



# Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



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- 5 Bahr, David
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- 16 Block, Steve
- 14 Braun, Joe
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- 7 Kempf, Chris
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- 25 Wilson, John
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- 3 Wojcinski, Jay
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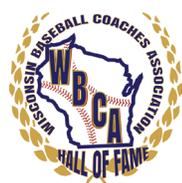
## WE ARE STILL MISSING PIECES TO OUR HALL OF FAME

All of the 192 members of the WBCA were instrumental in what they brought to the game, their communities, and to Wisconsin baseball.

If you see a coach that was inducted in the early days of the Hall of Fame that lacks information, help us out by helping us to fill in the missing pieces.

Contact Joe Waite at [baseballwisconsin@gmail.com](mailto:baseballwisconsin@gmail.com) with any information that I can use to make sure each story gets told.

Thank you.



# Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



**2026**  
**MIKE DAVENPORT**  
**MADISON COLLEGE**

Mike Davenport has been the Head Coach at Madison College since 2005. Prior to that, he coached at Clarke College and Kishwaukee College. He has earned multiple Conference, Region, and District Coach of the Year Awards. In 1999, Davenport was the NJCAA Division 2 National Coach of the Year. His teams have appeared in 14 National Tournaments, including 13 with the Madison College Wolfpack. In 1999, Davenport led Kishwaukee to a National Championship. He also has a National Runner-Up and four 3rd place finishes. Davenport has been a speaker at the WBCA clinic as well as ABCA Barnstorming clinics. Notably, most of Madison College's roster is made up of Wisconsin student-athletes. Davenport's career record entering the 2026 season stands at 628-277 (.769).



**2026**  
**RON GREENE**  
**EDGERTON**

Edgerton is known as one of the best baseball programs in the state, and it all started with Ron Greene before he passed the program on to Mike Gregory, who was also named to the Hall of Fame. Greene's coaching career at Edgerton High School ran from the 1960s through the 1980s. He took the smallest school in the Badger Conference and turned it

into a powerhouse. The Edgerton Crimson Tide claimed seven Badger Conference Championships between 1969 and 1977. When Edgerton switched to the Rock Valley Conference, the Crimson Tide won three more titles. Edgerton reached Sectionals six times during Greene's career and made it to the State Tournament twice, with a runner-up finish in 1979. In an era of 12 to 14 game seasons, Greene posted a career record of 246-121 (.670). Greene passed away at the age of 83 in 2023.



**2026**  
**KEVIN KEHOSS**  
**MILWAUKEE PIUS XI**

Kevin Kehoss has been the Head Coach at his alma mater, Milwaukee Pius XI Catholic High School, for 29 years. During that time, the Popes have accumulated a record of 437-350 (.555). He has won four Conference titles in the tough Woodland West Conference. Kehoss has led Pius XI to 12 Sectional appearances. They

have made two trips to the State Tournament, earning a

Runner-Up in 2018 and a State Championship in 2001. Kehoss was named the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel Coach of the Year in 2001 and the WBCA Summer Coach of the Year in 2018. He also coached in the All-Star Classic in 2010. He retired from Pius XI after last season and will be assisting Scott Holler's Oak Creek Knights this coming spring.



**2026**  
**RYAN MCGINNIS**  
**KIMBERLY**

Ryan McGinnis is one of the most successful coaches in the history of Wisconsin High School baseball. An alumni of Appleton West, he is entering his 21st season as Kimberly's head coach after spending six years at Oshkosh North, his career record stands at 452-166 (.731) as of the 2026 season. He coaches in the

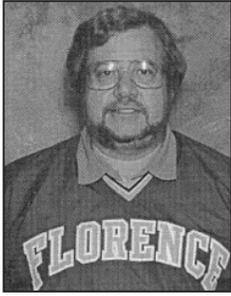
Fox Valley Association, one of Wisconsin's top conferences. His Papermakers have won the FVA 14 times, nine Sectional Championships, and D1 State Championships in 2007 and 2017. McGinnis received the WBCA's Ethics in Coaching Award and was also recognized as the national winner by the American Baseball Coaches Association. Additionally, McGinnis is a past WBCA President and served on the Executive Board for six years, guiding the Association with outstanding leadership. He was twice named the WBCA's Coach of the Year. An outstanding clinician, he has spoken at several clinics including the ABCA. McGinnis continues to serve as a District Representative for the WBCA's Northeast District.



**2026**  
**RON ORLANDI**  
**SUPERIOR**

Ron Orlandi was a coaching legend in Wisconsin's far northwest corner for three decades. A native of Brooklyn, New York, Orlandi was the son of Italian immigrant parents. He signed a contract with the Washington Senators at the age of 18. His baseball career was put on hold when he was drafted into the Army in 1950, serving as a tank driver with the 45th Division

during the Battle of Old Baldy in Korea. After the war, he came to Wisconsin and was sent to the Northern League's Superior Blues by the Senators organization. After acquiring his teaching degree, he initiated the baseball program at Superior East High School before being transferred to the new Superior High School in 1965. He coached for 29 years, amassing a career record of 327-127 (.720) in an era where teams played 12-14 games a year. He guided his teams to State six times during his career. Orlandi unexpectedly passed away at the age of 88 in 2017.



