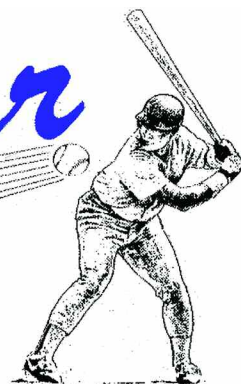




The Messenger



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2009 Wisconsin ASA Hall of Fame inductees and their representatives pose with their plaques following the induction ceremony July 25 at Lakeside Park in Fond du Lac: (front row, from left) McKinley Buetow and Michael Buetow, representing their late uncle Todd Buetow; Jo Ann Krueger; Jean Rivett; Cindy Rogers, representing her late grandfather Guy C. Wertz, Sr.; Bob Tomlinson; (back row) Jeff Moon; Rusty Kryzanowski; Lud Nordahl; Greg Wertz, representing his grandfather Guy Wertz; Hal Case and Nook Blank. (Dale Ferron Photo)

Wisconsin ASA Hall of Fame Inducts 10

FOND DU LAC — The Wisconsin ASA Hall of Fame welcomed 10 new members July 25 here in an afternoon ceremony at Lakeside Park. Enshrined as the Class of 2009 were:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Harold (Nook) BlankLa Crosse | Todd Buetow (posthumous)Fond du Lac |
| Harold (Hal) CaseMadison | Jo Ann (nee Paider) KruegerDenmark |
| Rusty KryzanowskiFond du Lac | Jeff MoonEldorado |
| Lud NordahlHixton | Jean RivettGreen Bay |
| Bob TomlinsonPoynette | Guy C. Wertz, Sr. (posthumous)Waukesha |

The Class of 2009 tied for the WASA's second largest since the Hall of Fame was established in 1984 and boosted the total membership to 110.

In addition to the new Hall of Famers the WASA also honored its two most recent Umpire of the Year award winners, Richard Kummerow of Mosinee for 2007 and John Peterson of Madison for 2008.

The event, which was expertly organized by Paula Suemnicht and Tom Rausch from the host Fond du Lac Softball Inc., was followed by a dinner at the Whispering Springs Golf Course.

This section of *The Messenger* provides a biographical sketch and photograph of each of the 2009 inductees.

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Nook played fast pitch from 1964-2004 and is considered by many experts to be one of the best all-around players ever from Wisconsin.

Played shortstop for many WASA state champions including Keg Bar, Farm Tavern, All-Car, Ebner's and Wilber Lime.

Named to numerous ASA all-state tournament teams and earned many leading hitter and best defensive player awards.

Played in multiple ASA Men's Major national championships.

Named 1st Team ASA All-America five times at shortstop and third base.

Won two ASA national championships and one second place at the Masters level with Bank of Melrose, Portage 51 Classics and St. James, Minn.

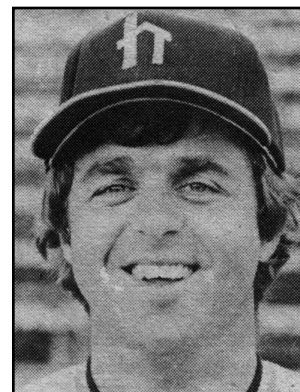
Hit over .400 in three ASA 45 & Over nationals (1997, 1998 and 2000).

Won the ISC world championship in 1980 with Aurora Home Savings of Illinois.

Represented the United States in Goodwill Softball Tour to Japan in 1981.

Silver medalist at the 1981 International Sports Festival.

Forged a lifetime batting average of over .330 while acquiring a well-deserved reputation as one of the finest defensive shortstops to ever play the game.



Harold (Nook)

Blank

Shortstop

La Crosse

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Todd Buetow was not only a generous sponsor but also a special individual who contributed greatly to both the Wisconsin ASA and Fond du Lac softball communities.

His co-sponsoring of softball tournaments in Fond du Lac over his short lifetime was unprecedented.

Todd literally put Fond du Lac on the map not only on a statewide basis, but nationally as well. He sponsored two of the most successful teams in the history of Fond du Lac softball, and, in the case of his men's modified pitch club, Wisconsin and the United States.

