



# The Messenger



November 2011 – Section 1

Official Publication of the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association

## WASA Finishes up in Fondy

FOND DU LAC – The Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association basically wrapped up a prosperous 2011 campaign with its annual meeting held in Fond du Lac October 1 at Theo's.

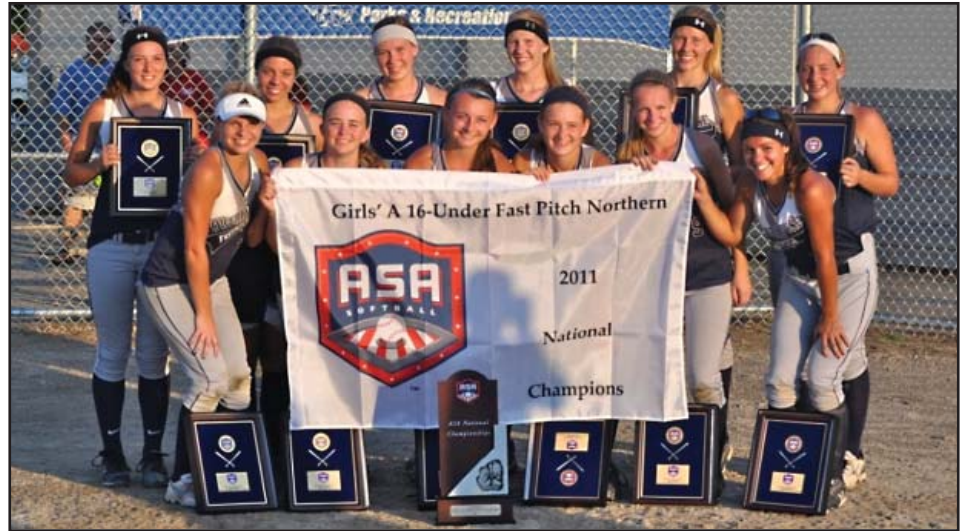
(Theo's, incidentally, is a downtown restaurant neither owned by nor named for Theo Epstein, the new president of the Chicago Cubs.)

WASA Commissioner Tom Raimer told the assemblage that, even with some figures still to be tabulated, the organization enjoyed increases in both team and individual registrations over 2010, an excellent year itself, while umpire registrations dropped to 348 from 401.

Sixty-seven local softball associations from throughout the state affiliated with the WASA in 2011 and the number of leagues in the thriving Junior Olympic program surged from 30 to 40.

One hundred eighty-five teams took part in JO state tournaments this summer, a boost of 29 over 2010, but adult state tourney participation experienced a decrease of seven entries, 43 from 50, over a year ago.

“We're working hard to move into new areas in Wisconsin and also to  
(See annual meeting page 3)



**GREEN BAY POWERHOUSE – 16&U Northern National Champions:** (Front row, from left) Raissa Reynolds, Lydia Turnquist, Danielle "DJ" Garceau, Christine Sharon, Allison Weisnicht, Courtney Dart, (back row) McKenna Larsen, Ashley Baker, Lauren Janssen, Lindsey Luedke, Heather Sanderson and Nicole Sharon. Not pictured: Melanie Leopold, Taylor Gutzman, Hannah Long and Hannah Hilbert.

## GB Girls Win Northern National

MT. PLEASANT, MICH. – Chalk up another title for Titledown, USA, sometimes also known as Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The Green Bay Powerhouse girls fast pitch softball team mirrored its hometown Packers' shining example with a super Sunday of its own, notching five straight “must” wins to claim the 2011 ASA Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch Class A 16 & Under Northern National Championship over 54 other entries here Aug. 3-7.

Powerhouse made the previously unbeaten Munster (Indiana) Magic dis-

appear twice, 6-0 and 3-2, late Sunday afternoon at Island Park to conclude a marathon day of pressure-packed softball and provide the Wisconsin ASA with its sole national championship of 2011.

A 4-2 setback at 8 a.m. on Sunday to the Crown Point (Indiana) Bulldogs forced Green Bay, which had been 5-0, including two wins in pool play on Wednesday, to survive an imposing gauntlet of five games to take it all, much like the Packers had to do at the end of the 2010 NFL season.

(See Powerhouse page 4)

# Peterson Enters National Softball Hall of Fame

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. – Rod Peterson, the legendary owner/sponsor/manager of The Farm Tavern, the Madison, Wisconsin men's fast pitch dynasty, was inducted into the ASA National Softball Hall of Fame along with nine others here November 9 at the 31st annual induction ceremony.

Peterson, 72, is the fourth ASA Hall of Famer from Wisconsin, joining the late Jim Chambers of Racine, Rick (Crusher) Scherr from Slinger and Waukesha's Dennis Graser.

Peterson started playing fast pitch in 1961 and began his managerial career five years later. He purchased The Farm, a tavern on Madison's south side, in 1975 and transformed it into an international fast pitch brand name synonymous with excellence.

Under Peterson's guidance The Farm won three ASA Men's Major national titles (2003, 2004 and 2009)



**Rod Peterson**

along with a trio of ISC world championships. The Farm was an annual contender and in the last 10 years of play in the ASA Major, the ASA's oldest national championship, Peterson's charges produced a gaudy 47-14 bot-

tom line, which, of course, included the three championships.

The Farm also dominated the Wisconsin ASA fast pitch scene for decades, capturing 16 WASA Men's Major state crowns, a figure that would've been much greater if the tournament hadn't last been contested in 1993.

Peterson provided the fast pitch fans of Wisconsin and wherever else The Farm competed with an opportunity to observe the best players in the world and his decision to retire and fold the team after the 2009 season has certainly left a void.

Fittingly, Peterson and The Farm went out on top, as they won the 2009 ASA Men's Major in South Bend, Indiana in record-breaking fashion with a 10-1 record.

No disrespect to either George Steinbrenner or Bruce Springsteen, but when it came to men's fast pitch softball, Rod Peterson truly was "The Boss."

## Three Tweets to the Wind

By Tweet Carlson



★ Iz a pre-game coin flip in order to call the pre-game coin flip really necessary?

★ Wuz gonna comment on abizmal state of softball unis ... that is until I started watching college football.

★ Contrary to rumor Tom Rausch's business # isn't 1-800-RAUSCH.

*Bonus Tweet:*

★ I sure ain't gonna use this forum to insult Albert Pujols! Gotta go!!

*Bonus Bonus Tweet:*

★ When in NYC, official WASA scorekeeper Ma Pesch (pronounced Ma Pesch) recommends dining at Má Pêche (pronounced Ma Pesch).

## The Messenger

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## annual meeting

*(Continued from page 1)*

attract more teams to our state championships,” Raimer commented.

“We’d also like to conduct additional adult state tourneys and see more of our teams advance to ASA nationals. This year we had to cancel a number of state championships due to a lack of entries. Unfortunately, that’s a sign of the times.”

Raimer also reported that “It was a decent year financially and we have some savings built up” ... which is way more than can be said for the sovereign nation of Greece.

The veteran commissioner also stated that he’s not planning on raising registration fees for 2012 but he has to defer on that until seeing what transpires at the ASA’s National Council Meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C. this month.