**2025  
DAVID LA POINT  
FLORENCE**

David LaPoint served as the Head Coach at Florence High School for 47 years. His career record stands at 407-217. During his reign, the Florence Bobcats won 16 Conference Championships. They made 10 Sectional appearances and reached State Tournament in 1998. The Bobcats' 1998 State appearance marked the only time that a school from the Northern Lakes Conference reached State Tournament.

LaPoint deflects taking personal credit for the success of the Florence baseball program, citing the talented players he has coached. LaPoint is also in the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame.



**2025  
TOM SCHMITT  
MIDDLETON**

Tom Schmitt spent 26 years coaching the Middleton Cardinals, 16 of them as the Head Coach. In only 16 seasons he posted a 287-124 record. He was named the Big Eight Coach of the Year three times. The Cardinals won five Conference Championships in the extremely tough Big Eight Conference and made 12 Sectional appearances. They reached State Tournament seven times and won a

State Championship in 2003. He has served on the Middleton Baseball Commission for over 20 years. Schmitt, along with Sun Prairie's Rob Hamilton, started a Strike Out Cancer game that raises over \$10,000 annually for the American Children's Hospital.



**2025  
SCOTT STAUDE  
BURLINGTON**

Scott Staude has been the Head Coach at Burlington High School for 26 seasons. His record currently stands at 361-260. The Burlington Demons have won six Southern Lakes Conference Championships during that stretch. They have played in Sectionals nine times and reached State Tournament in

six times. In 2016 Burlington won a Division I State Championship and Staude was named the WBCA Coach of the Year. He has also been named the Racine County Coach of the Year three times. Staude has been a member of the WBCA for over 25 years. He is the current President of the WBCA, with his term ending this February, 2025.

**HAVE A COACH THAT YOU THINK IS DESERVING TO JOIN THE HALL OF FAME?**  
Go to [baseballwisconsin.com](http://baseballwisconsin.com) and click the Hall of Fame tab on the right, then download and fill out the pdf form as best you can. Contact the coach you want to nominate if you need more information and send the form to Mark Fuller at [mfull@csdmail.com](mailto:mfull@csdmail.com). From there he will enter a pool given to four Regional Sub-Committees, who give their recommendations to the Hall of Fame Committee, who then takes their recommendations to the Executive Board. Longevity, wins, titles, and service to the WBCA are all considered criteria for being selected in no particular order. A coach can not be selected if he isn't nominated.



**2025  
KRAIG TERPSTRA  
STEVENS POINT**

Kraig Terpstra has spent 33 seasons with the Stevens Point baseball program. He has been the Head Coach for 19 years. He has accumulated a record of 399-124 with the SPASH Panthers, a winning percentage of .763, one of the best in state history. Under Terpstra's guidance, the Panthers have won 16 Wisconsin Valley Conference Titles. They have played in Sectionals 15 times and reached State Tournament four

times, culminating in a State Runner-Up in 2013. Terpstra has also spent 10 years as the Plover Legion coach, earning two trips to State Tournament. In addition to baseball, Terpstra is the winningest Girls Basketball Coach in SPASH history, winning a State Runner-Up in 2001.



**2025  
ERIC WEDEMEYER  
CHIPPEWA FALLS  
MCDONELL CATHOLIC**

Eric Wedemeyer was the Head Coach at Chippewa Falls McDonell Catholic Central High School for 19 years. His record during that span was 320-116. In those 19 seasons the Macks won 10

Cloverbelt West Conference Championships. They reached Sectionals 12 times and made the trip to State Tournament seven times. Wedemeyer led the Macks to five State Runner-Ups. In 2015 and 2016 he coached Team Wisconsin in the Showtime Sports All-Star Challenge. He also coached Chippewa Falls Legion Baseball for seven seasons. Wedemeyer has coached numerous players to the college level, with one of his players, Kyle Cody, reaching the Major Leagues.



**2025  
JAY WOJCINSKI  
GERMANTOWN**

Jay Wojcinski has spent 25 years as a Head Coach. He has coached at Waukesha South, Greendale, Milwaukee Madison University School, Whitefish Bay, and Germantown. Currently his record stands at 521-267. Wojcinski's teams have won nine Conference Championships. They have

played in Sectionals nine times and reached State Tournament twice. In 2023 Wojcinski's Whitefish Bay Blue Dukes took home the Gold Ball. Wojcinski began the Whitefish Bay Junior Dukes program in 2009. He has been a member of the WBCA for nearly 30 years. As a testament to his leadership, every program that he has coached has posted a winning record.



**2024**  
**JEFF BIGLER**  
**BROOKFIELD CENTRAL**

After spending five years in pro ball as a first baseman, four with the Phillies and one with the Pirates at the AA level, Bigler has forged a career in which he has over 500 career victories as he continues to coach at Brookfield Central. His teams have won six Conference titles, 13 Regional titles and two Sectional Championships. He

led the Lancers to a Summer State Title in 2014. He also helped his brother at Cardinal Stritch for three years. With just two more wins, he will move into 8th place on all-time victories for coaches who did the majority of their coaching in the WIAA summer season.