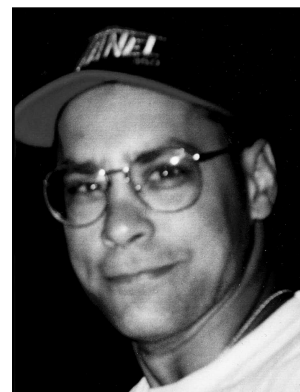
Todd supported the Dillinger's women's slow pitch team from 1990-2002. In 2000 they won the ASA Midwest National Tournament at the Class C level. The Dillinger's women also won the USSSA Women's Class C Great Lakes nationals in both 1995 and 1998 and took third in Class B in 1999.

The ultra-successful men's modified team that Todd sponsored came along in 1995 and is still sponsored today by his brother, Ted. From 1995-2004 his Dillinger's men won nine Wisconsin ASA state modified championships.

Dillinger's men captured three ASA national titles, in 2002, 2003 and 2006 respectively, and they are the only team from Wisconsin to win three ASA national championships in any division of play.

They also finished second nationally in 1995, 1998 and 2007, and added a third place ASA trophy in 2001.

Tom Rausch, Dillinger's Hall of Fame manager, said of Buetow, "Todd's commitment far surpassed the financial support he provided. He was a dedicated friend to all of his players which made him the incredible individual he was. He was always there when anyone ever needed him. It was too bad he was taken at such a young age (38)."



Todd

Buetow

Sponsor

Fond du Lac

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Hal started his venerable umpiring career in 1968 doing both 16-inch and 12-inch slow pitch plus fast pitch. He has been an ASA umpire every year since 1969.

He's umpired for Madison Park and Recreation, Waukesha Park and Recreation, Milwaukee Metro Fast Pitch Association, Milwaukee Shirley Martin Fast Pitch Leagues and the Texas Association of Sports Officials and University Interscholastic League.

Has worked numerous Wisconsin ASA Junior Olympic state tournaments in addition to many more ASA regionals and national qualifiers from 1990-2006.

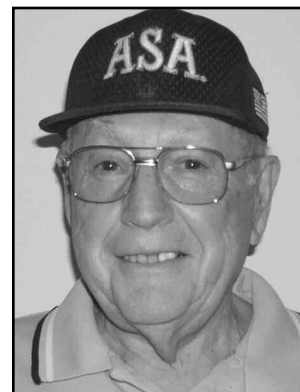
Umpired the 1996 ASA Class A 16-inch slow pitch national tournament.

Still active umpiring in both Wisconsin and Texas. Currently calls high school and ASA fast pitch in Texas from September through May and then does WASA games in the summer.

His greatest legacy to Wisconsin softball may be as a teacher since he helped train umpires for the Madison Park and Rec leagues for years and his many grateful students include two of his daughters and Dick Buskov, the current WASA Umpire-in-Chief.

He also helps train softball officials in Texas.

WASA Southeast Section UIC Mike Brewer calls Hal an "invaluable resource to the WASA umpires' program and a perfect addition to the Hall of Fame."



**Harold (Hal)
Case**
Umpire
**Madison/
Waukesha/
Mission, TX**

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

One of the transcendent pitchers in state history, the hard-throwing righthander won over 250 games while losing less than 50 during her brilliant career (1970-1993).

Teamed with WASA 2009 Hall of Fame classmate Jean Rivett to form the "Double Trouble" mound duo for some of the most formidable women's fast pitch clubs ever from Wisconsin.

Jo Ann was also a threat with the bat; she hit nearly .400 over her 24-year career, usually playing first when not in the circle.

Won WASA Women's Major Fast Pitch state titles in 1979, 1981, 1984, 1985 and 1986.

Named to the WASA Major all-tournament teams in 1975, 1978, 1979, 1981 and 1986.

WASA Women's Major State Tournament Most Valuable Player in 1979 and 1986.

WASA Women's Major State Tournament Most Valuable Pitcher in 1978 and 1981.

