



The All-Star

Official Newsletter of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association

Fall 2013

News and Notes

Milestone?

The IHSBCA would like to continue 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 2013, please e-mail Don Erickson at derickson@d220.org. Please include the following information: name, school, number of wins, and number of years coaching.

Upcoming Clinics

Are you looking to improve your knowledge of the game and network with other coaches? Then check out the following list of upcoming clinics and meetings:

IHSBCA

Mini-Clinic/Meetings

12/4 BJ McMahon's

Oak Lawn-7:30

1/8 Ram Restaurant

Schaumburg-7:30

State Clinic

1/24-25 Weston—Lombard

National Clinics

12/5-8 BCA—Tucson, AZ

1/2-5 ABCA—Dallas, TX

Clinic Pricing Changes

The coaching staff fee for this year's IHSBCA clinic will be \$240. Also, in order to encourage more community coaches to attend, the IHSBCA is now allowing non-high school coaches the opportunity to attend the clinic without having to pay the additional membership fee. The clinic cost for a non-high school coach will be \$35.

One constant in baseball? St. Rita Mustangs

There aren't many things one can rely on these days—the economy fluctuates like a bouncing ball, the New York Giants won a Super Bowl in 2011 and are now the worst team in the NFL, and Chicago meteorologists correctly prognosticate the weather about as well as the White Sox racked up victories this year. However, certain things—death, taxes, and St. Rita baseball—remain Gibraltar-like constants in our fluid world.

For the third time in eight years, the Mustangs, under the direction of long-time head coach Mike Zunica, captured the Phil Lawler Summer State Tournament title. "It was a great experience for our kids," said Zunica. "Being consistently in the hunt for the summer championship really helps us as a team for the following spring. It is definitely a benefit for us because it gives us more play-off type experiences."

There is certainly some truth to this theory as the Mustangs have fared well the spring following their summer titles. After winning the crown in 2005, St. Rita made it to the sectional championship game, and they followed up their 2009 summer state title by making it to the state championship game in the spring. "Hopefully, we continue to improve and we can parley this third summer title into a regular season one, too!"

Although the Mustangs faced some quality programs in the Reavis Sectional, including Marist, Marian Catholic, and Richards, they cruised through the first three rounds, outscoring their opponents 32-1. In the sectional final game, they played Catholic League rival St. Laurence. The Mustangs won the game 9-3 behind the stellar outing of lefty

Mike Costanzo who is headed to Austin Peay next year. "Mike pitched a great game against a really talented Viking squad," said Zunica. "We are definitely going to rely on his arm if we want to make another run at the spring title."

In the opening round of the state series, however, the Mustangs stumbled against Minooka, losing 3-1. "After the great sectional we had, I felt our first Minooka game was lackluster and that carried over into the next game against Plainfield East," said Zunica. St. Rita found themselves in a close contest late in the game before rattling off eight runs in the seventh inning to defeat Plainfield 11-3 and avoid elimination.

The following day, St. Rita had a second chance against the one team who beat them during their play-off run: the Minooka Indians. The Mustangs took care of business, winning 4-2, and advanced to the semi-finals where they faced Libertyville. Once again, Costanzo pitched a masterful game, allowing one unearned run and striking out 13 Wildcats to propel St. Rita into the championship game.