**2024**  
**GREG FETHERSTON**  
**JEFFERSON**

Greg Fetherston has a career record of 411-173 entering the 2026 season. His teams have won 11 Conference titles, he has been named Coach of the Year in the Rock Valley seven times, twice in the Southern Lakes Conference, once each as the 2014 WBCA Coach of the Year,

NFHS Wisconsin Coach of the Year, and USA Today Coach of the Year. 12 Regional titles, five Sectional titles and one State Championships as well as two State Runner-Ups have been won by the Eagles during his 22 years as Jefferson's head coach. He coordinates Jefferson's youth programs, coaches Legion ball, and works with Brewer Baseball Academy. He has served the WBCA as a Conference Rep for the Rock Valley. He has been active in all areas of Jefferson baseball. He was Summer Legion General Manager for 15 years, Coordinated the Junior Eagles program for 15 years, Assistant Coach for Team Serbia for two years.



**2024**  
**BOB GAWLITTA**  
**WISCONSIN RAPIDS**

Bob Gawlitta has been a great ambassador of baseball, not only at Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids where he has coached at since 1994, but statewide in his service to the WBCA as a former Vice-President, President, a current District Rep for the North Central District. He also chairs the runs WBCA

Scholarship Committee, something he has done since the WBCA began awarding scholarships. His record as a coach speaks for itself. Going into 2024, he amassed 371 victories, won four conference titles, eight Regional titles and a Sectional title. He continues working with Rapids youth programs and hosting clinics in addition to his WBCA and head coaching duties. He retired after the 2024 season with a record of 403-296.



**2024**  
**TIM POOCK**  
**GREEN LAKE**

Tim Pock has been the head coach at Green Lake and more recently, Green Lake-Princeton co-op program since 1995. After a playing career at Winona State, he has a career record of 388-182 with eight conference titles, eight regional titles, and a 2006 Sectional championship. He served as a conference representative and as a Co-District Representative for the WBCA's South Central District until his retirement in 2024.



**2024**  
**WAYNE SANKEY**  
**PACELLI**

Very few men have amassed as many career victories as Coach Wayne Sankey has done in Stevens Point. He picked up his 600th career victory as an American Legion head coach in Plover and has a record 488-173 going into the 2026 High School season. During his tenure at Pacelli, the Cardinals have won 11 Conference titles, three Sectional

titles and won a State Championship in 2003. They added a State Silver trophy in 2025. His Plover Legion teams have made nine State appearances, finished State runners-up three times and won two State titles. He serves as a conference rep for the WBCA and is District II Director for American Legion Baseball. He is a member of the Pacelli High School Hall of Fame as well.



**2023**  
**SCOTT BAGNIEFSKI**  
**LA CROSSE AQUINAS**

Scott Bagniefski retired as Head Coach of La Crosse Aquinas at the conclusion of the 2022 season. Under Bagniefski's leadership for 23 years, the Blugolds posted a record of 378-197. During that time, they won three Conference Titles, 12 Regional Titles, and made seven State Tournament appearances. In seven State Tournament appearances, the Blugolds finished as runner-ups three times, and won State Championships

in 2007 and 2017. Bagniefski also coached a Junior Legion Team for 22 years and created both the Tri-State Holiday Baseball Academy and the La Crosse A's 16 and Under Junior Legion Wood Bat Team. Bagniefski was Conference Coach of the Year four times.



**2023  
DAVID BAHR  
LAKE COUNTRY LUTHERAN**

David Bahr began the baseball program at Lake Country Lutheran High School. He has accumulated a 320-103 record at Lake Country Lutheran, with a career record of 487-162. The Lake Country Lutheran Lightning have won eight conference titles during Bahr's tenure. He also won five conference titles while coaching in Indiana. The Lightning

have also reached Sectionals eight times, and gone to State Tournament three times. Bahr led LCL to a State Runner-Up in 2013, and back-to-back State Championships in 2014 and 2015, going 32-0 in 2014. He was named District Coach of the Year in both 2013 and 2014.



**2023  
JOHN HAMILTON  
WESTBY**

John Hamilton has been the Head Coach at Westby High School for the past 31 years. The Westby Norsemen have posted a record of 430-231 under Hamilton's leadership. Westby has won nine Coulee Conference Championships, played in nine Sectionals, and reached the State Tournament two times during that period. Westby

finished as State Runner-Ups in both 1997 and 2013. Hamilton also coaches Westby's Legion Team, which also has a history of success. He is just concluding his term as six-year Executive Board member and Association President this year. As President, Hamilton's work with the WIAA has brought about several positive changes for baseball in Wisconsin. He continues to serve WBCA as a District Rep for the South West District.



**2023  
ROB HAMILTON  
SUN PRAIRIE**

Rob Hamilton took an established Sun Prairie baseball program, and raised it to a level that few programs in the State have reached. In 22 seasons as Head Coach, the Cardinals posted a record of 447-114. Hamilton was named Big Eight Coach of the Year four times, and the WBCA

named him State Coach of the Year in both 2005 and 2012. Under his leadership, Sun Prairie made 15 Sectional appearances, reached the State Tournament twelve times, and earned six State Championships. In one of the state's best conferences, Sun Prairie won 11 Conference titles under Hamilton's tenure. He also served six years on the WBCA Executive Board, including two years as Association President.



