currently, Rodgers is the pitching coach for Normal West High School. Clay Cantrell, the coach who nominated Rodgers, said Dave “is an excellent teacher of the game and has mentored many players who have achieved success at the highest level, including current New York Yankees manager, Joe Girardi.”

George Ushela—Lyons Township High School

LT coach George Ushela has had a career that many would envy. In 15 years as head coach (12 as the skipper of the Lions), Ushela has amassed 392 wins, eight conference titles, eight regional championships, six sectional championships, five elite eight appearances, and two IHSA State Championships in 2003 and 2011. He also has garnered several personal awards, including Pitch and Hit High School Coach of the Year (2004), IHSBCA Coach of the Year (2003 & 2011), and IHSBCA Summer League Coach of the Year (2002, 2004, 2006, & 2012). Ushela’s sophomore coach Kurt Engel had the following to say about George: “The success that LT baseball has had over the last 11 years is directly related to the character of George Ushela. George is absolutely a living and walking example of what a Hall of Fame coach should be.”

2012-13 IHSBCA Clinic Information

Membership dues for the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association is \$30 per year. You must be a member of the Association to attend the annual clinic. Membership can also be obtained by registering for the clinic as a high school coaching staff. The cost to register your staff is \$225, with a limit of 8 coaches per staff. Individual registration for our clinic is \$40. For more information about the clinic, visit the IHSBCA website at illinoishighschoolbaseball.org.

IHSBCA PRE-REGISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP

Pre-registration forms must be posted by January 18th

Name: _____

Title: _____ School/Organization: _____

E-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

SEND PAYMENT FOR:

Annual Individual Membership 2013 **\$30**

Membership & Individual Clinic Registration **\$70**

Clinic attendees must be members of the IHSBCA. Membership is renewed yearly.

Staff Membership and Clinic Registration **\$225**

This payment option is offered through pre-registration only. Membership and clinic fees are included. Photocopy and send a complete registration form for each member of staff by January 18th.

Hall of Fame Dinner **Number Attending: _____ \$50 per**

Hall of Fame Dinner tickets must be purchased in advance with pre-registration form.

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Checks or money order should be made payable to IHSBCA. Luncheon is included with clinic fee.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Westin Lombard Yorktown Center
70 Lombard Center
Lombard, IL 60148 Phone: 1-630-719-8000
Web: www.westin.com

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2012 IHSBCA Award Recipients

Les Miller Man of the Year	Dan Schoessling	Wheaton North High School
Mike Herbert Distinguished Service Assistant Coach of the Year	Tom Lyons	Fenger High School
Tom Hull Scout of the Year	John Fumagalli	Neuqua Valley High School
Media Relations Man of the Year	Bob Szymkowski	Baltimore Orioles
Bob Udell Umpire of the Year	Bob Lemon	Daily Herald
Class 1A Player of the Year	Bob Jenkins	Fox Valley Blues
Class 1A Coach of the Year	Ben Hecht	St. Anthony High School
Class 2A Player of the Year	Kenny Miller	St. Anthony High School
Coach 2A Coach of the Year	Jacob Hendren	University High School
Class 3A Player of the Year	Jim Collins	University High School
Class 3A Coach of the Year	Brett Lilek	Marian Catholic High School
Class 4A Player of the Year	Phil Wail	Marian Catholic High School
Class 4A Coach of the Year	Zach Weigel	Oak Park River Forest High School
Summer League Coach of the Year	Chris Ledbetter	Oak Park River Forest High School
	George Ushela	Lyons Township High School

Note: This year's award winners will be honored at the HOF dinner on Saturday evening, January 26. All-Area Coaches of the Year will be recognized at the clinic on Saturday at 11:00 am. For a complete list of award winners, please visit ihigh.com/ihsbca/.