Other prominent news items arising from the Theo’s gathering were:

★ Raimer has appointed Chad Mitchell of New Richmond as the WASA’s Umpire-in-Chief. He will be assisted by Dick Buskov and Mike Mikalsen in fast pitch and Dennis Kostac in modified.

★ Also from the umpires’ “Blue Corner,” Buskov revealed that the WASA’s 2011 Umpire of the Year award winner is Dan Cory from Brooklyn.

Cory, a seasoned fast pitch arbiter, was picked to work the championship game at this July’s USA/ASA Girls Gold 18-U National Championship in San Diego.

★ Assistant commissioner Tom Rausch confirmed that the top two finishers in this year’s Men’s Modified

Class B state meet will be “promoted” to Class A next year.

“The second-place team won’t complain too much ... I sponsor them,” Rausch cracked.

For the record, the two clubs moving up are Class B champions Johnson Concrete from Oneida and runners-up Rausch Insurance/QCI of Fond du Lac.

★ Rausch has also been appointed to the post of WASA interim treasurer following this summer’s resignation of Arleen Case.

★ WASA JO potentate Dale Ferron reminded attendees that Columbus will host the 2012 ASA JO Girls Fast Pitch Class B 16-U Northern National next August.

At press time this is the only 2012 ASA national slated for Wisconsin.

Ferron also anticipates a strong Wisconsin presence in Columbus and mentioned that WASA teams have won this event twice before (Kimberly Cardinals in 2007 and Eau Claire’s Seymour Flames Red in 2009).

★ The WASA has signed a new three-year deal with Worth Sports, which will continue as its official ball supplier.



★ Wausau was selected to host the 2012 annual meeting. The date is expected to be Saturday, Oct. 6 at a site to be announced.

★ A number of WASA Code changes were approved by the board of directors that impact the men’s slow pitch program.

Specifically, MSP Class C teams may now employ a State Traveling Roster and are not restricted to a league roster in ASA championship play.

Also in men’s slow pitch:

A team winning the Class C state tournament three times must move up to Class B. The wins do not have to be consecutive. Teams moving up to Class B as a result of three Class C titles must compete at the B level twice before becoming eligible to appeal their classification.

A team winning the Class D state tournament must move up to Class C the following year. They must play one year at the C level before becoming eligible to appeal their classification.

A team winning the Class E state tournament must move up to Class D the following year. They must play one year at the D level before becoming eligible to appeal their classification.

## Thanks!

Thanks to all of the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association tournament directors, managers, coaches and fans who contributed photos and team information for this edition of *The Messenger*.

# Powerhouse

(Continued from page 1)

However, unlike the Super Bowl champs, Powerhouse had to win them all in a single day with virtually no breaks in the action.

The disappointing loss to Crown Point seemed to serve as a belated wake-up call since Powerhouse regrouped almost immediately to oust the Quad Cities Firebirds of East Moline, Illinois 3-2 as Heather Sanderson made an early 3-0 lead stand up with a route-going five-hitter.

Danielle (DJ) Garceau and Lindsey Luedke each had a pair of hits in the momentum-gathering victory and Nicole Sharon added a double as Green Bay began to creep along the tightrope of the losers' bracket.

Powerhouse then came from behind with two runs in the fifth to dispatch the Lemont Rockers out of LaGrange, Illinois, 4-3.

Laura Janssen hurled three innings of shutout ball in relief to get the win while GB's offensive stars were Sharon with a double and three RBIs plus Luedke and Ashley Baker, who both scored twice.

That conquest set up a classic rematch with Crown Point for the right to meet Munster in the championship game.

Through five tension-packed innings it was 0-0 but Powerhouse finally broke the ice against the Bulldogs in the sixth.

Raissa Reynolds singled and moved over to third on sacrifices by Courtney Dart and Garceau. Luedke then lashed a single to left, plating Reynolds with the dramatic game's only run.

Sanderson fired a masterful three-hitter with five strikeouts and zero walks to propel the tired but determined GB gang into the finals against 5-0 Munster.

## Green Bay Powerhouse's Road to the Northern National Championship

| Opponent                             | Score | W/L | Opponent             | Score | W/L |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|----------------------|-------|-----|
| <i>Pool Play</i>                     |       |     | Crown Point Bulldogs | 2-4   | L   |
| Mt. Pleasant Drillers                | 2-0   | W   | Quad City Firebirds  | 3-2   | W   |
| N. Illinois Lightning                | 4-3   | W   | Lemont Rockers       | 4-3   | W   |
| <i>Double Elimination Tournament</i> |       |     | Crown Point Bulldogs | 1-0   | W   |
| Detroit Vengeance                    | 6-0   | W   | Munster Magic        | 6-0   | W   |
| Wisconsin Bandits                    | 4-0   | W   | Munster Magic        | 3-2   | W   |
| Ohio Outlaws                         | 7-4   | W   |                      |       |     |

### Hitting Leaders

|                  |                          |          |         |        |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------|--------|
| Lindsey Luedke   | .500 batting average     | .514 OBP | 8 runs  | 6 RBIS |
| Raissa Reynolds  | .414 batting average     | .513 OBP | 10 runs | 8 RBIS |
|                  | .724 slugging percentage |          |         |        |
| Lauren Janssen   | .400 batting average     | .375 OBP |         | 3 RBIS |
| Nicole Sharon    | .345 batting average     | .371 OBP |         | 9 RBIS |
|                  | .448 slugging percentage |          |         |        |
| Danielle Garceau | .333 batting average     | .421 OBP | 5 runs  | 4 RBIS |

### Pitching Leaders

|                   | Wins | Losses | IP | BB | K  | ERA  | Saves |
|-------------------|------|--------|----|----|----|------|-------|
| Lauren Janssen    | 5    | 0      | 29 | 6  | 18 | 0.24 | 1     |
| Heather Sanderson | 3    | 0      | 27 | 2  | 17 | 1.30 | 2     |
| McKenna Larsen    | 2    | 1      | 21 | 10 | 14 | 1.33 | 1     |

Powerhouse pounced on the unsuspecting Magic at once with two runs in the bottom of the first and tacked on singletons in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth to win going away, 6-0. The romp brought on the decisive "if" game, GB's sixth contest of the day.

Tom Garceau, Green Bay's manager, mentioned later that his team was surprised at the first game's margin of victory. "Munster was rested while we'd been playing all day. Maybe they thought we were exhausted and came out a little flat. It turned out to be our only relatively easy game on Sunday."

Janssen and McKenna Larsen split the mound duties in the whitewash and Reynolds spearheaded the potent Powerhouse attack with a triple, two singles

and three runs scored. Garceau added a pair of RBIs as well as two runs scored.

The captivating finale, game number 109 of the double-elimination tourney, found Powerhouse again drawing blood in the bottom of the first as Reynolds singled, swiped second and scored on Dart's single.

This time, however, the resurgent Magic replied with solo tallies in the second and third off Sanderson to conjure a 2-1 advantage.

Janssen relieved Sanderson to begin the fourth and crucially kept the Magic off the board until Green Bay came to bat still down 2-1 in the last of the sixth.

(See Green Bay page 5)

## Green Bay

(Continued from page 4)

That's when Luedke instigated the conclusive rally by getting plunked with a pitch. Baker moved her up a base with a sacrifice, and Sharon evened the battle at 2-2 with a clutch single.