1979 ASA Women's Major Midwest Regional Most Valuable Pitcher.

Fired 12 no-hitters, including one at the 1993 ASA Class B national tourney. One of the gems was a perfect game versus Newport of Milwaukee in 1980.

Most Valuable Hitter in the 1993 WASA Women's Major Modified state championship.

Served as an assistant coach at Denmark High School from 1982-1997 and the team won four WIAA state titles during that span.

Since 1998 has been the head softball coach at St. Norbert College with over 200 wins, two conference championships and two NCAA berths to her credit. Midwest Conference Coach of the Year in 2007 and 2009.

Received the WFSCA Outstanding Service to the Sport of Fast Pitch Softball Award in 2004 and 2007.



**Jo Ann
(nee Paider)
Krueger**
Pitcher/First Base
Denmark

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Dillinger's man at the hot corner in the 1990s and 2000s.

A titanic presence for Dillinger's men's modified pitch dynasty from Fond du Lac both at third base and in the middle of the power-laden batting order.

The former Minnesota Twins farmhand hit for both average and power while handling one of the toughest positions in the modified game with great aplomb.

A member of 10 Wisconsin ASA state championship teams and also won three ASA national titles with Dillinger's in 2002, 2003 and 2006.

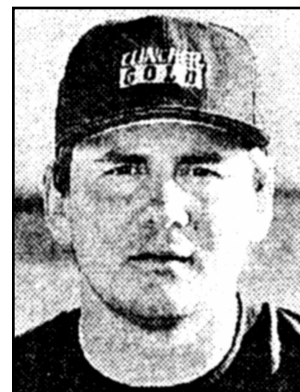
Earned ASA All-America honors in 2002 and 2003.

WASA state tournament Most Valuable Player in 1994 and 1998 and has been accorded all-state tournament team recognition multiple times.

One play he'll never forget is the 5-4-3 triple play he started (Kryzanowski to Paul Wagner to Todd Bonlander) that secured Dillinger's first ASA national championship in 2002 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

His favorite part of softball is playing for Dillinger's manager Tom Rausch along with all of the players. He says, "Playing for Dillinger's is just like having a pick-up game with your brothers in the back yard. We play our hearts out!"

He greatly appreciates having had the opportunity to play for such a great team and for being able to provide his piece of the puzzle.



**Rusty
Kryzanowski**
Third Base
Fond du Lac

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

The blasting cap for Dillinger's powder keg.

Jeff served as the lead-off man for Dillinger's modified pitch powerhouse out of Fond du Lac and routinely set the table for the big bombers that followed.

A quick, scrappy leader, he quarterbacked the defense from his catching position. He's teamed with WASA Hall of Fame pitcher Todd Albrecht to become one of the winningest batteries in the history of Wisconsin softball.

A member of 10 Wisconsin ASA state championship clubs, nine under the Dillinger's flag, and three ASA national champions as Dillinger's took the crown in 2002, 2003 and 2006.

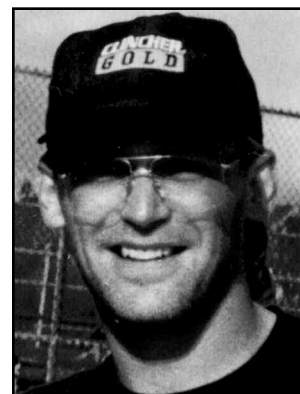
An ASA All-America selection in 2000, 2002 and 2003.

Named to the WASA all-state tournament team as a catcher in 1992, 1993, 1995, 2002 and 2004. He demonstrated his versatility in 2003 by moving to the outfield and earned all-state honors there as Dillinger's won still another WASA title.

Chosen as the top offensive player in the 1995 WASA Major Modified tourney with a .655 performance.

Paul Wagner, the WASA's modified pitch commissioner and a long-time teammate of Moon's and his 2009 WASA Hall of Fame classmate Rusty Kryzanowski, says of the two inductees, "It's simple. When they are there, we win!"

Dillinger's manager Tom Rausch was just as assertive, calling Moon "the best catcher to ever play modified pitch softball in Wisconsin."



**Jeff
Moon**
Catcher
Eldorado

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Few men in the history of Wisconsin ASA slow pitch softball could hit a ball higher or farther than this imposing southpaw slugger.

Class A playing career spans 17 years (1970-1986) but he is still active in Senior competition.

Competed in eight WASA state, four ASA regional and five ASA national tournaments.

Played on five WASA state championship teams and one ASA Great Lakes Regional champion.

MVP of the 1982 and 1985 WASA Class A state tournaments. His .929 batting average and 11 straight hits in the 1982 state tourney are both believed to be WASA records.

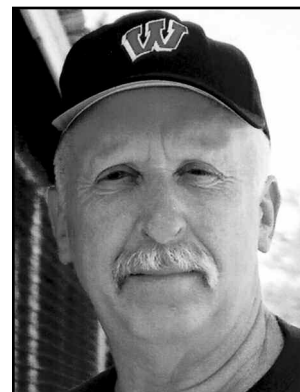
Went 13-for-17, .765, with six homers for Jake's-Sport Source of Menomonie in the 1982 ASA Class A national championship at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Won two outstanding awards at the Stevens Point Classic, for years the top Class A tournament in Wisconsin. He won the 1985 Top Slugger Award and, in 1986, the Classic's MVP award while playing for Midwest Dental Care of Eau Claire, the tournament champions.

Eau Claire Slow Pitch Athlete of the Year in 1982.

Started playing Senior softball in 2005 with the Wisconsin Masters and has won three Senior national titles. Earned all-tournament honors at the 2006 world tourney in Seattle.

Acknowledges that awards are hard to get if you don't have great teammates. Proudly joins his 1980s and Bankers Life teammates Jim Ganther, Dave Rasmussen, Kelly Stevens, Al (Curly) Hanson, Steve Frank and Mike Haley in the WASA Hall of Fame.



Lud Nordahl
Outfielder
Hixton

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Jean's WASA career, which includes time as a player, commissioner and coach, spanned three decades (1972-2003).

As a left-handed pitcher, Jean was often referred to as "The Lethal Lefty," and for good reason. She dominated the circle, winning more than 250 games over her career, chalking up numerous no-hitters and an impressive 1.90 ERA. She was also named to 15 all-state tournament teams, won numerous MVP honors, and helped lead her clubs to 12 WASA state titles and four ASA national tournament appearances.

With her cleats long retired, Jean continues to enhance the game and make an indelible impact on all the young women who choose to play it. She served as president of the Fox Valley Classic League for four years, and has since carried her passion for the sport to the coach's box.

She served as an assistant at St. Norbert College and Lawrence University for 10 years and four years, respectively. She was head coach at UW-Green Bay for three years, then at Green Bay East High School for five. She most recently returned to UW-Green Bay, where she recently completed her sixth season as head coach.

Softball made an impression on Jean – from the moment she picked up a ball and started zinging pitches through the hanging tire in her backyard. In return, Jean has made an impression on softball – and all who have had the privilege of participating with her – through her infinite zeal and zest for the game.



Jean M. Rivett
*Pitcher/Coach/
Commissioner*
Green Bay

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

Bob began his fast pitch playing career at 14 in the Poynette Men's League. 2009 is his 45th year playing the game. Primarily a third baseman, his versatility and understanding of the game saw him play all nine positions during his career.

Teams he played on have won more than 90 percent of their games. These clubs include some of the most famous names in WASA history: Kraemer Tile, Packard's Auto Salvage, Legion Post 271, Fort Tavern, Sarbacher's Bar, Tamarack Pizza, Farm Tavern, Club 95, Wilber Lime, Martin Security, Melrose State Bank, and more.

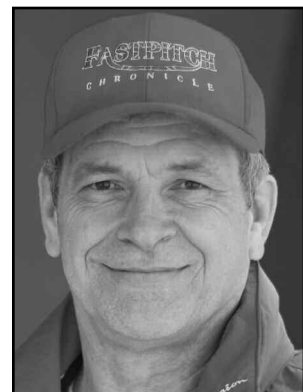
A member of several WASA all-state tournament teams and a 1990 ASA All-America selection. He once hit five home runs in the championship game of an invitational in Pardeeville. He won numerous batting titles in invitational tournaments and won the WASA state tournament batting title at least once. Hit for a high average and with power throughout his career and was always considered a tough out.

During the 1982 Eau Claire Classic, playing for Wilber Lime, he homered in five consecutive games on the final day. In the next game he had one bounce off the top of the fence and back into play, just missing six home runs in six consecutive games of that prestigious tournament.

He finished runner-up for leading hitter of that tournament with twice the number of at-bats as the batting title winner.

Once played in a Janesville men's league game on the same team as his son, son-in-law, and daughter, who was filling in, and lists it as one of the most memorable games he ever played.

A tireless promoter of the fast pitch game as a player, coach, sponsor, clinician, writer and publisher.



Bob Tomlinson
Third Baseman
Poynette

WASA Hall of Fame

Class of 2009

"Physical education and recreation was his life's work."

Lived from 1887 to 1973 and spent over six decades in athletics and recreation.

The Wisconsin ASA's longest-serving state commissioner. Records vary but he held the position for at least 17 years and perhaps as many as 19.

Helped promote and grow ASA softball throughout the state from the 1940s into the 1970s. At one point he was the ASA of America's oldest active commissioner, still going strong into his 80s.

He helped build the national ASA into the leading softball organization in the country and also served as its vice president.

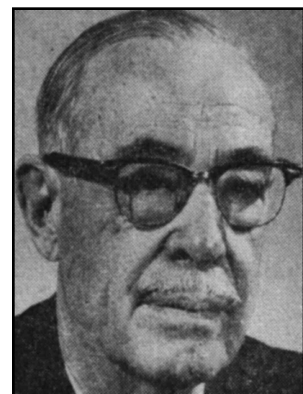
ASA Life Member #27.

Known affectionately as Mr. Softball of Wisconsin.

Also served as President of the Wisconsin AAU, the Wisconsin Recreational Association and the Wisconsin Recreation Directors Association in addition to numerous other high profile recreational roles.

Never played softball seriously but was a talented baseball pitcher for Richland Center in high school and with a number of semi-professional clubs in the Midwest.

The 1967 WASA Industrial Slow Pitch state tourney in Waukesha was dedicated to him for his outstanding job of building up the sport in that community.



Guy C. Wertz, Sr.
Commissioner
Waukesha



Four of the WASA's finest umpires got together after the 2009 Hall of Fame inductions at Lakeside Park in Fond du Lac: Pictured are (from left) WASA Slow Pitch Umpire-in-Chief Jim Mitchell, 2007 WASA Umpire of the Year Richard Kummerow, 2008 WASA Umpire of the Year John Peterson, and WASA UIC for Fast Pitch Dick Buskov. (Dale Ferron Photo)

WISCONSIN ASA UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
1982	Ken Gracner	Madison	1996	Tim Irish	Onalaska
1983	Ed Johnson	La Crosse	1997	Lorn Roehm	Sparta
1984	John Baltus	Eau Claire	1998	John Eckendorf	Stevens Point
1985	Clyde Schuette	Green Bay	1999	Pete Dake	Eau Claire
1986	George Gannon	Chippewa Falls	2000	Lew Smith	Green Bay
1987	Arden Geisler	Wis. Rapids	2001	Ron Deutsch	Eau Claire
1988	Fred Kratz	Montello	2002	Tim Townsend	Greenfield
1989	John Peterson	Madison	2003	Bill Gongoll	Wausau
1990	Joe Hamilton	Eau Claire	2004	Mike Mikalsen	Cottage Grove
1991	Tim Joly	Green Bay	2005	Tom Ueberroth	Hales Corners
1992	Mike Lipp	Madison	2006	Bill Bartingale	Eau Claire
1993	Joe Cyran	Stevens Point	2007	Richard Kummerow	Mosinee
1994	Wes Templeton	Madison	2008	John Peterson	Madison
1995	Jim Mitchell	New Richmond			