St. Rita after their Sectional win over St. Laurence

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2013 All-State Teams

CLASS 1A

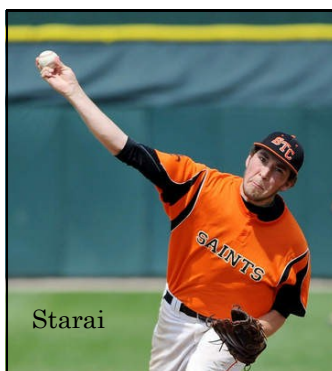
Cody Ballerini	2B	Granville - Putnam C.
Adam Cox	P/SS	Louisville - North Clay
Dryden Craven	P/SS	Griggsville - Perry
Wes Deggener	SS	Waterloo - Gibault
James Doubet	P	Galva - Williamsfield
Tyler Engel	SS	Astoria - South Fulton
Cale Hennemann	SS	Pawnee
Sam Geraci	P/SS	Crete - Illinois Lutheran
Lane Hanzel	P/C	Liberty
Ty Henderson	P/OF	Bluford - Webber
Ross Leonard	P/OF	Sidell - Salt Fork
Nick Lonergan	P/IF	Jacksonville - Routt
Wesley McGuire	P/3B	Junction-Gallatin County
Zach Neff	P/OF	Waterloo - Gibault
Adam Pennington	P/1B	Wolf Lake - Shawnee
Jake Perreira	P/C	Grant Park
Jon Stockton	C	Lena - Winslow
Cole Taylor	P/SS	Sidell - Salt Fork
Christian Vonderheide	P/SS	Strasburg
Xavier Warren	SS	Granville - Putnam C.

CLASS 3A

Konner Aherin	P	Glenwood Chatham
Jackson Bubala	P	Chicago Latin
Brock Fulkerson	P	Mt Vernon
Trent Johnson	P	Metamora
Will Kincanon	P	Riverside-Brookfield
Jake Latz	P	Lemont
Kevin Peloza	P	Grayslake Central
Sam Reuter	P	Illinois Valley Central
Jake Roehn	P	Sandwich
Cody Sedlock	P	Rock Island Alleman
Tyler Crater	C	Hampshire
Mike Papierski	C	Lemont
Evan Regez	C	Herscher
Mitch Trees	C	Sacred Heart Griffin
Tyler Banovich	IF	Bremen
Zach Barnhart	IF	Springfield
Spencer Gaa	IF	Metamora
Jake Haberer	IF	Highland
Tyler Johnson	IF	Harlan
Pat McInerney	IF	Benet Academy
Braden Muhlstadt	IF	Herscher
Keaton Wright	IF	Triad
James Davidson	OF	Morgan Park
Mike Hermosillo	OF	Ottawa
Brian Hobbie	OF	Glenwood Chatham
David Jacob	OF	Sacred Heart Griffin
Andrew Shadid	OF	Peoria Notre Dame
Tyler Srocznski	OF	Illiana Christian

CLASS 2A

Ty Borski	P/OF	Riverton
Alex Cain	P/SS	Oregon
Charlie Donovan	SS	Westmont
Trey Hannam	OF	Annawan - Wethersfield
Austin Hardy	SS	Hamilton - W. Hancock
Hunter Hart	P/SS	St. Joseph - Ogden
Ben Hecht	P/SS	St. Anthony
Curtiss Johnson	C	Ottawa - Marquette
Keegan McHood	P/IF	Argenta - Oreana
Eli Miller	OF	Shelbyville
Austin Muench	SS	Auburn
Kyle Prumer	P/1B	Teutopolis
Ryne Roper	P/SS	Harrisburg
Kody Silverthorn	P/SS	Eureka
Ben Sprague	P/IF	Pleasant Plains
Sammy Stearns	P/SS	Carterville
Brett Taylor	P/3B	Macomb
Ryan Van Volkenburg	P/OF	Lisle
Alex Ventrella	P/OF	Lisle
Jared Waldhoff	P/OF	Teutopolis



Starai



Donovan

CLASS 4A

Matt Brill	P	Moline
Matt Dennis	P	Rolling Meadows
Cole Hagan	P	Edwardsville
Matthew James	P	Normal West
Keith Lehman	P	Lyons Township
Mike Miller	P	Lincoln-Way North
Mitchell Schulewitz	P	Mundelein
Matt Starai	P	St. Charles East
Christian Taugner	P	Lake Park
Derek Bangert	C	Lockport
Brent Gibbs	C	Alton
Adam McGinnis	C	Normal West

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Third Summer State Title for Zunica, St. Rita

Continued from page 1

Against Lyons Township in the final game, the Mustangs scored 11 runs in the first two innings and never looked back in their 11-0 victory. "That game was a fluke," said Zunica. "Lyons Township has a great program and Coach Ushela does a wonderful job with those kids. It was just one of those days."