Sharon then took second on an infield out, and Sanderson came up huge with a double to bring her home with the go-ahead run.

Janssen finished it with a Mariano Rivera-like flourish, fanning the final Magic hope in the seventh to give Powerhouse the 3-2 victory and the prestigious Northern National championship.

Janssen wound up yielding no runs and only three hits in her four frames of sterling relief and got credit for the "W."

The title was the first ASA national crown for Powerhouse, which is comprised of athletes from Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Eight of the players hail from Bay Port, a high school on the outskirts of Green Bay.

The champions were a battle-tested



**Green Bay Powerhouse standouts (from left) Raissa Reynolds, Lauren Janssen and Danielle Garceau.**

group that barely missed winning the 2009 ASA Class B 16-U National as 14-year-olds when they finished second to WASA rival Seymour Flames Red from Eau Claire in Wichita.

"That experience in Kansas paid dividends," skipper Garceau confirmed.

And this year's results back up that assertion.

For the 2011 season Powerhouse compiled a lustrous mark of 28-8-1 and

won four of the six tournaments they entered.

The Wisconsin Bandits were the only other WASA representative to make the trip to Mt. Pleasant and they ended up tying for ninth place with a 4-2 record.

One of the Bandits' losses came at the hands of Powerhouse, 4-0, as Sanderson and Larsen teamed up on a four-hitter in early round action on Thursday.

## 2012 WASA State Tournament Sites Awarded

FOND DU LAC – The WASA determined many of its 2012 state tournament venues at the annual meeting here October 1.

A number of state tournaments were not bid on for next summer and parties interested in hosting a WASA championship in 2012 should contact WASA Commissioner Tom Raimer for further details.

Please check the WASA Web site ([www.wisconsin-asa.org](http://www.wisconsin-asa.org)) for updated information on dates, contacts, entry fees, deadlines, etc. Current 2012 WASA state tourneys and their locations follow.

### State Tournament

JO Girls Fast Pitch – Class A

JO Girls Fast Pitch – Class B

Modified – All Men's and Women's

Men's Slow Pitch – Class C and D

Men's Slow Pitch – Class E

### Location

Watertown

Wausau

Ashwaubenon

Stevens Point

Sheboygan



# Vault Locks Up Class C

STEVENS POINT – John Dillinger wasn't on any opposing roster.

Neither were Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Jesse James nor Cole Younger.

And maybe that's why the Vault couldn't be cracked.

Vault/KC/JJ's from Amery withstood all challenges to win the Wisconsin ASA Men's Slow Pitch Class C State Tournament at Zenoff Park July 15-17.

Manager Chuck Kuhl's club got hot on a scorching weekend and stayed hot, going 4-0 overall to surmount a potent 10-team field.

Vault opened with a pair of convincing 10-run conquests on Saturday before surviving an extra-inning war with Janesville's Venom Sunday morning and outslugging Eggers Imprints/AM Drywall/KA of Waukesha, 26-15, in the afternoon finale on Copps Field.

Brandon LaBlanc got things off on the right foot Saturday for Vault by tossing a one-hit, 10-0 gem against Petticoat Junction from Holmen, who obviously left their bats in either Pixley or Hooterville.

The eventual champs then trailed Cubby's of Downsville 7-6 through four innings but pushed across four runs in the fifth and eight more in the sixth to advance 19-9 as Tony Riley keyed the onslaught with two homers and six RBIs.

The pivotal game for Vault then came against Venom, last year's state runners-up, in the battle of remaining unbeatens.

## 2011 WASA Men's Slow Pitch Class C State Tourney

July 15-17 - Stevens Point

### Team Standings

| Place | Team                          | Record | City         |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| 1     | Vault/KC/JJ's                 | 4-0    | Amery        |
| 2     | Eggers Imprints/AM Drywall/KA | 5-2    | Waukesha     |
| 3     | Venom/Corners Inn/JBL         | 2-2    | Janesville   |
| 4     | Subway/EZN/Easton             | 2-2    | Fond du Lac  |
| 5     | Cubby's                       | 2-2    | Downsville   |
| 5     | Green Touch/Brady's           | 1-2    | New Richmond |
| 7     | Coach's                       | 1-2    | River Falls  |
| 7     | Petticoat Junction            | 1-2    | Holmen       |
| 9     | K-Stone                       | 0-2    | Mosinee      |
| 9     | Luther Auto/Fleet Feet        | 0-2    | Menomonie    |

### First Team All-State

| Pos. | Player          | Team    |
|------|-----------------|---------|
| 1B   | Joey Gaspord    | Vault   |
| 2B   | Brandon Graser  | Eggers  |
| 3B   | Joe James       | Eggers  |
| SS   | Josh Calleja    | Vault   |
| OF   | Rob Schultz     | Eggers  |
| OF   | Tony Riley      | Vault   |
| OF   | Kris Howe       | Cubby's |
| OF   | Nick Spacial    | Venom   |
| U    | Brett Wichman   | Eggers  |
| U    | Wes Gaedtke     | Subway  |
| U    | Andy Newbauer   | Eggers  |
| U    | Seth Burgmeier  | Venom   |
| U    | Michael Spencer | Venom   |
| U    | Jayson Memken   | Eggers  |
| U    | Anthony Harper  | Venom   |
| U    | Travis LaBlanc  | Vault   |
| C    | Ryan Blanchard  | Vault   |
| P    | Brandon LaBlanc | Vault   |

**Batting Champion:** Seth Burgmeier, Venom, .865

**Home Run Champion:** Rob Schultz, Eggers, 8

**Co-MVPs:** Joey Gaspord and Josh Calleja, Vault

The game was tight all the way and Venom caught up at 11-11 when Seth Burgmeier, the tourney's leading hitter at .865, led off the bottom of the seventh with a solo shot off LaBlanc.

Venom went on to load the bases but couldn't close the deal and the thriller moved into extras.

Venom would pay dearly for fail-

ing to put Vault away as Kuhl's gang rolled a seven in the top of the eighth with the major blow being Joey Gaspord's three-run jack.

That resulted in an 18-12 victory and a ticket to the title game for Vault.

Elsewhere, in losers' bracket action, Eggers was on fire following a 16-15

(See Vault page 7)

## Vault

(Continued from page 6)

setback to Venom in their second game of the tourney.

The Waukesha club compiled four wins in a row, including a satisfying 15-11 revenge triumph over Venom, to advance to the first championship game versus Vault.

Striking quickly, Vault jumped on Eggers, which was playing its third game in succession, with eight runs in the top of the first, a margin that mushroomed to 21-2 before Eggers came back to close the final gap to a more palatable 26-15.

Gaspord went five-for-five in the clincher while LaBlanc and Josh Calleja produced four-for-four efforts and Ryan Blanchard added three hits, two of which left the yard.