**2023  
BOB JOHNSON  
EAU CLAIRE NORTH**

Bob Johnson's career winning percentage of .795 is in a dead heat with Rob Hamilton's career winning percentage, which might be two of the best in state history. Johnson's career record at Eau Claire North is 307-79 in 17 seasons as head coach. The Huskies won nine Conference Titles during that time. They reached Sectionals

ten times, and advanced to State Tournament eight of those ten trips. Two of those trips, 2011 and 2019, resulted in State Championships. Johnson was named District Coach of the Year six times, and in 2011 he was named WBCA Coach of the Year. In his 17 seasons, four of Johnson's players have been named WBCA Player of the Year.



**2023  
JOHN MATERA  
KENOSHA TREMPER**

John Matera will be entering his 20th season as Head Coach of the Kenosha Tremper Trojans. Playing in the tough Southeast Conference, the Trojans have won six Conference Championships under Matera. Tremper has also made ten Sectional appearances during that time. Going into the 2026 season Matera's career record is 358-178. He also serves as the Athletic Director

at Tremper. In addition to his success on the diamond, Matera has made a continuing impact on the WBCA. Matera served a six-year term on the WBCA Executive Board, being the Association's President for two years. He continues to serve, being a District Rep, as well as helping with the All-State Team and Baseball Wisconsin.



**2022  
KENT CASPER  
COLEMAN**

Kent Casper has molded the Coleman Cougars into one of the most formidable DIII baseball programs in Wisconsin. During his 30 years as a head coach, the Cougars have posted a 496-160 record. Casper has also served as Coleman's Legion coach and Babe Ruth coach for over 20 years. Coleman has won 15 Conference Championships under him, as well as winning 15 Regional Championships. The Cougars have

advanced to State Tournament four times during this stretch, earning a runner-up in 2021, and a State Championship in 2012.



**2022  
SCOTT HOLLER  
OAK CREEK**

In 21 seasons, Scott Holler's Oak Creek Knights have accumulated a 507-154 record., with the first 16 of those wins and losses occurring during the WIAA Summer Season. A former WBCA President, Holler has been named the WBCA Coach of the Year two times. He is a six time Greater Metro Coach of the Year. In 2018 he was named ABCA Regional Coach of the Year. Five of his former players

have been selected in the MLB draft. Under Holler, the Knights have won 11 Conference Championships, and made 16 Sectional appearances. Oak Creek has reached State Tournament six times during his career, winning State Championships in 2005 and 2012. He continues to serve the WBCA and is on the Executive Committee as the WBCA's Liscensing and Marketing Director.



**2022  
LANCE SCHMITZ  
BARNEVELD**

Under Lance Schmitz, Barneveld has become a perennial power in the Six Rivers East Conference. In 22 seasons the Golden Eagles have posted a 358-121 record. In a very tough conference, Barneveld has won nine Conference Championships. Barneveld has won nine Regional Championships under Schmitz, and reached State Tournament three times. In 2011 Lance was named Wisconsin

State Journal Coach of the Year. He has also been named the Coach of the Year by the Dodgeville Chronicle three times, as well as being named the Southwest District Coach of the Year twice.



**2021  
BILLY ALBRECHT  
WEST BEND WEST**

Billy Albrecht's coaching record at West Bend West is truly impressive. After serving as a JV coach for 10 years, he began an 18 year run as head coach. During that stretch, the Spartans posted a 451-113 (.800) record. They won eight North Shore titles, as well as eight Sectional Championships. In those eight State Tournament appearances, West Bend West won two State Championships and finished runners-up three times. Albrecht

was named WBCA Summer Coach of the Year in 2007 and in 2017.



**2021  
PHIL JANSSEN  
SAINT MARY CATHOLIC**

Phil Janssen is most well known nationally as working with Major League Baseball umpiring for the past 40 years. State wide, he is best known for his great success at Saint Mary's Catholic High School in Neenah. After assisting for five years, he took over the head coaching duties for the next 13 years, amassing a record of 194-47, an incredible .805 winning percentage. His teams won eight conference titles,

made three state appearances and won the State Title one time. He continues to serve baseball by being on the WIAA Advisory Committee and remains active with Major League Baseball.



**2021  
PETE JOHNSON  
GRANTSBURG**

Pete Johnson took over as head coach at Grantsburg, in Wisconsin's far northwestern corner, 21 years ago after being the assistant coach for several years. During his tenure, the Pirates have gone 393-175, won 14 conference titles and made a trip to State once each as a Summer program and once as a Spring program. A recent winner of the WBCA's Ethics in Coaching Award, Johnson

has worked with all levels of baseball, not only in Grantsburg, but the surrounding area. He coached in the 2018 All-Star Classic and has served as a Conference rep the past 18 years.



**2021  
CURT THOMPSON  
RIVERDALE**

Curt Thompson has been the head coach at Riverdale High School in Muscoda for the past 32 years. During that time he has amassed a career record of 445-355. His teams have won five conference titles and have made four Sectional appearances. He has twice been name the SWAL Coach of the Year and has served Muscoda and the surrounding communities as a youth coach at every level. His duties at Riverdale included being the Athletic Director, head

football coach & head basketball coach.



**2021  
RUSTY TIEDEMANN  
WATERTOWN**

Rusty Tiedemann compiled a career record of 328-152 at Watertown (.683), winning seven conference titles and making three trips to State. His clubs won 14 Regional Titles, a State-Runner-up and a State Championship. He has not only served as Watertown's head coach but worked with various levels of youth baseball in that

community. He was a three-year starter at UW-Oshkosh and played on their National Championship Team. He has worked at several clinics internationally and coached baseball for one year in Switzerland. He joins his father Russ into the Hall of Fame as the second father-son combo ever inducted.



**2021  
JIM WILKINSON  
MARQUETTE**

Jim Wilkinson has coached at Marquette, Kettle Moraine, and Germantown High Schools. 367-187 record, including an impressive 41-12 record in WIAA post-season play., including an impressive 41-12 record in WIAA post-season play. Wilkinson was the WBCA Assistant Coach of the Year in 1996, and the WBCA Summer Coach of

the Year in 2005. Jim has led his teams to State Tournament six times. His Marquette Hilltoppers were crowned State Champions in both 2006 and 2008. His outstanding career also includes two Conference Coach of the Year awards.



**2020  
TOM ARMSTRONG, JR.  
CHEQUAMEGON**

Thomas Armstrong Jr. has been coaching baseball for 30 30 years, including 20 years as a Head Coach at Park Falls/Chequamegon High School. He has accumulated a record of 325-131 during that time. His teams have won eight Conference Championships, played in Sectionals 12 times, and reached State Tournament three times. They earned the Silver

Ball twice. Tom has been named Conference Coach of the year seven times, and has twice served as a coach in the All-Star Classic. The Park Falls/Chequamegon baseball program has been under the leadership of the Armstrong Family for 45 consecutive years. Tom Sr. and Tom Jr. have combined for over 700 wins. Tom Jr. joins his father in the WBCA Hall of Fame. He continues to be the head coach at Chequamegon High. In 2021, Armstrong rejoined the coaching ranks at Oconto where he continues to coach. His career record entering 2026 is 420-172.



**2020  
CHRIS KEMPF  
ASHLAND**

Chris Kempf has been the Head Coach at Ashland High School for 28 years. The Oredockers have a 486-215. He has been named the Lumberjack Conference Coach of the Year three times, and the Lake Superior Conference Coach of the Year three times as well. The Oredockers have won nine Conference Championships behind Kempf. They made 10 Sectional appearances, and reached State Tournament four times. In 2005, Ashland earned a Silver Ball at the Summer State Tournament. Kempf has coached in the All-Star Classic two times, and has also been named District Coach of the year twice. In 2001 Chris was named Coach of the Year by the WBCA. Not only committed to baseball in Ashland, Kempf rebuilt the baseball field in his home town of Glidden, helping keep school kids involved in baseball.



**2020  
TOM FARINA  
NEW BERLIN WEST**

Tom Farina had been the Head Coach of New Berlin West for nearly 20 years. During that time the Vikings have posted a 372-196 record. New Berlin West has won nine Conference titles under Farina's leadership. They appeared in Sectionals four times

and reached the State Tournament twice. In 2013, the Vikings were crowned State Champions. Prior to being named the coach of New Berlin West, the Vikings had posted a record of 9-93 the previous three seasons. A former player in the Milwaukee Brewer's system, Farina began his high school coaching career as an assistant under Hall of Famer Tom O'Connell. Through the years, Farina has hosted youth clinics for players, as well as umpire clinics. Since 2001, he has had a scholarship program that gave out three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. He retired from New Berlin West in 2019.



**2019  
BILL COKER  
ATHENS**

Bill Coker recorded a 361-130 record during his coaching career at Stratford and Athens. His teams have won nine Conference titles, as well as ten Regional Championships. Coker has been named Conference Coach of the Year eight times, and in 2017 he was named the WBCA Coach of the Year. Coker's teams reached State Tournament three times, resulting in two State Championships. He also served the WBCA as a district representative for 13 years, and has coached in the All-Star Classic twice. Coker has also been involved in coaching numerous youth league teams. He retired as head coach after the 2019 season.



**2020  
PATRICK HANSEN  
MENOMONEE FALLS**

Patrick Hansen had a stellar coaching career at Brown Deer and Menomonee Falls High Schools. His career record was 492-201. His Menomonee Falls Indians won five Conference Championships in the tough Greater Metro Conference. His teams made 15

appearances at Sectionals, winning five Sectional Championships. In 2004, the Indians were State Runner-Ups. In 2015 and 2016, Menomonee Falls won back-to-back State Championships. Hansen had been named the Coach of the Year for the Greater Metro Conference four times, and in 2006, was the WBCA Summer Coach of the Year. Hansen had also been heavily involved in the WBCA, serving as a District Rep, and running the Summer All-State meetings for over a decade. Hansen's teams were not only known for their talent on the field, but for their strong character as well.



**2019  
TOM DAVEY  
PALMYRA-EAGLE**

Tom Davey has coached at Deerfield High School and Palmyra-Eagle High School since 1993. During that time his teams have won 11 Conference titles, six Regional titles, and reached State Tournament twice. Davey's Deerfield Legion Team made two trips to State, including a runner-up finish in 2002. Since 2007, Davey has led the Janesville Babe Ruth Team to ten State Titles, and three trips to the World Series, including two 3rd place finishes. Davey is a two time District Coach of the Year, and coached in the All-Star Classic in 2002. He currently has a high school coaching record of 5515-190. His career record stands at ntering the 2026 season.



**2019**  
**ARMANDO HERNANDEZ**  
**UW-WHITWATER**

Armando Hernandez is a former All-Conference infielder at UW-Whitewater. He was a high school coach for 18 years, including eight years as Head Coach at Kettle Moraine High School, winning three Regional titles, as well as a State Runner-Up finish in 2008. Former UW-Whitewater coach Jim Miller

noted, "Armando took over a program near the bottom, and left it near the top." Hernandez then became the lead assistant coach at UW-Whitewater, where he has been for 24 seasons. During that time UW-Whitewater has won 11 WIAC Titles, gone to the College World Series six times, and won two National Championships.



**2019**  
**JEFF RYAN**  
**PRESCOTT**

Jeff Ryan began his coaching career as an assistant coach at Prescott High School, reaching State Tournament four times. Since becoming the head coach at Prescott Ryan's teams have recorded a 371-109 record. Under Ryan's reign the Cardinals have won 12 Conference titles, and reached State Tournament twice. In 2012 the Cardinals were State Champions. Ryan has been

a District Rep since 2003, and has twice coached in the All-Star Classic. He retired after the 2025 season with a career record of 439-162.



**2019**  
**STEVE WARREN**  
**MARATHON**

In 21 seasons as a head coach at Marathon High School, Steve Warren has a record of 444-160 and won numerous Conference Championships during that stretch. They made four appearances at State Tournament. They were State Champions in both 2008 and 2010. In those 21 seasons, Warren has been named Conference Coach of the Year 10

times. In 2008 Warren was named by the WBCA as their Coach of the Year. He has also won over 400 games as Marathon's Legion Coach, which includes five State Tournament appearances. Warren coached in the All-Star Classic in 2007 is a North Central District Rep for the WBCA.

**2018**  
**KEVIN DeBOER**  
**WAUPUN**

The late Kevin De Boer was a Waupun native, who grew up and starred in baseball and basketball for Waupun High School. After a successful college career at Carthage College, DeBoer became a teacher and coach in his hometown, Waupun. A fighter his entire life, DeBoer's determination helped Waupun become one of the top baseball programs

in Wisconsin. DeBoer's record at Waupun was 250-137, which included four Conference Championships, as well as a State Championship in 2007. He also led the Waupun Legion Team to a State Championship in 2013. He passed away later that year at the age of 44.



**2018**  
**CHAD MONTEZ**  
**WAUKESHA WEST • WBCA**

Since beginning his coaching career in 1994, Chad Montez has been a major figure in Waukesha baseball, as well as the WBCA. Montez has built an impressive 456-371 at Waukesha West. He is a two time District Coach of the year, and

has led the Wolverines to seven Conference Championships, ten Sectional appearances, and eight trips to State Tournament. In addition to his accomplishments on the baseball field, Montez has also been heavily involved in the WBCA. He is a former President, and still occupies a place on the Executive Board.

**2018**  
**MARK PEDRETTI**  
**PRAIRIE du CHIEN**



In Southwest Wisconsin, one team has been synonymous with success. That is Prairie du Chien High School, under the guidance of Mark Pedretti. In 26 seasons as the head coach at Prairie du Chien, the Blackhawks have posted a record of 430-177 During those

28 seasons, Prairie du Chien has won 19 Conference Championships, and very seldom have they not been in the running for the crown. Coach Pedretti has also led the Blackhawks to nine Sectional appearances, as well as four trips to State Tournament. In 1993 Prairie du Chien reached the pinnacle of success, winning a State Championship under the direction of Mark Pedretti. He resigned as head coach in 2019 but stayed on to assist his son Ryan, who took over as head coach in 2020.

**2018**  
**DENNIS RIDDLE**  
**De PERE**



Dennis Riddle had been involved with De Pere Baseball for more than 30 years. After stints as an assistant coach at Oconto and De Pere, Riddle became the head coach at De Pere High School. In 23 seasons as a head

coach, Riddle's De Pere Redbirds posted a record of 331-162. Beginning in 1994, De Pere won nine Conference Championships in a 15 year stretch. Despite being a smaller Division I school, Riddle's teams won 18 Regional titles, and played in two State Tournaments.

**2017**  
**DOUG GONRING**  
**WEST BEND EAST**



Gonring has achieved success as head coach of both West Bend East and Kewaskum High Schools. His career record of 418-200 includes seven Conference Championships at West Bend East and five at Kewaskum. His teams have reached

State Tournament three times, winning two Summer State Championships in 1999 and 2002. He has also coached at the college level at Iowa State, Claremont College in California, and Concordia University. He has been named District Coach of the Year four times, and in 2002 he was the WBCA Summer High School Coach of the Year. Gonring retired after 2018.



**2017  
MIKE GREGORY  
EDGERTON**

Mike Gregory, head coach of Edgerton High School for the past 29 years, follows in the footsteps of his father, Jack, who is a Hall of Fame football coach from the same school. His record is 415-237 to date. A member of the extremely tough Rock Valley Conference, Edgerton has won 12 Conference Championships under his reign. The Crimson Tide has made two trips to the State Tournament, winning a State Championship in 1990. Gregory is still active as head coach at Edgerton.