Notre Dame-bound senior Jake Shepski earned the victory on the



Coach Mike Zunica

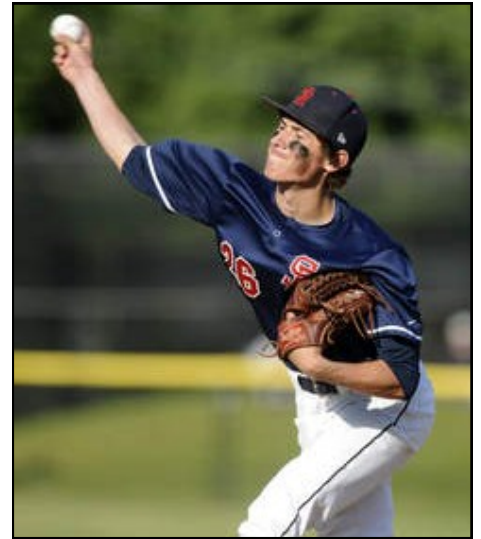
mound, tossing a complete game shut-out on three hits and six strike outs. This was Shepski's third victory of the tournament. He also picked up relief wins against Plainfield East and Minooka. In Shepski, Zunica sees many similarities to another phenomenal Mustang alum. "Jake's play in the tournament was eerily similar to Mark Payton's in 2009," said Zunica. "Both of them were able to help us win almost every game with their bat at the plate and their arm on the mound."

"Mark pitched in every summer state game, and his arm was basically falling off at the end," said Zunica. "If Jake becomes that kind of leader for us with Mike Costanzo, we won't have any let-down in the spring."

For his excellent play, Shepski, like Payton four years earlier, was also named tournament MVP.

Zunica added, "It is just so great to see these kids get this championship after a heart-breaking spring. We coach high school sports to see our kids have success. This group has achieved that and will forever be

bonded by this state championship. They may come back here when they're 60 years old and know that



Tournament MVP Jake Shepski

they are the 2013 Lawler Classic State Champs."

...and if past history holds true, those 60-year-old former Mustangs will be watching their alma mater compete for yet another Summer State Title.

2013 IHSBCA Phil Lawler All-Tournament Team

Mike Costanzo	Senior	St. Rita
Tony Faron	Junior	St. Rita
AJ Fuller	Senior	St. Rita
Jake Shepski	Senior	St. Rita
Nate Soria	Senior	St. Rita
Sam Heilenbach	Senior	Lyons Township
Quinten Hughes	Junior	Lyons Township
Max Larson	Senior	Lyons Township
Noah Greenburg	Senior	Libertyville
Nick Rossetti	Junior	Libertyville
Mitch Townsend	Junior	Libertyville
Mike Boehmer	Senior	St. Charles East
Jake Rykostey	Junior	St. Charles East
Mike McGee	Junior	Plainfield East
Jovany Urbietta	Senior	Plainfield East
Neal Tyrell	Senior	Minooka

2013 Jack Kaiser Most Valuable Player Award

Jake Shepski St. Rita

2013 Class 4A All State Team

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Ryan Lidge	C	Barrington
Evan Scoug	C	Libertyville
Austin Cangelosi	IF	Sandburg
Ronell Coleman	IF	Simeon
Drew Curtis	IF	Edwardsville
Dan Durkin	IF	Andrew
Will Farmer	IF	Mundelein
Aaron Meyer	IF	Belleville West
Bryce Only	IF	Huntley
Ricardo Ramirez	IF	De La Salle
Kevin Smith	IF	Lincoln-Way North
Marshawn Taylor	IF	Simeon
Eric Hall	OF	Richards
Alex Jefferson	OF	Normal West
Bryan Klendworth	OF	Prairie Ridge
Colin Lyman	OF	Huntley
Corey Ray	OF	Simeon
Jake Ring	OF	Grant
Ron Wisnasky	OF	Alton



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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: