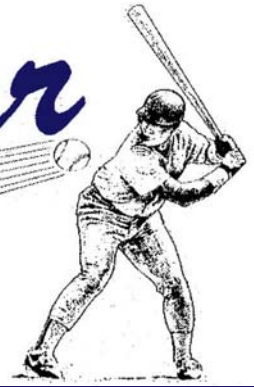




# The Messenger



November 2012 — Section 1

Official Publication of the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association

## Playing With Fire: Jr. Phoenix win 16-U Northern National

NORTH PLATTE, Nebraska — Figuratively speaking, the Jr. Phoenix were on fire.

Headquartered in Appleton, Wisconsin (and not in Arizona), the Jr. Phoenix blazed through six consecutive opponents to win the 2012 ASA Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch Class A 16 & Under Northern National Championship held July 30 - August 5 at North Platte's Dowhower Softball Complex.

The Northern National's championship game became somewhat of a "Badger State Backyard Brawl" as the Jr. Phoenix were joined there by another talented Wisconsin club, the Wisconsin Bandits Black from Horicon, who'd already won three games in a row Sunday to reach the final.

Running near empty, the Bandits quickly fell behind the undefeated Jr. Phoenix 8-0 after just two innings and never could recover as the Phoenix romped to a 9-3 victory and the Northern National title.

"Getting the early lead was big for  
(See Jr. Phoenix page 4)



**JR. PHOENIX – 16-U Class A Northern National Champions:** (Front row, from left) Jordan Wilke, Alanna Beyer, Acacia Tupa, Alexis Otto, Sadie Strasser, (back row) Assistant Coach Chuck Verbeten, Shelby Sommer, Ali Verbeten, Tinner Sharon, Megan Kleis, Assistant Coach Ron Wilke, Payton Sampson, Jessica Bohlman, Anna Conard, and Head Coach Mike Roberts.

## 23 WASA Adult Teams in ASA Nationals

MADISON — The Wisconsin ASA sent 23 adult teams to ASA national tournaments in 2012 and they responded with a bountiful harvest of one national title, two runner-up finishes and one third-place showing.

Overall, 11 teams recorded top 10 placements as the WASA contingent compiled a composite 43-45 won-loss mark.

This followed 2011's 29-23 effort that produced nine top 10 finishes.

New Image of Montfort brought home the WASA's first national championship since The Farm's victory in the 2009 Men's Major Fast Pitch by going 5-0 in the Men's Fast Pitch Class A tourney in North Mankato, Minnesota.

Dugout from St. Croix Falls fashioned an impressive 7-2 log to take second in the MFP Class C West, also in North Mankato, while Team Fatal/The Vault of Hudson matched that placement with a 5-2 weekend in the Men's  
(See ASA nationals page 8)

# Money Badgers! – WASA Girls Bring Home the Bling

MADISON – Dale Ferron, the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association's Junior Olympic Commissioner, is a man who normally disdains excess verbiage.

So, regarding a query on how he thought his Wisconsin girls fast pitch teams fared in 2012's ASA national tournament play, Ferron's laconic answer was both typical and difficult to argue with:

"Tremendous."

Wisconsin sent 50 girls teams to various ASA nationals this past summer and the results certainly were positive enough to please almost any commissioner.

Ferron's forces returned with a haul that featured two Northern National championships, three second places, two thirds and a pair of fourths.

Overall, WASA clubs produced 20 top 10 finishes and an unofficial 113-96 won-lost mark (pending confirmation of every tourney director's math).

Wisconsin's 2012 JO national champs were the Jr. Phoenix of Appleton and the Oshkosh Raiders, who

claimed the Northern National titles in Class A 16 & Under and Class B 10 & Under, respectively.

The 10-U crown was the 30-0 Raiders' third while the Jr. Phoenix picked up their first in a rare all-Wisconsin final down in North Platte, Nebraska, against the Wisconsin Bandits from Horicon.

The lone 2012 ASA national tournament staged in Wisconsin was the Girls Class B 16-U which attracted 47 entries from 11 states to Columbus, Beaver Dam and Marshall.

The WASA representatives really flexed their muscles in that one by claiming 11 of the top 16 spots including second (Stevens Point), third (Wisconsin Renegades of La Crosse) and fourth (Greenfield Ignitors).

In addition to the aforementioned Wisconsin Bandits Black and Stevens Point, the third national runners-up finish for the WASA was provided by Stevens Point in the Class B 12 & Under at Rochester, Minnesota.

Ferron also praised the performance

of the WASA state champion Wisconsin Firebirds from Oconomowoc who went 5-2 in the rugged ASA/USA Class A 16-U National Championship in Montgomery, Alabama.

That was good enough to emerge with a tie for 17th out of a massive 148 teams from throughout the United States.

What the figures clearly demonstrate is that Wisconsin has become a major force to be reckoned with in ASA championship play, especially in Northern Nationals.

And Commissioner Ferron's optimistic things could get bigger and better for his prospering program.

"We had over 180 teams play in our WASA JO state tourneys this year in Watertown, Wausau and Baraboo, and we're hoping to better that as we move into some new areas of the state," Ferron commented. "Our program's strong and still growing and we've shown we can be highly competitive."

Enough said!

## Three Tweets to the Wind

By Tweet Carlson



★ If a pelican could land on your ball cap, your bill's too flat. Caps should resemble the Earth, Kim Kardashian, and any David Beckham free kick ... have some curvature!

★ Rumor has it that the newest Coen brothers film will be shot in New York and entitled "The Big Tebowski."

★ The Big 10 has 12 teams, the Big 12 has 10, and after a first pitch strike in slow pitch, the count's 1-2. If U R worried about immigration, then put this stuff on a citizenship exam!

*Bonus Tweet:*

★ Separated at birth: Hunter Pence and Woody Harrelson?

## The Messenger

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# Peerless Raiders Roll to Perfect Season

OSHKOSH – What’s the best way imaginable to cap a perfect softball season?

How about with a perfect game to win the national championship?

That seemingly improbable dream came true for the Oshkosh Raiders 10 & Under girls fast pitch team this summer.

Southpaw Sydney Supple turned fantasy into reality with a 10-0 masterpiece against Willoughby, Ohio’s Explosive Fast Pitch Pink to capture the 2012 ASA Girls Fast Pitch Class B 10-U Northern National July 26-29 in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Supple’s “perfecto” gave the Raiders their third ASA 10-U Northern National title in the last five years and locked up a transcendent 30-0 campaign, the ultra-successful organization’s first-ever unbeaten season.

The Silver & Black went 3-0 at Bowling Green’s Buchanon Park in dominating the compact six-team field that represented Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky as well as Wisconsin.

Oshkosh, the only Wisconsin entry, outscored its opponents 30-3 in the double-elimination event and, as was the case pretty much all summer, was never seriously challenged.

“We scored twice in the first inning of the championship game and that deflated (Explosive Pink),” commented Brian Gauthier, Oshkosh’s veteran co-head coach along with his wife, Kim.

“You could tell it by their body language. They knew they weren’t going to score much and couldn’t afford to let us get an early lead.”

Chloe Evans, Libby Neveau, Brie

Gauthier and Supple, the Raiders’ first four hitters, combined for 10 hits in 13 at-bats to fuel the rout that secured the “triple crown.”

Earlier, the Raiders had whipped the Ohioans 11-3 in the winners’ bracket championship before the Pink rebounded with a 10-7 conquest of the Chicago Fireworks to gain the finals.

“I was surprised at the ease with which we won,” Brian Gauthier admitted. “But, our hitting was remarkable and Sydney was tremendous. She didn’t allow a single run in Kentucky.

“Our pitching’s been really good all year with Sydney and Brie (the Gauthiers’ daughter) as our primary pitchers.”

The above remark could be classified as somewhat of an understatement since Oshkosh surrendered only 12 runs the entire year and trailed late in

a game just once, 1-0, in the fifth inning to Beaver Dam in the Wisconsin ASA state tourney at the D.C. Everest diamond in Weston.

Naturally, the Raiders rallied to win, 4-1.

The Raiders’ third 10-U Northern National title ties them with a pair of legendary names in WASA annals, The Farm and Dillinger’s, for total number of ASA Nationals won.

Madison’s The Farm snared a trio of titles in ASA Men’s Major Fast Pitch while Dillinger’s of Fond du Lac did likewise in Men’s 10-Man Modified Pitch.

Oshkosh’s 10-U program has existed for six years under the Gauthiers’ guidance and they are an eye-opening 198-18 over that span.

The Raiders are an even more astonishing 167-8 during the last five  
*(See Oshkosh Raiders page 5)*



**OSHKOSH RAIDERS – 10-U Class B Northern National Champions: (Front row, from left) Ashley Gorst, Chloe Evans, Kristin Wetterau, Emma Leib, Leah Engstrom, Brianna Davis, Annika Johnson, (middle row) Sophie Avercamp, Sydney Supple, Brie Gauthier, Courtney Foust, Libby Neveau, (back row) Assistant Coach Jay Supple, Coaches Brian and Kim Gauthier.**

## Jr. Phoenix

(Continued from page 1)

us,” stated winning manager Mike Roberts to the *North Platte Telegraph*. “It allowed our pitcher to relax and the girls to get into the game and play good defense. It was huge.”

Roberts also commended the gritty Bandits, who’ve become familiar and respected adversaries.

“We see them a lot,” he said. “We’ve had a mixed run with them the last two years but we got the better of them this year. I think we’re 3-1 against them this season, which is good because they’re very tough.”

One of those wins came in the Wisconsin ASA state tourney in Watertown where the Jr. Phoenix eliminated the Bandits in the losers’ bracket final before losing to the Wisconsin Firebirds from Oconomowoc in a unique Firebirds vs. Phoenix championship match.

Earlier Sunday morning in North Platte the Jr. Phoenix won the vital battle of remaining unbeaten 9-3 versus the Kane County Xplosion out of Illinois.

That avenged a 14-5 drubbing the JPs suffered in pool play on Thursday which served as a wake-up call for Roberts’ squad.

The Phoenix began the double-elimination tourney Friday morning by narrowly sliding by the Angels of Aurora, Colorado, 8-7.

Three hours later they topped the Worth Prospects from Lake St. Louis, Missouri 4-1 to advance into Saturday’s quarterfinals.

Then came a defining moment for the Phoenix.

They fell behind the Cubs Blue from Mokena, Illinois 5-0 only to scramble back to win, 11-10.

“That was a real slugfest and a very large comeback which gave us plenty of confidence,” Roberts remarked.

After “Bartmaning” the Cubs, the suddenly sizzling Jr. Phoenix blanked the St. Louis Fusion 8-0 in one Saturday evening semifinal to gain the winners’ bracket championship opposite Kane County, which edged the Bridgview Redbirds from Homer Glen, Illinois, 6-5, at the same time on an adjacent diamond.

The new champs finished 6-0 in bracket play after a 1-1 effort in the pool prelims and outscored their bracket victims by a cumulative 49-24.

“We got outstanding pitching and hit extremely well,” an exuberant Roberts recalled. “We hit the ball like you wouldn’t believe in Nebraska. The girls

hit like crazy!”

The Jr. Phoenix became the second straight Wisconsin ASA representative to win this event, following on the heels of the Green Bay Powerhouse who took the 2011 edition that was played in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

For the 2012 season the Jr. Phoenix posted a 35-8 record with a tournament championship in Baraboo and the strong second place result in the WASA state meet ranking as major achievements behind the Northern National title.

The second-year team’s composed of 12 players from across northeastern Wisconsin and Bark River in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

The Wisconsin Bandits Black finished 7-2 in North Platte with five consecutive “must” wins after falling in a 7-6 thriller to Kane County in the quarterfinals. The seven victories were a tourney best.

Geri Karre, North Platte’s tournament director, summed up the 27-team extravaganza by thanking the Wisconsin teams for “traveling all that way” and by declaring “the Wisconsin ASA should be very proud of these teams with the way they performed and with how they conducted themselves. The whole tourney was good fun!”

Especially for the Jr. Phoenix!

## 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*.



# Oshkosh Raiders

(Continued from page 3)

years, a John Wooden-like .954 winning percentage, with five consecutive WASA state championships to accompany the Northern Nationals won in 2008, 2009 and this summer.

They also finished second in the 2007 Northern Nationals and third in 2011.

Brian Gauthier lauded his wife plus assistant coach Jay Supple for contributing immensely to the team's prosperity. "They're both great at making the girls rely on each other, need each other, and in becoming a team," he said.

2012 ASA JO Girls Fast Pitch Class B 10-U Northern National July 25-29 - Bowling Green, Kentucky			
Final Standings			
Place	Team	City	Record
1.	Oshkosh Raiders	Oshkosh, WI	3-0
2.	Explosive Fastpitch Pink	Willoughby, Ohio	3-2
3.	Chicago Fireworks	Chicago, IL	2-2
4.	Warren Wave	Wadsworth, IL	1-2
5.	Bluegrass Force	Lexington, KY	1-2
	Southern Kentucky Thunder	Bowling Green, KY	0-2

"Kim's especially remarkable at getting them focused on the task at hand and at being fundamentally sound.

become a great family. We're really proud of the girls and what they've accomplished."

"All of our kids are from Oshkosh and, over the years, the Raiders have

Stated perfectly ... what else would you expect?

## WASA elects 2013-14 officers

WAUSAU – The Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association elected its officers for the next two years during the annual meeting held October 6 at the Grand Lodge in Rothschild and, to paraphrase The Who, "the new bosses are the same as the old bosses."

In other words, every position stayed the same.

Matt Disher of Stevens Point was elected to his second term as WASA President along with Vice President Paul Wagner of Green Bay.

Gordon Adler of Marshfield remains the organization's secretary while Tom Rausch of Fond du Lac, who had been serving as the acting treasurer, had the qualifier removed from the title.

All of the officers' terms run until the next elections in October 2014.

WASA officers and their contact information are listed at right.



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# Saturday Night Specialists: Hitmen on Target

STEVENS POINT – Bull’s-eye!

The MCR Hitmen were on target during the 2012 Wisconsin ASA Men’s Slow Pitch Class D State Tournament at Zenoff Park July 13-14.

The Hitmen, based in North Prairie, which is west of Milwaukee in Waukesha County, lived up to their nickname as they pounded their way to their first WASA title by going 4-0 against 12 other entries.

MCR was very consistent offensively, scoring between 15 and 19 runs in every game but one.

Coincidentally, all four MCR victories came on Saturday against teams hailing from Beloit.

Idle on Friday the 13th’s opening night, the Hitmen’s first Beloit victim was Drunk N Sticks, who they trampled 17-2.

Next up came a solid Goodwood club, which fell 19-9. That impressive result advanced MCR into the 4:30 winners’ bracket final where they slipped past Kim’s Barrel Inn/Comatose, 10-9.

In that one, the Hitmen erased a 6-4 KBI/Comatose advantage with a decisive six-run fifth inning and barely held on thanks, in part, to a timely 5-4-3 double play from Ron Reed to Jordan Jaehne-Llanas to Gary Mahuta in the seventh.

KBI/Comatose recovered smartly from the narrow loss with a similar 10-9 conquest of ultra-familiar city rivals Goodwood to forge a championship rematch with MCR.

KBI/Comatose stunned Goodwood in the “Battle of Beloit” by scoring four times in the bottom of the sev-

2012 WASA Men's Slow Pitch Class D State Tourney July 13-15 - Zenoff Park, Stevens Point			
Team Standings			
Place	Team	Record	City
1.	MCR Hitmen	North Prairie	4-0
2.	KBI/Comatose	Beloit	3-2
3.	Goodwood	Beloit	3-2
4.	The Pump-Budweiser	Solon Springs	3-2
5.	Finish Line/Willow River Saloon	Hudson	3-2
	Insiders	Menomonie	3-2
7.	Breakaway/River City	Tomah	1-2
	Coulee Region Express	La Crosse	1-2
9.	DJ's Vogue	Holmen	1-2
	Hayward Home Center	Hayward	1-2
	Drunk N Sticks	Beloit	1-2
	Long Ball Bat Co.	Hudson	0-2
13.	Oevering Homes	New Richmond	0-2
First Team All-State			
Pos.	Player	Team	
1B	Gary Mahuta	MCR Hitmen	
2B	Jordan Jaehne-Llanas	MCR Hitmen	
3B	Shaugn Evans	KBI/Comatose	
SS	Trevor Knutson	Insiders	
OF	Justin Bieber	MCR Hitmen	
OF	Pat O'Neill	Goodwood	
OF	Bob Budisalovich	The Pump-Budweiser	
OF	Kevin Vandenlangenberg	Finish Line/Willow River Saloon	
Utility	Joe Setzer	MCR Hitmen	
Utility	Robert Guzman	KBI/Comatose	
Utility	Brett Christopher	Goodwood	
Utility	Mitchell Dunse	KBI/Comatose	
Utility	Adam Guilbault	KBI/Comatose	
Utility	Matt Bagues	Goodwood	
C	Craig Nowlen	Insiders	
P	Fred Christofferson	The Pump-Budweiser	
Batting Champion: Craig Nowlen, Insiders, .765 (13 for 17)			
Home Run Champion: Kevin Vandenlangenberg, Finish Line/Willow River Saloon, 3 (Pat O'Neill of Goodwood also hit 3 in more at-bats)			

enth.

Josh Ward followed Jason Kelsey’s two-run single with a walk-off double to doom Goodwood to third place for the second year in a row.

All six men K/C skipper Jeff Lem-

merhirt sent to the plate in the fateful seventh reached safely.

The championship game was a different tale as MCR burst out with a five-spot in the top of the first and

(See Hitmen page 7)

## An Excellent "E" for Echale

SHEBOYGAN – Echale Softball of Racine captured the first-ever Wisconsin ASA Men's Slow Pitch Class E State Tournament held at Sheboygan's Wildwood/Community Bank & Trust Field July 21.

Echale won four consecutive outings to conquer a 10-team field in the one-day event.

Echale's victims in order were TPO 8 (Sheboygan), Johnsonville Sausage (Sheboygan), Hitmen (Turtle Lake) and, in the championship game, Embrace Care Management from Sheboygan.

Embrace Care had won four straight following an opening round setback to Johnsonville Sausage which was avenged later in the afternoon.

### Hitmen

*(Continued from page 6)*

methodically built its margin to 14-6 on Jaehne-Llanas' three-run clout in the sixth.

K/C parried with three unearned runs in their sixth and eventually drew within 15-13 on Mitchell Durse's three-run jack with two down in the seventh before winning hurler Brad Tollefson secured the final out on an infield grounder.

The Hitmen sprayed 23 hits around and out of Copps Field in the clincher with Justin Bieber, Joe Setzer, Robbie Erickson and Jaehne-Llanas accounting for three apiece while Mahuta added a two-run long ball.

Shaughn Evans went 4-for-4 with three doubles and 3 RBIs to headline a valiant losing effort.

### 2012 WASA Men's Slow Pitch Class E State Tourney

July 20-22 - Sheboygan

#### Team Standings

Place	Team	Record	City
1.	Echale Softball	Racine	4-0
2.	Embrace Care Management	Sheboygan	4-2
3.	Hitmen	Turtle Lake	3-2
4.	Johnsonville Sausage	Sheboygan	3-2
5.	Franklin House	Sheboygan Falls	1-2
	Strikes Bar & Grill	Sheboygan	2-2
7.	El Camino	Sheboygan	1-2
	Water St. Bombers	Sheboygan	0-2
9.	TPO 8	Sheboygan	0-2
	Silver Fern/Coors Light	Sheboygan	0-2

### 2012 Wisconsin ASA State Tournament Champions

Tournament	Champions	City
<b>Modified Pitch</b>		
Men's 10-Man A	Press Box Blue Sox	Fond du Lac
Men's 10-Man B	Symba's	Green Bay
Men's 10-Man C	Warriors	Green Bay
<b>Slow Pitch</b>		
Men's D	MCR Hitmen	North Prairie
Men's E	Echale Softball	Racine
<b>JO Girls Fast Pitch</b>		
18-A	Kaukauna Ghosts	Kaukauna
18-B	Plover 17s	Plover
16-A	Wisconsin Firebirds	Oconomowoc
16-B	Wisconsin Renegades	La Crosse
16-C	Superior Cougars	Superior
14-A	Kenosha Cyclones	Kenosha
14-B	Point Fastpitch	Stevens Point
14-C	Darien Fuzion	Darien
12-A	Xplozion Orange	Columbus
12-B	Pride of the Midwest Orange	Brookfield
12-C	Mad City Kaos	Madison
10-A	Queen of Diamonds	Milwaukee
10-B	Oshkosh Raiders	Oshkosh
10-C	Waupun Eclipse	Waupun

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## ASA nationals

*(Continued from page 1)*

Slow Pitch Class C Northern National at Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The WASA's lone third-place trophy was courtesy of Green Bay's Little Creek Lodge which won five out of seven in the 10-Man Modified National in Port Huron, Michigan.

Here are the complete 2012 Wisconsin ASA team results from ASA national tournaments:

<b>Team</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>ASA Tournament</b>	<b>W/L</b>	<b>Place</b>
Circle Tap	Denmark	Men's Major FP	2-2	9
Dugout	St. Croix Falls	Men's FP Class C West	7-2	2
Echale	Racine	Men's Slow Pitch Class E/Rec Northern	2-2	9
Fox Valley Barflies	Appleton	Men's FP Class A	1-2	9
Goodwood	Beloit	Men's Slow Pitch Class D Northern	3-2	7
Green Touch Lawn Care	New Richmond	Men's Slow Pitch Class C Northern	1-2	13
K-Stone/Budweiser	Mosinee	Men's Slow Pitch Class C Northern	0-2	17
Kim's Barrel Inn/Comatose	Beloit	Men's Slow Pitch Class D Northern	2-2	13
Little Creek Lodge	Green Bay	Men's 10-Man Modified	5-2	3
MCR Hitmen	North Prairie	Men's Slow Pitch Class D Eastern	0-2	25
MWS	Eau Claire	Men's Slow Pitch Class B	2-2	7
New Image	Montfort	Men's FP Class A	5-0	1
Point Blank Tattoo	Cottage Grove	Men's FP Class A	1-2	9
Press Box Blue Sox	Fond du Lac	Men's 10-Man Modified	0-2	17
Press Box Bulldogs	Fond du Lac	Men's 10-Man Modified	2-2	9
Sawdust City	Eau Claire	Men's FP Class A	0-3	13
Sputtering Softball	Kenosha	Men's Slow Pitch Class E/Rec Northern	2-2	13
Strikes Bar & Grill	Sheboygan	Men's Slow Pitch Class E/Rec Northern	0-2	33
Subway/Easton/Rover + Nine	Fond du Lac	Men's Slow Pitch Class D Eastern	0-2	17
Team Fatal/The Vault	Hudson	Men's Slow Pitch Class C Northern	5-2	2
Venom/Corners Inn	Janesville	Men's Slow Pitch Class B	1-2	13
Warriors	Green Bay	Men's 10-Man Modified	0-2	17
Wilber Lime	Holmen	Men's FP Class A	2-2	7



# 2012 WASA All-America Selections

OKLAHOMA CITY – Congratulations to the following players who, while representing Wisconsin teams, earned either All-America or All-Tournament recognition during a 2012 ASA national championship event:

## 1st Team All-America

Position	Player	Team	Tournament
Infield	Evan Peterson	Little Creek Lodge	Men's 10-Man Modified
Infield	Braden Hunkins	Little Creek Lodge	Men's 10-Man Modified
Outfield	Pete Kelly	Dugout	MFP Class C West
Utility	Max Loew	Dugout	MFP Class C West
Infield	Todd Lessman	Dugout	MFP Class C West
Pitcher	Josh Klinger	Team Fatal/The Vault	MSP Class C Northern
Utility	Sean Parnell	Team Fatal/The Vault	MSP Class C Northern
Infield	Nate Gosso	Team Fatal/The Vault	MSP Class C Northern
Pitcher	Jeff Jahn	New Image	MFP Class A
Catcher	Jeramie Holman	New Image	MFP Class A
Outfield	Brent Holman	New Image	MFP Class A
Outfield	Kris Agnew	New Image	MFP Class A
Utility	Dustin Bollant	New Image	MFP Class A
Utility	Harvey Knutson	New Image	MFP Class A
Infield	Chance Schmidt	New Image	MFP Class A
Utility	Scott Gillitzer	Wilber Lime	MFP Class A

## 2nd Team All-America

Position	Player	Team	Tournament
Pitcher	Art Adams	Little Creek Lodge	Men's 10-Man Modified
Outfield	Chris Laux	Little Creek Lodge	Men's 10-Man Modified
Outfield	Sam Flood	Press Box Bulldogs	Men's 10-Man Modified
Outfield	John Moline	Dugout	MFP Class C West
Utility	Jeremy Dagestad	Dugout	MFP Class C West
Infield	Ben Lundgren	Dugout	MFP Class C West
Outfield	Noland Gosso	Team Fatal/The Vault	MSP Class C Northern
Infield	Josh Calleja	Team Fatal/The Vault	MSP Class C Northern
Infield	Kyle Magnuson	Circle Tap	Men's Major FP
Utility	Josh Johnson	Circle Tap	Men's Major FP

# Wisconsin Line Drives

By Roger Regez

Back in 1983 the Iowa ASA inducted a team called the Sioux City Colored Ghosts into their hall of fame along with Frankie Williams, a softball historian and former member of the team.

The Ghosts barnstormed throughout the Midwest and Western sections of the U.S. They became famous despite many limits forced on them by a segregated social order. They were known for their Harlem Globetrotter type antics on the softball field (even the Globetrotters had a softball team in 1939).

More recognition came when memorabilia from the team was added to the National Museum of Cultural History at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Although there have been mentions of that team playing in the 1920s, one newspaper credits Henry Fisher with forming the team in 1930. He disbanded his team when the U.S. became involved in WWII but reorganized it again in 1947 and they continued to play until 1956.

There were other similar teams of the same era....The Iowa Colored Ghosts which may have been the same team as Sioux City, also the California Ghosts, the Colored Ghosts, St. Paul Ghosts, Washington Ghosts, Henry Fisher's Colored Ghosts,.....and Wisconsin's.... Milwaukee Ghosts.

I am unable to find any verification as to whether or not Henry Fisher was the owner of any one or all of those teams. There is no mention of

Fisher having any connection to the Milwaukee club. Back in that era of fast pitch softball, it was a 10-man game, pitchers usually threw bare handed, bats were made of wood, and the softballs were so crude that they would soften up and even bust at the seams.

The Milwaukee Ghosts' games actually funded many leagues and softball programs all across Wisconsin. For example, in Stevens Point, the money raised by the Ghosts was used to pay for the lights of league games at Goerke Park.

The Plymouth Athletic Association used the money as a fundraiser for its whole softball program.

In Winona, Minn., they figured to raise enough funds from their exhibition game with the Ghosts to pay for all the operating expenses of both their Class B and Class A softball leagues. Crowds as high as 2,500 to 3,000 fans were reported for some games. The Ghosts always played nine-inning games, a bonus for the fans.

Newspaper coverage of the team was scarce. The red- and yellow-clad Milwaukee Ghosts seemed to have had their peak years in 1939 and 1940. One newspaper mentioned their appearance at Stevens Point in 1938.

In 1939 they went 63-19, they were 53-16 as of September 4 of the next year. It is unknown as to who their manager was, who started or who owned the club, but the most publicized player on the club was Jim "Cannon Ball" Sims their No. 1 pitcher. The Ghosts played the best teams in Wisconsin and lost on several occasions but according to newspaper stories the fans loved the clowning.

Credit the Wisconsin ASA officials back to the helm of the first state commissioner Si Johnson and the

first state tournament, they never allowed segregation be a part of the game of softball.

It appeared when the Milwaukee Ghosts came to a Wisconsin city it was the softball highlight of the year. They were known to barnstorm in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and even in Canada.

Their fifth-inning shadow ball program brought them fame. It can best be described as a softball ballet. In Plymouth, the local writer pointed out ... "The Shadowball exhibition drew applause and laughter....infield batting practice without the use of a ball...realistic timing even to the crack of the ball in the mitt was unusual entertainment...coursing the outfield in the same manner in mock of batting out fly balls...the exhibition ended when the ball was actually brought back into play."

They also were known to perform a rowboat and fishing act on the field. During a game softball fans would see unusual and funny things happen on the field of play. In La Crosse, a Ghost player homered and every member of the team got off the bench and followed the batter as he circled the bases.

Sometimes when they had the bases loaded, on a batted ball, the runner on first would run across the infield to third, the runner on third would run directly to first, the runner on second would go straight to home, and the batter would run to second base. In a second version of the same situation, all the base runners would run directly to home plate. The crowd would go wild with laughter.

Another newspaper account mentions a Ghost batter hitting a ball to the deep outfield but running to

*(See Regez page 11)*

## Regez

(Continued from page 10)

third, then second, and finally getting thrown out going to first.

Once at Stevens Point, Sims with an 11-6 lead in the seventh reportedly began to lob the ball in allowing Normington's to cut the lead to 11-10 before cracking down the final two innings and winning the game by the one run. At times they would play defense one man short. Their comedy likely cost them many runs and some wins.

Sims was listed as a player from Chicago who pitched for another famous barnstorming team, the Chicago Hottentots. A newspaper reported near the beginning of the 1940 season that he had been pitching for seven years with a lifetime record of 179-51 with 44 no-hitters including seven perfect games.

The other pitcher was "Wild" Dick Yancey from Cleveland, Ohio, who at one time pitched for his hometown Cleveland Flashes. Yancey, the four years prior to 1940, went 145-21. He was credited with 14 no-hit performances and five perfectos.

The most talked-about position player was outfielder Jimmy Jordan from Kansas City who at one time played for the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs. He was known to be a standout baseball pitcher who could throw with either hand. On the softball field he was an outstanding talent.

On August 30, 1939 in Stevens Point Jordan actually hit two home runs in one at bat! Just as the pitcher delivered the ball, the umpire called a timeout. Not hearing the umpire, Jordan hit the ball over the fence and circled the bases only to find out that time was called.

## Wild Dick Yancey



He calmly picked up the bat again and then hit the very next pitch over the fence, this time it counted.

Jordan is credited with hitting the longest home runs ever at Lincoln Park in Wisconsin Rapids, Goerke Park in Stevens Point, and in Toronto, Canada. He had 14 home runs up to July 22, 1940 going into a game at Winona, and as of September 3 of the same year he had 23. The year before he had a total of 22.

Some other players on the Ghosts roster were Jake Lewis, Boots Kirk, Lee Adams, and Big Apple Furge, all of Detroit. Pegs Britton, Lightning Dowell, John Blaney, and Suitcase Simmons were the only players from Milwaukee. Skeets Estrada, Alex Penny, Dick Bowens, and Jim Godley were natives of Chicago. Horace Peterson, a third pitcher, lived in Beloit. One writer mentioned that Peterson could pitch with either hand. I could find no report of him ever pitching a game.

The writer covering the July 2, 1939 game in Stevens Point mentioned "Suitcase Simmons is the spark plug of the team, the long first sacker can cover more ground than the dew."

Kirk and Sims both hit home runs off Wisconsin ASA Hall of Fame hurler Swish Beranek.

However, Beranek was the winning pitcher of at least three games facing the Ghosts during his lifetime. Lee Adams was described as a player who keeps the infield pepped up with his "chatter." Kirk, the catcher, did not wear a mask. A writer remarked that on a hard foul ball he just ducked and let it hit the umpire.

There were occasions when the Ghosts would book games in the same city on more than one occasion during the same season. Being brought back by popular demand, was the case in La Crosse in 1939 and also in Manitowoc and Moorhead, Minn. in 1940.

Some of their known appearances during the 1940 season were on May 29 at Manitowoc Bleser Coasts; June 7 at Racine Civic (lost 7-0); June 8 at Stevens Point AF of L All-Stars (won 9-7) and at Wisconsin Rapids Behrend Shell Oils (lost 11-2); June 9 at Wisconsin Rapids vs. Stevens Point All-Stars; June 11 at Marshfield Roddis Clubs (lost 11-7); June 17 at Ironwood, Mich. St. Mary's (lost 8-7); July 10 at Plymouth All-Stars (won 10-3); at Winona (lost 14-1); July 17 at Maquoketo, Iowa (won 15-5); July 27 at Moulton, Iowa (won 13-5); August 2 at Sheboygan Heinies (lost 14-3); September 1 at Portage Hotel; September 3 at Appleton YMCA (lost 7-2); September 7 at Moorhead, Minn. vs. Fairmont, Minn. (won 1-0, even though the opposing pitcher threw a one-hitter); September 10 at Manitowoc Blesers; and October 6 at Moorhead vs. Fairmont Creamery.

A majority of their losses appear to have come against Wisconsin teams,

(See Regez page 12)

## No "Ifs" ("Ands" or "Buts") at the ASC

ASHWAUBENON – The weather was nearly flawless and so were three talented teams when the Ashwaubenon Sports Complex hosted a trio of 2012 Wisconsin ASA Men's 10-Man Modified Pitch state championships July 27-29.

All of the tourneys followed a similar script that eventually saw an unbeaten club emerge as the state champions.

The Press Box Blue Sox of Fond du Lac went 3-0 to rule the Class A tourney; Symba's from Green Bay was 4-0 in Class B and the Warriors, also from Green Bay, were unblemished in five Class C outings.

Press Box, comprised of some of 2011's Class A kings (Thee Press Box), dominated Moxie's of downtown Casco 9-1 to claim the state's highest classification.

The Blue Sox scored in five of the seven frames and winning pitcher and tourney MVP Tim Lloyd kept Moxie's off the board except for a solitary tally in the third.

Josh McDermott went 2-for-3 for the Sox, including a homer in the first, while player/manager Tim Snow also had a pair of hits, one of which was a solo blast in the fifth.

Moxie's had won three straight elimination games following a setback to Fond du Lac's Rausch Insurance in the tourney opener on Friday.

In the Class B finale, Symba's struck for five in the first and poured across seven more in the fifth to subdue Potter's Bowling Alley of Hancock, 15-7.

Most Valuable Player Travis Peterson, Jason Haglund and Jesse Dickert all went deep and Andy Lade drove in four runs for the new champions, who will be moving up to Class A in 2013.

Potter's, which climbed up one notch from 2011's third-place showing, lost a Saturday semifinal duel with Symba's but came back with three losers' bracket conquests to wind up 5-2, the most wins in the tournament.

In Class C, the Warriors definitely "came out to play" and parlayed big innings into a 12-9 verdict over Granite Inn of Redgranite in the championship battle.

The Warriors produced four markers in the first, five more in the fifth and three in the sixth to repel Granite Inn.

Terrel Hildahl was the main offensive force for the champions in the

title game with four hits in as many trips, one of which left the yard.

Cody Pangrazzi contributed three hits to the cause while claiming leading hitter honors in Class C with a 10-for-14, .714 bottom line for the weekend.

Teammate Lance Hill also homered to back moundsman Connie Swiechowski, who went on to be selected as tourney MVP (as well as MDP ... most difficult to pronounce).

Granite Hill finished a sturdy second at 3-2 with both losses at the hands of the Warriors.

Pulaski's Classics Saloon finished third at 4-2 but landed seven players on the all-tourney team.

Tournament director Rex Mehlberg commended Anduzzi's Sports Pub of Ashwaubenon for their generous help as the major tournament sponsor and also praised Hooters for their prominent support as a total of 26 of Wisconsin's best modified teams competed at the ASC.

About all that was missing were the suspenseful "if" games ... but the Blue Sox, Symba's and Warriors didn't seem to mind.

### Regez

*(Continued from page 11)*

many of which finished in the top eight of the Wisconsin ASA state tournaments.

As of August 24, 1941 they reported their record as 39-5 before going into a game with Manitowoc Blesers. Manitowoc won that game 8-7. I could not find any other mentions of games from that season in any Wisconsin newspaper that was available to me.

In August of 1946 I noticed that Sims was listed on the roster of the Washington Ghosts, a team from "parts unknown," for a game to be played in Wisconsin Rapids.

Due to WWII, the draft, and gas rationing they may have had to disband much like the Sioux City Colored Ghosts did after the 1941 season. Nevertheless, the Milwaukee Ghosts played a huge role in Wisconsin softball history.

I am sure many youngsters were

moved to take up softball after watching them play. The team raised many a dollar for good local organizations and charities. I did not find one writer who ever criticized any part of their show.

They left a legacy that made the game popular for many years to come.



**2012 Wisconsin ASA Men's Modified  
Class A State Tournament  
July 27-29 - Ashwaubenon Sports Complex**

**Team Standings**

Place	Team	City	Record
1.	Press Box Blue Sox	Fond du Lac	3-0
2.	Moxie's	Casco	3-2
3.	Little Creek Lodge	Green Bay	2-2
4.	Rausch Insurance	Fond du Lac	2-2
5.	Jim Beam	Ashwaubenon	0-2
	Press Box Bulldogs	Fond du Lac	0-2

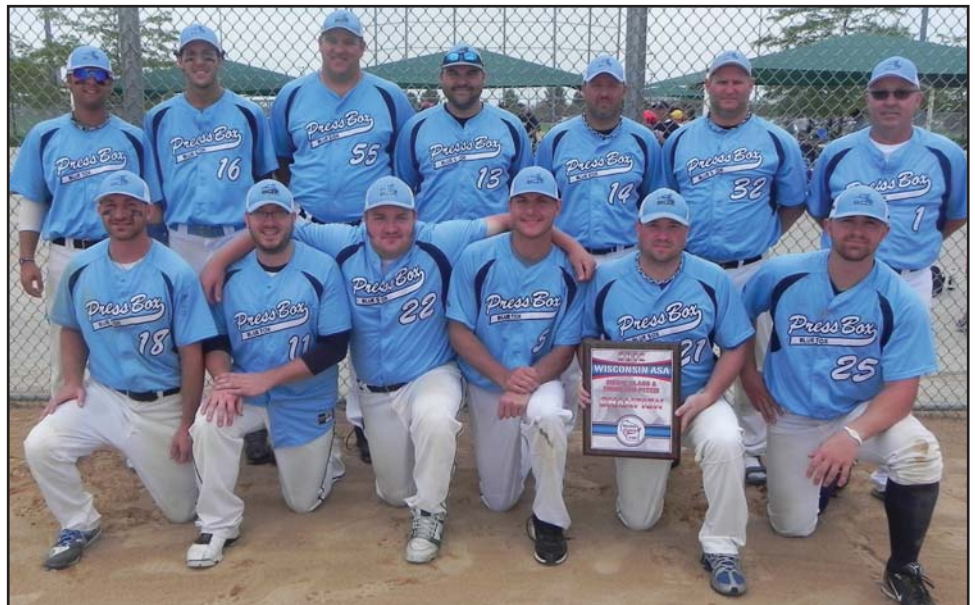
**First Team All-State**

Pos.	Player	Team
1B	Eric Anderson	Moxie's
2B	Joe Mleziva	Moxie's
3B	Brad Wery	Little Creek Lodge
SS	Ryan Lloyd	Press Box Blue Sox
OF	Brett Vandenlangenberg	Little Creek Lodge
OF	Jason Arendt	Moxie's
OF	Tim Snow	Press Box Blue Sox
OF	John Rupno	Little Creek Lodge
Utility	Josh McDermott	Press Box Blue Sox
C	Josh Klismith	Press Box Blue Sox
P	Tim Lloyd	Press Box Blue Sox
P	Mike Ostrenga	Moxie's
P	Eric Moon	Rausch Insurance

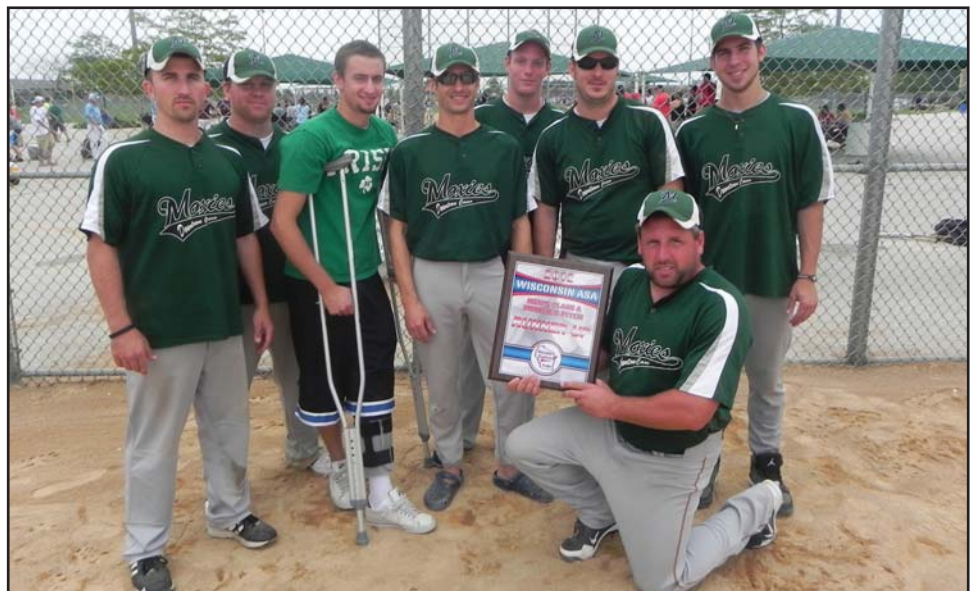
MVP: Tim Lloyd, Pitcher, Press Box Blue Sox

Batting Champion: John Rupno, Little Creek Lodge, .692

**Press Box Blue Sox  
Fond du Lac  
WASA Men's Modified Class A  
State Champion**



**Moxie's  
Casco  
WASA Men's Modified Class A  
State Runner-up**



**2012 Wisconsin ASA Men's Modified  
Class B State Tournament  
July 27-29 - Ashwaubenon Sports Complex**

**Team Standings**

Place	Team	City	Record
1.	Symba's	Green Bay	4-0
2.	Potter's Bowling Alley	Hancock	5-2
3.	Slugger's	Wild Rose	2-2
4.	G2 Castaways	Green Bay	3-2
5.	Greystone	De Pere	2-2
	Symba's Braves	Green Bay	2-2
7.	Sidekicks	De Pere	0-2
	Doug's Sports Pub	Buena Vista	0-2
9.	Chasers	Green Bay	0-2
	Doggers	Wautoma	0-2

**First Team All-State**

Pos.	Player	Team
1B	Andy Lade	Symba's
2B	Jason Reetz	Potter's Bowling Alley
3B	Kyle Lepak	Potter's Bowling Alley
SS	Jason Meyer	Greystone
OF	Travis Schulze	Symba's
OF	Travis Peterson	Symba's
OF	Jason Haglund	Symba's
OF	Eric Rosin	Slugger's
Utility	Craig Lemmens	G2 Castaways
Utility	Brad Johnson	Symba's
C	Rick Hetzel	Potter's Bowling Alley
P	Bart Wood	Symba's
P	Troy Tadman	Potter's Bowling Alley
P	Andy Rosin	Slugger's

MVP: Travis Peterson, Outfield, Symba's

Batting Champion: Craig Lemmens, G2 Castaways, .800

**Symba's  
Green Bay  
WASA Men's Modified Class B  
State Champion**



**Potter's Bowling Alley  
Hancock  
WASA Men's Modified Class B  
State Runner-up**



**2012 Wisconsin ASA Men's Modified  
Class C State Tournament  
July 27-29 - Ashwaubenon Sports Complex**

**Team Standings**

Place	Team	City	Record
1.	Warriors	Green Bay	5-0
2.	Granite Inn	Redgranite	3-2
3.	Classics Saloon	Pulaski	4-2
4.	Gilligan's	Green Bay	3-2
5.	Anduzzi's	Ashwaubenon	1-2
	Earth Development Inc.	Green Bay	1-2
7.	Boneyard Saloon	Lena	1-2
	WT Creations	Oneida	0-2
9.	Bochmer's Black	Green Bay	0-2
	Press Box Rangers	Fond du Lac	0-2

**First Team All-State**

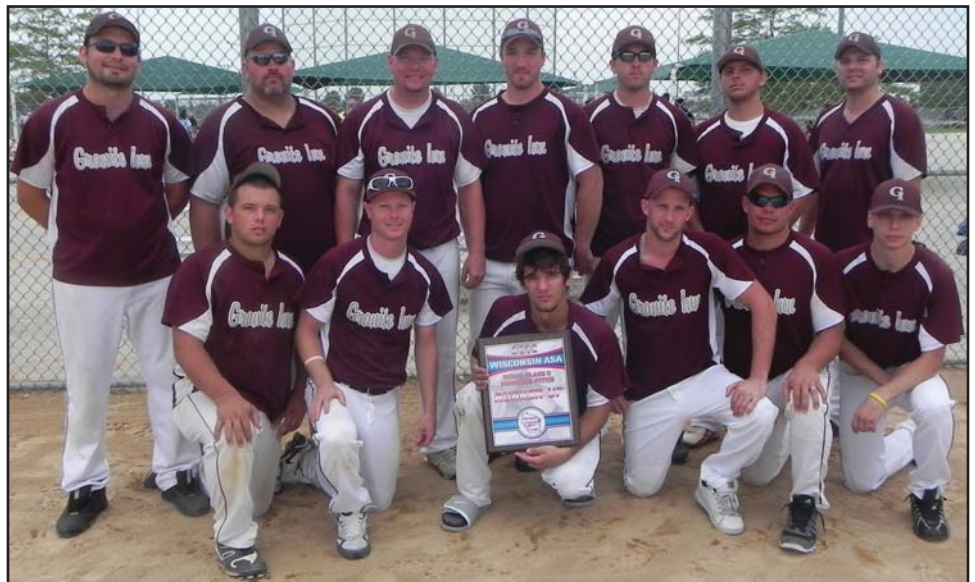
Pos.	Player	Team
1B	Andrew Meza	Granite Inn
2B	Jason Maus	Anduzzi's
3B	Dale Kaminski	Classics Saloon
SS	Jeremy Reinke	Classics Saloon
OF	Brian Watermolen	Warriors
OF	Cody Pangrazzi	Warriors
OF	Trevor Korpi	Classics Saloon
OF	Trevor Marcks	Classics Saloon
Utility	Adam Hughes	Granite Inn
Utility	Jesse Rusch	Gilligan's
Utility	Mike Maedke	Classics Saloon
C	Dustin Haase	Classics Saloon
P	Connie Swiecichowski	Warriors
P	Nathan Kramer	Granite Inn
P	Chad Trudell	Classics Saloon