**2017  
BOB HEINKEL  
MILWAUKEE LUTHERAN**

Heinkel has spent his entire coaching career while teaching at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. After serving five years as an assistant coach, he took over the varsity program in 1980, and coached through the 2015 season. He accumulated a record of 398-340 during his career. Milwaukee Lutheran made five State Tournament appearances under his reign, and won State titles in 2002, 2003, and 2015. He coached many amateur teams throughout the years, including two National Championship teams, in addition to coaching at Milwaukee Lutheran.



**2017  
CHUCK IHLE  
WEST SALEM**

Ihle was the head coach at West Salem High School from 1985 to 2019. A long time power during the WIAA summer season, West Salem didn't miss a beat since joining the spring Coulee Conference and Spring baseball. His Panthers have won eight Conference Championships under his leadership. They have played eight times in the State Tournament, seven in the summer and the two past springs. He has been named WBCA Summer Coach of the Year twice. His involvement with several local baseball organizations has helped make West Salem a premier baseball city in Wisconsin. His career record finished at 540-314 after retiring following the 2019 season.



**2017  
BILL URBAN  
PITTSVILLE**

Urban had been the head coach at Gresham, Columbus, and Pittsville High Schools. In 25 years as a head coach, he has compiled a career record of 339-165. Urban has also coached college baseball, serving as an assistant coach at UW-River Falls. He is a three-time District Coach of the Year award winner. His teams have won three Conference Championships, and have reached State Tournament four times. In 1992 Columbus earned a Division II State Runner-Up award. Urban may be the only Wisconsin baseball coach in history to lead teams to State Tournament in three different divisions, Division II, III, and IV. Urban retired after the 2017 season.



**2016  
GARRY BAHE  
SUN PRAIRIE**

Bahe was the head coach at Sun Prairie High School for 14 years, after serving 16 seasons as an assistant coach. His record as a head coach was 161-115. During this time Sun Prairie won four conference titles, made eight Sectional appearances, and won two State Championships, 1994 and 1997. Bahe was the Big Eight Coach of the Year four times, and in 1994 he was named by the WBCA as the State Coach of the Year. During his reign, Sun Prairie became one of the top Division I high school teams in Wisconsin, a tradition that continues today. Bahe retired in 1999.



**2016  
CY BERG  
EAU CLAIRE MEMORIAL**

Berg is perhaps the most successful baseball coach in Wisconsin from the late 50's thru the early 60's. In 12 seasons at Eau Claire Memorial he posted a 153-32 mark. Eau Claire Memorial made six trips to State Tournament during that time, finishing as a State Runner-Up once, and winning four State Championships: 1957, 1958, 1961, and 1962. In four seasons as a Legion coach, his record was 56-12. He is a member of both the Eau Claire Memorial Hall of Fame and the Eau Claire Baseball Hall of Fame. Berg passed away in 2008 at the age of 84.



**2016  
TONY GERHARZ  
OSHKOSH WEST • WBCA**

Gerharz's contributions to baseball in Oshkosh and on behalf of the WBCA have been invaluable. Gerharz, the head coach at Oshkosh West High School for the past 28 years, has won 350 games. It's not just at West where he's influenced the game of baseball. He has been the president and general manager of the Oshkosh Giants that play in the Wisconsin State League for the past three decades. Commissioner of that league for over two decades, he is a member of the league's Hall of Fame. He's promoted Oshkosh baseball for over 30 years. For the past several years, he has been the Chairman of the All-Star Classic which he continues to serve after retiring from coaching after the 2024 season.



**2016  
ERNIE MILLARD  
HOMESTEAD**

Millard is one of the most successful coaches in Wisconsin baseball history. His record of 539-310 at Homestead High School place him 6th all-time of WIAA Summer Coaches as of 2019. In 23 years as head coach at Homestead, Millard won two conference championships, made six trips to State Tournament, earned State Runner-Ups in 2003 and 2014, and in 1994 earned a State Championship. Millard was named North Shore Conference Coach of the Year four times. He retired after the 2018 season.



**2016  
BOB ZWEIFEL  
JEFFERSON**

Zweifel was the head coach at Jefferson High School for 14 years, after serving as a JV assistant coach for 15 years. He has been coaching at some level since 1968. While Zweifel was head coach, Jefferson won six conference titles, and reached State Tournament three times. His record while a head coach was 170-102. Zweifel has also coached VFW and Junior Legion Baseball in Jefferson. His commitment and dedication to Jefferson High School baseball can be seen, as after his career as a head coach, he resumed his duties as an assistant coach, being named WBCA Assistant Coach of the Year in 2007.



**2015  
JOHN VODENLICH  
UW-WHITewater**

Vodenlich has put together an impressive resume that has put him into the WBCA Hall of Fame. An All-American player at UW-Whitewater, where he played from 1989-1992, Vodenlich finished with a .397 career batting average, good for third all-time in school history. Following his collegiate career, Vodenlich went on to play professionally in Europe, winning the Slovenian National Championship in 1994. Vodenlich joined Jim Miller's UW-Whitewater coaching staff as an assistant coach in 1994 and stayed on the staff until 1998, when he was named the head coach at Edgewood College. Vodenlich needed just two seasons to change a losing program to a winning one, when Edgewood enjoyed its first winning season in the program's history. Following the 1999 season, Vodenlich returned to UW-W and rejoined Miller's staff as an assistant coach. He was named Miller's successor in 2004. Since then Vodenlich has won the WIAC Coach of the Year six times, been named the Wisconsin College Coach of the Year four times, been named the NCAA Division III Coach of the Year three times, and led the Warhawks to two NCAA DIII titles.