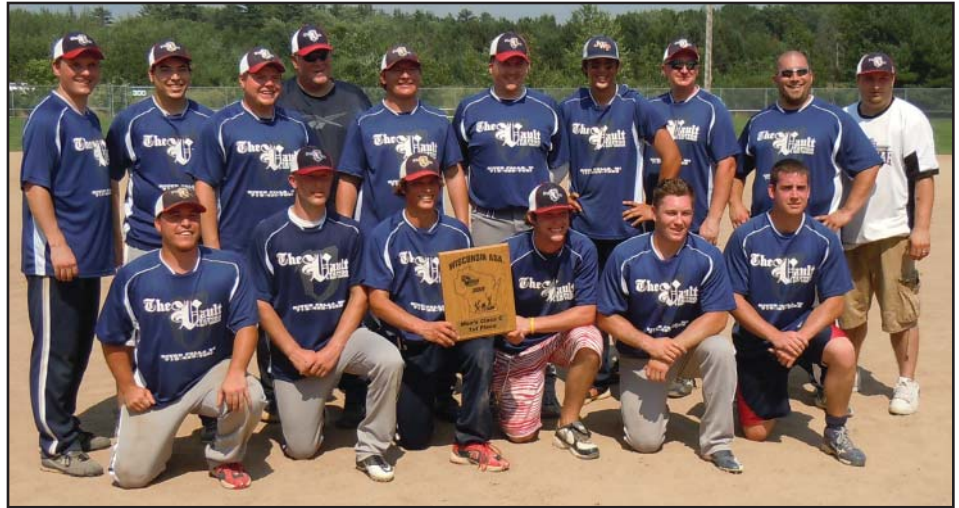
Eggers was paced by Joe James with four knocks and three apiece from Brandon Graser, Andy Newbauer and Brett Wichmann.

Calleja and Gaspord were named co-MVPs but Kuhl, who picked up his third WASA state title as a manager, pointed out “We had a team full of MVPs here this weekend. Josh and Joey were great but it was a real team effort.”

Needless to say, it was good to be Kuhl on a very hot day.

### Line of the Year

Upon being told at the 2011 WASA’s Hall of Fame dinner that he looked like he could still pitch, inductee Doran Geissler, 81, held up a cocktail glass and responded, “Two or three of these and I could probably give you an inning.”



Vault/KC/JJ's — 2011 WASA Men's Slow Pitch Class C State Champions

### 2011 Wisconsin ASA State Tournament Champions

| Tournament                 | Champions          | City                  |            |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Modified Pitch</b>      |                    |                       |            |
| Men's 10-Man Class A       | Thee Press Box     | Fond du Lac           |            |
| Men's 10-Man Class B       | Johnson Concrete   | Oneida                |            |
| <b>Slow Pitch</b>          |                    |                       |            |
| Men's Class C              | Vault/KC/JJ's      | Amery                 |            |
| Men's Class D              | Buffalo Wild Wings | Eau Claire            |            |
| <b>JO Girls Fast Pitch</b> |                    |                       |            |
| 18 & Under                 | Class A            | Kenosha Cyclones      | Kenosha    |
|                            | Class B            | Wisconsin Rampage     | Horicon    |
| 16 & Under                 | Class A            | Kenosha Cyclones      | Kenosha    |
|                            | Class B            | Plover                | Plover     |
|                            | Class C            | Hartland Lady Hawks   | Hartland   |
| 14 & Under                 | Class A            | Kenosha Cyclones      | Kenosha    |
|                            | Class B            | Oshkosh Raiders White | Oshkosh    |
|                            | (Co-champs)        | Milwaukee Invaders    | Milwaukee  |
|                            | Class C            | Mad City Kaos         | Madison    |
| 12 & Under                 | Class A            | Kenosha Cyclones Blue | Kenosha    |
|                            | Class B            | Oshkosh Raiders Black | Oshkosh    |
|                            | Class C            | Northwestern          | Brule      |
| 10 & Under                 | Class A            | Wisconsin Lightning   | Burlington |
|                            | Class B            | Oshkosh Raiders Black | Oshkosh    |
|                            | Class C            | New Berlin Magic Red  | New Berlin |

# Wings Gone Wild in Class D

STEVENS POINT – Sometimes a person must take a step down before stepping up.

That maxim also applies to softball teams, and Buffalo Wild Wings of Eau Claire provides a perfect example.

Buffalo Wild Wings went 0-2 in the 2010 Wisconsin ASA Men's Slow Pitch Class C state tourney in Stevens Point, losing both outings by double-digit margins. This year, BWW moved down a level and emerged from the 16-team scrum at Zenoff Park July 15-17 as the brand new WASA Class D state champions.

BWW reeled off five consecutive victories to dethrone defending champions Carom Room from Beloit mainly thanks to a pulsating five-run rally in the top of the seventh of the championship game against Carom Room on a steamy Sunday afternoon.

The Wings opened their title quest on Friday with a 20-13 victory over Kim's Barrel Inn/Disher Insurance of Stevens Point and then belted TWSS from La Crosse 22-7 on Saturday.

That assured a Saturday night collision with Carom Room in the winners' bracket semifinals where the Wings kept sizzling, winning 7-1 as Chad Johnson launched a pair of homer while Nick David silenced the Beloit bats on six hits.

Buffalo then dispatched Goodwood, another Beloit power, 15-3, in Sunday's winners' bracket championship, to gain the finals.

Meanwhile, Carom Room was making noise in the losers' bracket after their offensive no-show versus Buffalo as they thumped Spiderz Sports of Pewaukee, 20-2, 2010 runners-

| 2011 WASA Men's Slow Pitch Class D State Tourney |                                      |        |                  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| July 15-17 - Stevens Point                       |                                      |        |                  |
| Team Standings                                   |                                      |        |                  |
| Place  | Team                                 | Record | City             |
| 1  | Buffalo Wild Wings                   | 5-0    | Eau Claire       |
| 2  | Carom Room                           | 5-2    | Beloit           |
| 3  | Goodwood                             | 3-2    | Beloit           |
| 4  | Flipside/Cargill/Mark Jewelers       | 4-2    | La Crosse        |
| 5  | Long Ball Bat Co.                    | 2-2    | River Falls      |
| 5  | Spiderz Sports/Craction.com          | 3-2    | Pewaukee         |
| 7  | Finish Line/Willow River/Kozy Korner | 2-2    | Hudson           |
| 7  | Johnnie's/Clyde's                    | 2-2    | River Falls      |
| 9  | Mike's Baytown/John Hall's           | 1-2    | River Falls      |
| 9  | Tilers/Parkside                      | 1-2    | River Falls      |
| 9  | Cold Beer                            | 1-2    | River Falls      |
| 9  | TWSS                                 | 1-2    | La Crosse        |
| 13   | Carbo's Junction Bar                 | 0-2    | Amherst Junction |
| 13   | JCC                                  | 0-2    | River Falls      |
| 13   | Papa Joe's/Barsness/Belt's           | 0-2    | Stevens Point    |
| 13   | Kim's Barrel Inn/Disher Insurance    | 0-2    | Stevens Point    |

| First Team All-State |                  |                    |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Pos.                 | Player           | Team               |
| 1B                   | Nate Wright      | Buffalo Wild Wings |
| 2B                   | Ty Shatzar       | Flipside           |
| 3B                   | Shaughn Evans    | Carom Room         |
| SS                   | Zeb Zielie       | Buffalo Wild Wings |
| OF                   | Grant Hesselroth | Finish Line        |
| OF                   | Pat O'Neill      | Goodwood           |
| OF                   | Josh Ward        | Carom Room         |
| OF                   | Tony Ahlers      | Long Ball Bat Co.  |
| U                    | Robert Guzman    | Carom Room         |
| U                    | Brad Potter      | Goodwood           |
| U                    | Nick Anderson    | Buffalo Wild Wings |
| U                    | Martin Aguirre   | Flipside           |
| U                    | Ty Sander        | Long Ball Bat Co.  |
| C                    | Chad Johnson     | Buffalo Wild Wings |
| P                    | Nick David       | Buffalo Wild Wings |

**Batting Champion:** Tony Ahlers, Long Ball Bat Co., .765  
**Home Run Champion:** Chad Johnson, Buffalo Wild Wings, 5  
**MVP:** Chad Johnson, Buffalo Wild Wings

up Flipside from La Crosse, 14-3, and Goodwood, 15-5, to surface as BWW's championship opponent.