MVP: Connie Swiecichowski, Pitcher, Warriors  
 Batting Champion: Cody Pangrazzi, Warriors, .714

**Warriors  
Green Bay  
WASA Men's Modified Class C  
State Champion**



**Granite Inn  
Redgranite  
WASA Men's Modified Class C  
State Runner-up**



## Out of the Blue

By Chad Mitchell  
Wisconsin ASA State  
Umpire-in-Chief

Another softball season has come to a close and I would like to send my thanks to all those that were involved in ASA in 2012. I have just finished my inaugural year as the Wisconsin ASA Umpire-in-Chief and would like to give you an update on our program and tell you a little about myself.



I have been a Wisconsin ASA umpire since 1991 and have participated in over 30 state slow pitch championships. I was honored to be selected to six national championships including the ASA Slow Pitch National Championship Series in Oklahoma City. I attained my ASA Slow Pitch Elite status in 2009 and am proud to represent Wisconsin at the national level.

In 2011, I was asked to be the state umpire-in-chief and tasked with making our program and umpires the best in the country. I accepted

this position, because I believe that by putting clear concise policies into place and providing top notch training, our organization will be stronger and produce better umpires as we grow into a true unified body of professionals.

To help set these policies, we now hold an annual UiC staff winter meeting. This is where we will create and maintain the new WASA state UiC manual. This manual will provide the guidelines for all aspects of tournament and staff UiCs, from umpire staffing and scheduling to putting on training clinics. All pertinent UiC business will be handled at this meeting. In February 2013, a number of my staff will attend the 2013 biennial national UiC clinic in Oklahoma City. This is where the ASA national umpire staff provides valuable training on how to be an effective UiC.

ASA is about umpire training. This aspect sets ASA apart from the other softball organizations. It is important to provide training clinics and schools for both new and experienced umpires. For example, this past year we started one-day state umpire schools by independently holding a fast and slow pitch version.

Improving in 2013, we will be offering these schools and will be adding a modified pitch version. In addition to these advanced schools, we



offered over 10 local clinics that were spread throughout the state. These local clinics were tailored for the experience level of the umpires in a specific area with over 100 umpires overall attending.

There have been some changes to my state UiC staff and I would like to announce the new members. Please help me welcome Josh Brandsma, Al Waldvogel, Jerry Burhans, Leslie Anderson and Dan Cory. I believe these umpires will complement those already working hard and become assets in building a stronger umpire organization. Congratulations!

Finally, moving the WASA umpire program forward depends on how well we find, train and retain umpires. This is only done with lots of hard work and dedication from all involved. I look forward to a strong future for Wisconsin ASA.



# WORTH®



# 2013 WISCONSIN ASA STATE TOURNAMENTS

## SLOW PITCH

### MEN'S

Class B	Aug 2 - 4	Sheboygan	Chad Emmer 127 a Dale View Plymouth, WI 53073	920-912-0485 July 19, 2013 <a href="mailto:cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org">cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org</a>
	\$325.00			
Class C	Aug 2 - 4	Sheboygan	Chad Emmer 127 a Dale View Plymouth, WI 53073	920-912-0485 July 19, 2013 <a href="mailto:cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org">cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org</a>
	\$325.00			
Class D	Aug 2 - 4	Sheboygan	Chad Emmer 127 a Dale View Plymouth, WI 53073	920-912-0485 July 19, 2013 <a href="mailto:cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org">cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org</a>
	\$325.00			
Class E	July 27 - 28	Sheboygan	Chad Emmer 127 a Dale View Plymouth, WI 53073	920-912-0485 July 12, 2013 <a href="mailto:cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org">cemmer@sheboygansoftball.org</a>
	\$175.00			

## MODIFIED PITCH

### MEN'S 10-Man

Class A	Aug 9 - 10	Fond du Lac	Brad Leonard 103 South Peters Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	920-948-5874 August 2, 2013 <a href="mailto:leonard-brad@yahoo.com">leonard-brad@yahoo.com</a>
	\$325.00			
Class B	July 26 - 28	Fond du Lac	Brad Leonard 103 South Peters Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	920-948-5874 July 19, 2013 <a href="mailto:leonard-brad@yahoo.com">leonard-brad@yahoo.com</a>
	\$325.00			
Class C	July 26 - 28	Fond du Lac	Brad Leonard 103 South Peters Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	920-948-5874 July 19, 2013 <a href="mailto:leonard-brad@yahoo.com">leonard-brad@yahoo.com</a>
	\$325.00			

## JUNIOR OLYMPIC - FAST PITCH

### GIRLS

Class A 18/16/14/12/10	June 27 - 30	Wausau	Kevin Meier 414 S. Emerald Drive Wausau, WI 54401	715-842-5710 June 17, 2013 <a href="mailto:kmeier5710@charter.net">kmeier5710@charter.net</a>
	\$400.00			
Class B 18/16/14/12/10	July 11 = 14	Wausau	Kevin Meier 414 S. Emerald Drive Wausau, WI 54401	715-842-5710 July 1, 2013 <a href="mailto:kmeier5710@charter.net">kmeier5710@charter.net</a>
	\$400.00			
Class C 18/16/14/12/10	July 19 - 21	Watertown	Scott Pomerence N9650 Dewey Rd. Watertown, WI 53094	920-261-9212 July 14, 2013
	\$400.00			

## JO GREAT LAKES NATIONAL QUALIFIER

### GIRLS

Class A 18 & Under	June 21 - 23	Novi, MI		
Class A 14/12/10 & Under	June 14 - 16	Watertown, WI	Scott Pomerence N9650 Dewey Rd. Watertown, WI 53094	920-261-9212 June 9, 2013
	\$400.00			