And, after six innings of action it seemed as if a second championship game would be required since Carom

Room carried a 9-6 advantage into the top of the seventh.

That's when the Wings really stepped up.

*(See Wings page 9)*



## Wings

(Continued from page 8)

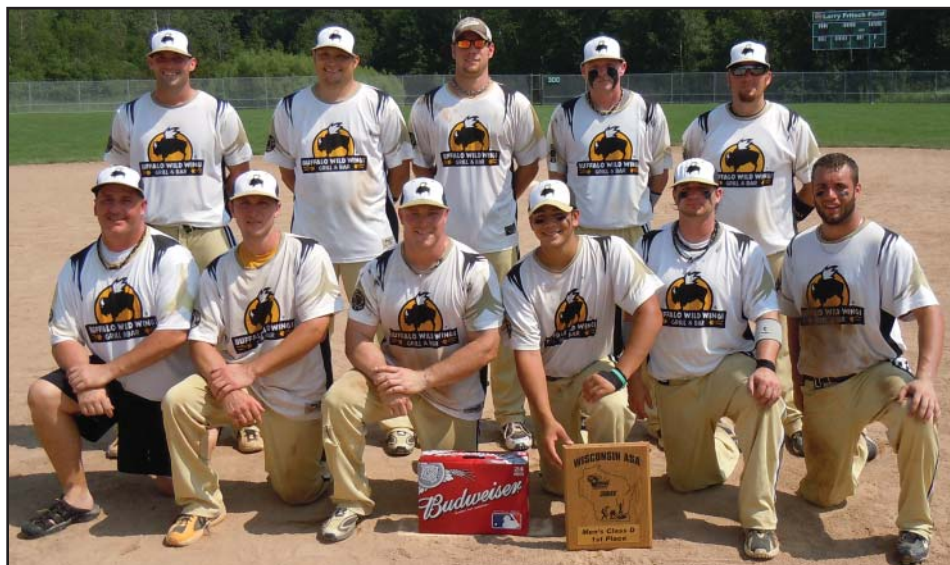
Brogan Stittlebur triggered the comeback with a lead-off single and Johnson crushed a home run to make it 9-8.

One out later, Nick Blake and Nate Wright singled, but they had to stay put on an infield pop-up. Two outs, two on, one run down.

Then came three consecutive extremely clutch RBI singles by Nick Anderson, Nick David and Zeb Zielie and, presto, the Wings led 11-9.

Stunned, Carom Room couldn't answer in the bottom of the seventh, and the Wings were winners.

Tournament Most Valuable Player Johnson went 4-for-4 in the clincher with a pair of bombs, good for three RBIs, while Zielie contributed four singles and Anderson was 3-for-3.



**Buffalo Wild Wings — 2011 WASA Men's Slow Pitch Class D State Champions**

Shaugn Evans, Adam Guilbault and Tim Kyser all had three safeties for CR.

Over the weekend MVP Johnson was 13-for-20 (.650) with a tournament best of five home runs along with 11 RBIs. He received a bucketful of offensive support as Zielie hit .667,

Wright .647, Anderson .625, Mike Hetchler .600 and Brad Nourish .524.

Throughout the entire weekend Buffalo piled up a 75-33 margin in runs scored as they soared to their first WASA state title.

Hot Wings, indeed!

## 2011 WASA All-America Selections

FREDONIA – Congratulations to the following players from Wisconsin ASA teams who earned All-America honors during a 2011 ASA national championship tournament:

### 1st Team All-America

| Position | Player        | Team               | Tournament                     |
|----------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pitcher  | Craig Olig    | Press Box Bulldogs | Men's 10-Man Modified National |
| Catcher  | Drew Anderson | LX                 | Men's 23-U Fast Pitch National |
| Outfield | Nolan Johnson | LX                 | Men's 23-U Fast Pitch National |
| Outfield | Sam Flood     | Press Box Blue Sox | Men's 10-Man Modified National |
| Utility  | Charlie Beau  | Press Box Blue Sox | Men's 10-Man Modified National |

### 2nd Team All-America

|          |                  |                         |                                 |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Catcher  | Phil Mathwig     | Press Box Bulldogs      | Men's 10-Man Modified National  |
| Catcher  | James Goodfellow | Press Box Blue Sox      | Men's 10-Man Modified National  |
| Outfield | Chevy Schultz    | Press Box Bulldogs      | Men's 10-Man Modified National  |
| Outfield | Lewis Weldon     | Bar of Appleton Brewers | Men's Major Fast Pitch National |
| Utility  | David Pergande   | Press Box Bulldogs      | Men's 10-Man Modified National  |
| Utility  | Ryan Lloyd       | Press Box Blue Sox      | Men's 10-Man Modified National  |

## Line Drives

By Roger Regez

Next year will be their 48th season ... the Dairyland Fast Pitch Softball League has always been a favorite of mine, I covered this great league with my newspaper from 1966 through 1979.

When organized in 1965, it was called the Trempealeau County Fast Pitch Softball League with six charter members playing a home-and-home schedule. Cedric Anderson of Pleasantville was the first president. Pleasantville won the first title with a 9-1 record, finishing one game ahead of Strum.

The other teams were York, Pigeon Falls, Osseo-Foster and Hixton. The league name changed to the Dairyland Softball League in 1970. Move ahead to 2011, some 40-plus seasons later and going against the grain, this league now has 10 teams and continues to be a hotbed for the sport.

For the last 60 years, men's fast pitch has been a continual victim of bad press. One would think there would be no men's fast pitch at all anymore. Writers keep mentioning falling numbers, no interest and to a point where someone told me about 10 years ago there was no men's fast pitch left in California at all.

Truly, there are still quite a few teams in California if you look at the number of teams entering national tournaments. I, for one, never thought it was a good idea to go negative on the sport. I believe my old newsletters reflect that. How about mentioning how much fun the sport is!

Although the Dairyland League has not been without problems, league

officials have always taken it upon themselves to do everything possible to keep the league in operation for the long term. It is one of the last home-and-home circuits left in the state. Most softball leagues now operate from a multi-fold complex or from one single location.

League minutes show that in 1968 old members paid an entry fee of \$5 and new teams were charged \$10. Before that it was \$10 for all teams. An additional rule was put in that year, all teams had to have outfield fences.

Roger Guse, the league president in 1969, proposed the formation of a junior (18 & under) fast pitch league program to be used as sort of a "minor" league to the Trempealeau County League. He proposed the league would have no entry fees, funds and trophies would be financed by the TCL. Players would be allowed to play in both leagues.

Guse stated he hoped the youth program would be a way to beat the "generation gap" which seems to be the main cause of leagues that fold. Six teams were organized. Johnnie's and Connie's won the title with a 7-3 record. Other members were Pigeon Falls, Blair, York, Taylor and Hixton.

A look at the 1969 stats from that youth league shows future WASA Hall of Fame pitcher Dennis Yeskie listed sixth with a 6.29 ERA and 2-2 record. He was 16 at the time. In 38 innings, Yeskie allowed just 35 hits but struck out a league-leading 50 and walked 43. There was no mention of Yeskie being a future ASA All-America prospect.

The next year, the junior circuit had seven teams. The league lasted about four or five years.

In 1971, under the leadership of league president Gerald Schaefer, a

league umpire association was formed. Very few, if any, fast pitch leagues in the state had their own umpire association. Many team reps agreed that umpiring needed an upgrade.

The umpire association was headed by Steve Gunderson, who would eventually become a U.S. congressman. Wisconsin ASA state UIC Aubrey Olson held several clinics in the area. Olson, from Taylor, eventually became state commissioner. The quality of umpiring improved sharply, as did quality of play.

Taking in two teams from the now-defunct Jackson County League, the Dairyland had its largest membership ever in 1973 with 16 teams. Two Hixton teams, Club 95 and Fire Dept., were the new entries.

Club 95 brought statewide respect to the league by winning its first ASA state tournament in Menomonie. The team went on to be a national powerhouse.

In the same year, the league adopted the WIAA baseball DH and re-entry rules. It was another move to get more players involved in the action. The Dairyland reportedly was the first softball league in the state and maybe the nation to use the rule. It did not become a part of the ASA rulebook until 1979.

The 1977 season was like a highlight reel of great events. Al Lundberg and his Beef River Co-op team upset Club 95 on Hixton's home turf, 3-1, ending a 57-game league winning streak dating back to their days in the Jackson County League. Lundberg allowed three hits and struck out 13. Dennis Yeskie whiffed 15 and gave up four hits in getting the loss. Club 95 had won 52 in a row since moving over to the Dairyland.

*(See Regez page 11)*

## Regez

*(Continued from page 10)*

In August of 1977, three Dairyland League fields were used in what WASA state commissioner Olson felt was the most successful Class A fast pitch state tournament in history. Hosted by organizations from Hixton, Taylor and Blair, 47 teams were entered, including 10 from the Dairyland.

Club 95 won its fifth state title, beating Eau Claire Lundholm Real Estate, 1-0, in the finale. Thousands attended the tournament. At Hixton for the Club 95 opening game, fans filled the bleachers and lined the banks all the way around to the outfield fences in right and left fields, and even on to the bridge behind the center field fence. Standing room on the street level above the banks was six people deep, mainly because Dennis Yeskie was “on stage.”

However, the league had a problem concerning the Hixton Club 95 team. It could have been titled “the Dennis Yeskie problem.” They were the prestige team of the league but were so dominating that there was cause for concern of losing membership. Club 95 lost only three games during its reign in the league from 1973-1980.

Besides Beef River Co-op, Club 95 lost games to Independence and Blair. Oddly, all were at Hixton. Jim Purchalla and Ken Nereng were the other winning pitchers.

Yeskie was always a class act, but he was just too dominating. Some teams were complaining. After a few years, Club 95 also began to complain that teams were forfeiting games or no-showing. Manager Bob Yeskie wanted to be assured of games if they were to continue being a member of the league.

In an unusual move in 1976, the league awarded teams a win if they just would give Club 95 a game. In a statistical oddity, the league standings for that year totaled 74 wins and 52 losses. It was an experiment that lasted just the one year.

Manager Bob Yeskie’s club continued to be a part of the Dairyland League schedule, however, it was about this time league teams that hosted tournaments decided to bar Club 95 from playing. Teams began to refuse to enter local tournaments if Club 95 was in the bracket.

Financially, the Hixton club was worth a lot of money to any tournament because Dennis Yeskie was such a drawing card. But if no teams were willing to go against him, there would be no tournament at all. Tournament officials were faced with a choice to make and they opted to keep Club 95 out. Club 95 then had to travel longer distances to find tournaments which would accept them.

The Dairyland’s contribution to the WASA Hall of Fame reads like a Who’s Who of Softball: John Salsman, Allan Lundberg, Dennis Yeskie, Bob Yeskie, Tom Blaken, Bruce Stuhr, Larry Stuhr, Dan Adams, Jerry Proft and John Becker. All have had some connection with the circuit as a player or manager. Becker has one ISC World Tournament title as a manager for Marathon County Concrete. All of the players were named to at least one ASA All-America national tournament team in their career.

Fast forward a few years and enter Randy Herman of Whitehall who is now the league president. There is much good press to report! No one questions his passion for the fast Pitch game. At one time he was actually the president of two softball leagues, the Dairyland and the Arcadia City

League. He has been at the helm for some two decades (he doesn’t remember the exact year he took over the post).

Herman reports that league members for the 2011 season were the Pleasantville Lions, Independence East End Bar, Pigeon Falls’ The Starting Line, York Jamie’s Last Resort and Whitehall 53 Bar in the Northern Division. The Southern Division included Holmen Features, West Salem Features, Ettrick Weiner’s Bar, Galesville Arctic Springs and Galesville Wasons.

Herman says the league will likely be expanding to 12 teams for the 2012 season, double the size of the charter year. Pine Creek Village Inn and Alma Center Simmons Roofing will be the new teams.

With area WIAA baseball teams playing in the spring season only, Herman is going to attempt to revive the Dairyland Junior League. He feels there is a need for a place that a young player can be able to break into the sport. He cites his own pitching career, when he lost every game he pitched for the first two years because there was no youth league at the time.

For the last few years, Herman has organized 14 and under fast pitch exhibition games between Whitehall and Independence as part of the tournament schedule at Pleasantville, Whitehall and Independence.

Under Herman’s leadership, the Dairyland established a pitching rule that is used in non-division games only. A team must use a pitcher who has won less than 12 league games for the first three innings. There is a mercy rule connected with it, after a team has scored four runs in an inning, a veteran pitcher can come in and finish the inning. Unlimited re-entries for

*(See Regez page 12)*



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## Regez

(Continued from page 11)

pitchers are allowed during the first three innings when the rule is in effect.

Many credit the rule for saving the league's existence. Before the rule was implemented, numbers were falling but have since leveled off. Matt Stuhr, T.J. Nereng and Scott Hammond are three of the many outstanding pitchers this rule has produced. Stuhr is coming off an outstanding season. Nereng is the son of Ken Nereng, Blair's all-time winningest pitcher.

The Dairyland may have the youngest look of any fast pitch league in the state. Herman gives a few examples: the oldest player on the Whitehall

53 Bar roster is 23. The Pleasantville Lions have five players under 23. League-wise, a large percentage of players are in their 20s.

League teams that host tournaments grew from five to six during the 2011 season, another good sign. Pigeon Falls hosts a Memorial Day tournament, Pleasantville July 4th, Whitehall Beef and Dairy Days (the third week in August) and Independence Labor Day have been the mainstays over the years. All have been going for more than 40 years.

The new first-year tournament was Arctic Springs of Galesville. Their tournament was so successful they plan to make it an annual event.

Only three years away from its

golden anniversary, the Dairyland Softball League has improvised, created rules even before they made it to the ASA rulebook, and has toughed it out against adversity. But in the end, when looking from the outside, the league seems to be in good health.

Herman admits he has had his "political" fights as president throughout the years, but he has always tried to create a level playing field for all teams. His presidency will soon span close to 50 percent of the history of this league.

The Dairyland remains as one of the very few home-and-home leagues left in the state. If it were not for Herman, would I have been able to write this column for this issue ... would this league still exist?

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## 11 Adult Teams Represent WASA in 2011 ASA Nationals

FREDONIA – Only 11 adult teams represented the Wisconsin ASA in 2011 ASA national tournament play but the miniature army still managed to come through with big results.

Although none of the 11 won an ASA title, all of them were able to finish at least at the .500 level while posting a composite mark of 29-23, a .558 winning percentage.

That showing is a nice improvement over 2010's 25-24 result and nearly equals 2009's outstanding .564 effort that saw ASA teams go 62-48.

The top finishers this summer were LX from Onalaska in the Men's 23-U Fast Pitch and the Press Box Bulldogs of Fond du Lac in the Men's 10-Man Modified, both of whom came in third.

Luther Auto/Fleet Feet of Menomonie and the Press Box Blue Sox of Fond du Lac added fifth place performances in Men's Class C Slow Pitch and Men's 10-Man Modified, respectively.

Additionally, The Bar of Appleton Brewers and Vault/KC/JJ's from Amery picked up seventh places in Men's

Major Fast Pitch and Men's Class C Slow Pitch.

Rounding out the WASA's nine top 10 finishers were TPS (Green Bay) and Johnson Concrete (Oneida), who tied for ninth in the 10-Man Modified, and K-Stone from Mosinee, also in ninth with a 3-2 showing in the MSP Class C Northern National.

Carom Room of Beloit went 4-2, the most wins by an ASA adult club in national play this year, which was good for a share of 13th out of 51 entries at the Men's Slow Pitch Class D Northern National in Topeka, Kansas.

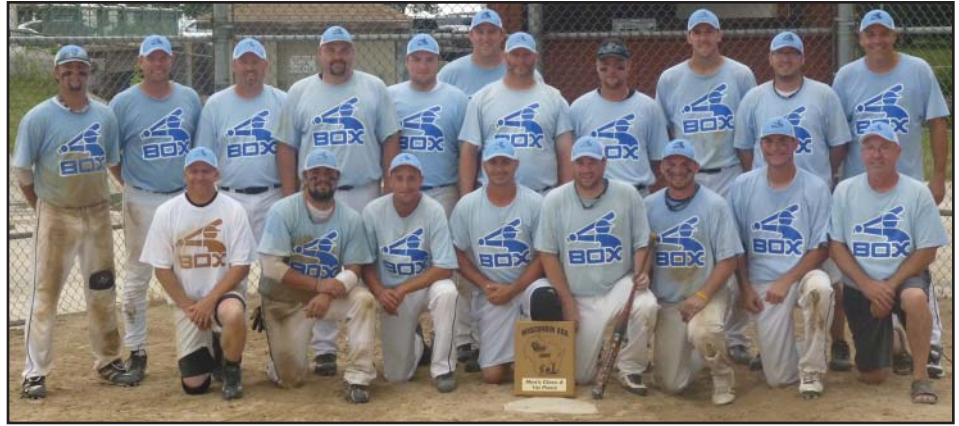
Joining them in that position were Beloit rivals Goodwood, who posted a 3-2 showing.

Both Beloit clubs rebounded to play extremely well following opening round losses.

The last WASA team to win an adult ASA national title was The Farm of Madison at the 2009 Men's Major Fast Pitch event in South Bend, Indiana.

Complete 2011 WASA adult team results can be found on page 15.

Thee Press Box – WASA Men’s Modified Class A State Champion: (Front row, from left) Paul Brester, Joe Searl, Chip Gilgenbach, Dale Rock, Brian Oldenburg, Ron Schumacher, Tim Snow, Pat Lloyd, (back row) Charlie Beau, Mike Franke, Paul Tolvstad, Josh McDermott, Nick Reschke, Todd Bonlander, Chip Mertes, Ryan Lloyd, Tim Lloyd, Josh Wolters, Tom Bonlander. Not pictured: Josh Klismith, Jon Oldenburg.



TPS – WASA Men’s Modified Class A State Runner-up: (Front row, from left) Jim Nighbor, Art Adams, Todd Albrecht, Brad Dernbach, Brad Wery, (middle row) Justin Haines, Evan Peterson, Jess Senn, Chris Laux, Travis Schultz, (back row) Jay Millward, Eric Anderson, Jeremy Mengert, Jim Corbett.



**2011 WASA Men’s 10-Man Class ‘A’ Modified Pitch  
July 22-24 — at Fond du Lac**

**Team Standings**

| Place | Team               | City        | Record |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1.    | Thee Press Box     | Fond Du Lac | 5 - 2  |
| 2.    | TPS                | Green Bay   | 5 - 2  |
| 3.    | Press Box Bulldogs | Fond Du Lac | 2 - 3  |
| 4.    | Jim Beam           | Ashwaubenon | 0 - 5  |

**First Team All-State**

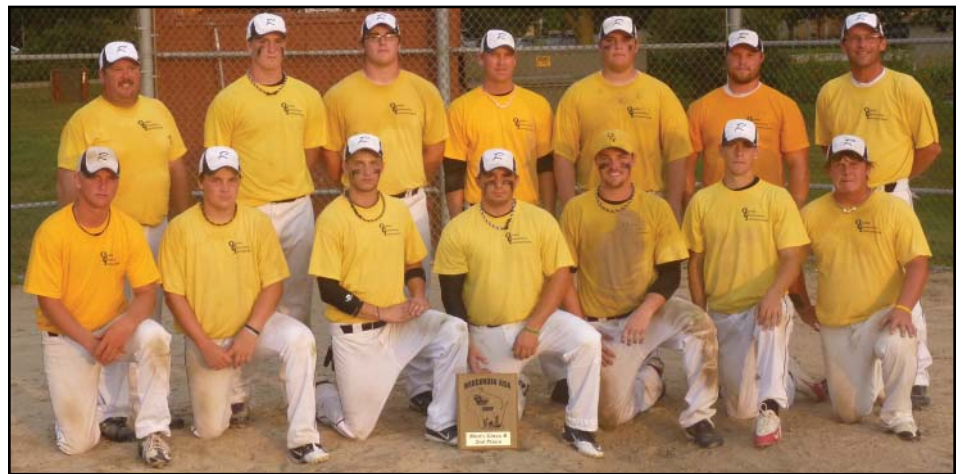
| Pos.    | Player         | Team               |
|---------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1B      | Jeremy Mengert | TPS                |
| 2B      | Josh Wolter    | Thee Press Box     |
| 3B      | Tom Bonlander  | Thee Press Box     |
| SS      | Charlie Beau   | Thee Press Box     |
| OF      | Sam Provot     | Press Box Bulldogs |
| OF      | Tim Snow       | Thee Press Box     |
| OF      | Nick Reschke   | Thee Press Box     |
| OF      | Jim Corbett    | TPS                |
| Utility | Eric Anderson  | TPS                |
| Utility | Brad Jensen    | Press Box Bulldogs |
| Utility | Josh McDermott | Thee Press Box     |
| C       | Brad Dernbach  | TPS                |
| P       | Art Adams      | TPS                |
| P       | Mike Franke    | Thee Press Box     |
| P       | Tim Lloyd      | Thee Press Box     |



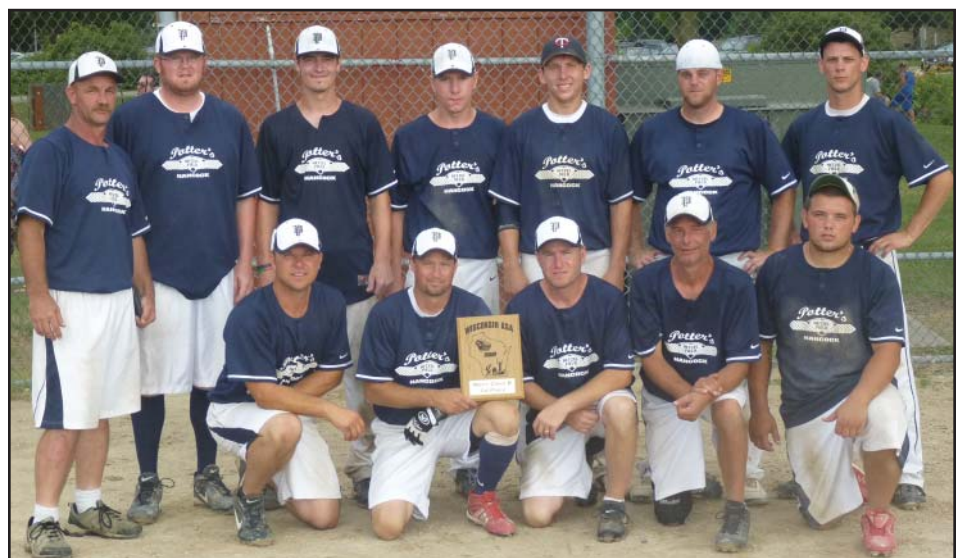
**Johnson Concrete – WASA Men’s Modified Class B State Champion:** (Front row, from left) Adam Zahn, Kevin Vandenlangenberg, Mike Matuszak, Jesse Timm, Brad Tollefson, Steve Vandenlangenberg, (back row) Dan Genke, Ryan Blohm, Joe Leiterman, Eric Truymman, Jamie Goffard, Steven Johnson, Joe Johnson.



**Rausch Insurance Agency/QCI – WASA Men’s Modified Class B State Runner-up:** (Front row, from left) Logan Kinyon, Calin Dahlke, Brenden Wittchow, Eric Redeker, Riley Dahlke, Nathan Gillett, Kasey Starbird, (back row) Mike Barker, Cody Moon, Erik Moon, Jamie Morgan, Ben Strehlow, Josh Tipton, Jeff Moon.



**Potter’s Bowling Alley – WASA Men’s Modified Class B State Third Place:** (Front row, from left) Jason Reetz, Bill Sentkowski, Tom Goodwin, Ken Bauman, Josh Korman, (back row) Mike Szuminski, Nate Sigourney, Logan Pratt, Jesse Nagorski, Rick Hetzel, Brandon Schenk, Mike Sentkowski. Not present: Tyler Person, Kyle Johnson.





## 2011 WASA Men's 10-Man Class 'B' Modified Pitch

July 22-24 — at Fond du Lac

### Team Standings

| Place | Team                          | City        | Record |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 1.    | Johnson Concrete              | Oneida      | 4 - 0  |
| 2.    | Rausch Insurance Agency / QCI | Eldorado    | 4 - 2  |
| 3.    | Potter's Bowling Alley        | Hancock     | 3 - 2  |
| 4.    | The Bar                       | Green Bay   | 4 - 2  |
| 5.    | River's Bend                  | Green Bay   | 2 - 2  |
|       | Doug's Sports Pub             | Plover      | 3 - 2  |
| 7.    | Doggers                       | Wautoma     | 2 - 2  |
|       | Anduzzi's                     | Ashwaubenon | 1 - 2  |
| 9.    | Sidekicks                     | De Pere     | 1 - 2  |
|       | Press Box Rangers             | Fond Du Lac | 0 - 2  |
|       | White Eagle II                | Oneida      | 0 - 2  |
|       | Braves                        | Oneida      | 0 - 2  |
| 13.   | Boehmer's                     | Green Bay   | 0 - 2  |

## First Team All-State

| Pos.    | Player                   | Team                   |
|---------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1B      | Jordan Timm              | The Bar                |
| 2B      | Kyle Johnson             | Potter's Bowling Alley |
| 3B      | Jamie Gofford            | Johnson Concrete       |
| SS      | Kasey Starbird           | Rausch Insurance/QCI   |
| OF      | Chris Griffin            | The Bar                |
| OF      | Riley Dahlke             | Rausch Insurance/QCI   |
| OF      | Brendan Wittchow         | Rausch Insurance/QCI   |
| OF      | Steve Vanden Langen Burg | Johnson Concrete       |
| Utility | Calin Dahlke             | Rausch Insurance/QCI   |
| Utility | Dean Schoenhofen         | The Bar                |
| Utility | Brett Vanden Langen Berg | The Bar                |
| C       | Rick Hetzel              | Potter's Bowling Alley |
| P       | Jesse Timm               | Johnson Concrete       |
| P       | Jason Reetze             | Potter's Bowling Alley |
| P       | Eric Moon                | Rausch Insurance/QCI   |

## 2011 WASA Adult Teams' National Finishes

| Team/City                           | Tournament                                    | W | L | Place |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| Bar of Appleton Brewers<br>Appleton | Men's Major Fast Pitch                        | 2 | 2 | 7     |
| Carom Room<br>Beloit                | Men's Slow Pitch Class D<br>Northern National | 4 | 2 | 13    |
| Goodwood<br>Beloit                  | Men's Slow Pitch Class D<br>Northern National | 3 | 2 | 13    |
| Johnson Concrete<br>Oneida          | Men's 10-Man Modified                         | 2 | 2 | 9     |
| K-Stone<br>Mosinee                  | Men's Slow Pitch Class C<br>Northern National | 3 | 2 | 9     |
| Luther Auto/Fleet Feet<br>Menomonie | Men's Slow Pitch Class C<br>Northern National | 2 | 2 | 5     |
| LX<br>Onalaska                      | Men's 23-Under Fast Pitch                     | 3 | 3 | 3     |
| Press Box Blue Sox<br>Fond du Lac   | Men's 10-Man Modified                         | 2 | 2 | 5     |
| Press Box Bulldogs<br>Fond du Lac   | Men's 10-Man Modified                         | 3 | 2 | 3     |
| TPS<br>Green Bay                    | Men's 10-Man Modified                         | 2 | 2 | 9     |
| Vault/KC/JJ's<br>Amery              | Men's Slow Pitch Class C<br>Northern National | 3 | 2 | 7     |