**2015  
JOHN FELDNER  
McFARLAND • WBCA**

Feldner has been the head coach at McFarland High School for over 43 years, in which time his teams have accumulated over 394 wins. He has won Regional Championships in each of the last three decades, and was an inaugural winner of the WBCA Ethics in Coaching Award presented by the WBCA in 2016. He has served the WBCA as a district representative for many years and is a consistent worker at the All-Star Classic. Currently still active at McFarland.



**2014  
KIP NORDSTROM  
SPENCER • LODI**

Nordstrom is one of the few coaches in Wisconsin history to win State Championships with two teams, winning in 1994 at Spencer High School, and in 2013 at Lodi High School. He was a varsity head coach for 28 years, posting a 396-183 record. His teams won seven conference championships, nine Regional championships, and three Sectional championship and one State Silver. He retired from coaching at Lodi in 2015.



**2015  
BILL MILLER  
DENMARK**

The head coach of Denmark High School, Miller has led them to 429 wins and only 219 losses during his 28 years at the helm. He has been involved at all levels of baseball in the community, coaching Little League and being very involved in their youth board of directors. His teams have won seven Conference Titles, seven Regional Titles, and have two WIAA State appearances. He was a District Coach of the Year in 2005. He retired after the 2023 season. He led the Vikings to a DII State title in 2021 and was named the WBCA Coach of the Year.



**2014  
BRIAN GILLOGLY  
MARIAN UNIVERSITY**

Gillogly has enjoyed one of the most successful collegiate coaching careers in the country. In 22 seasons as head coach at both Marian College and Luther College, Gillogly's teams won 13 conference championships. He has been named Coach of the Year nine times. In his 12 years as head coach at Marian College, the Sabers won 11 conference championships. The Sabers had 11 seasons of 20 or more wins, including six straight seasons with 30 wins, never missing the post-season. Considered one of the top teachers of the game in the country, Gillogly had amassed over 550 victories during his tenures at Marian and Luther College. His honors include being named NAIA National Coach of the Year in 1995. Retired from coaching in 2014.



**2015  
MIKE SIMEONS  
BAY PORT**

After serving as the JV coach at Bayport, Simeons took over the varsity job in 1994. Success has followed as his teams have put together a record of 444-185. His teams won seven Conference Titles, 16 Regional Championships, and have appeared in ten WIAA State Tournaments. They won State Titles in 2009 and 2010 and finished runner-up in 2012. He was a State Coach of the Year in 2010. He has been active in the area Little League and Legion programs, helping bring about one of the strongest baseball areas in Wisconsin. He retired after the 2019 season.



**2014**  
**JEFF HOGAN**  
**MILWAUKEE HAMILTON**

Hogan coached baseball at Milwaukee Hamilton High School for 30 years, including 25 seasons as head coach. During that stretch he has accumulated a record of 359-201. The Wildcats won nine conference championships, and made 12 Sectional appearances. Hamilton played in two State Tournaments during his reign. Hogan has been named Conference Coach of the Year eight times, and has also been named District Coach of the Year once. He has been actively involved in the WBCA during his career and twice coached in the All-Star Classic. Retired from Hamilton in 2017.

Conference Coach of the Year eight times, and has also been named District Coach of the Year once. He has been actively involved in the WBCA during his career and twice coached in the All-Star Classic. Retired from Hamilton in 2017.



**2013**  
**JACK BROOKS**  
**ROSHOLT**

Brooks had been the head coach at Rosholt High School for the past 26 years and counting. He has accumulated a career record of 539-154, 7th all time. His teams won several conference championships, including the last four years in a row, and have gone to the State Tournament in 2008, 2010, and 2011. They were

State Runner-up in 2008. Coach Brooks passed away in 2023.

**2013**  
**STEVE LEISTICO**  
**WATERLOO**

Leistico continued the success that Art Westphal had started as head coach at Waterloo for 27 years. He finished his career with a record of 355-195. He was named WBCA Coach of the Year in 1999, after winning a DIII State Championship. He also led his team to State in 1985, 2003, and 2006, where they finished State Runner-Up. Leistico served as a

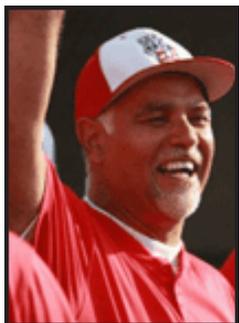
Conference Rep for 20 years. Retired as coach at Waterloo after the 2012 season.



**2013**  
**JOE LOIZZO**  
**BEAVER DAM LEGION**

Loizzo is best known for his work as Beaver Dam Legion coach, compiling a record of 591-185 (.761). His Legion teams won State Championships in 1982, 1984, and 2001. They were State Runners-up in 2004 and 2011. They won another title in 2013, his last year as coach for that team. Beaver Dam Legion had made a total of 14 State Tournament appearances. He took

over as head coach at Beaver Dam High School in 2012 from Hall of Fame coach Charlie McDonald. He coached Legion until 2013 and retired as Beaver Dam High School head coach in 2017. He surpassed the 200 win mark as a high school coach was in coaching 40 years in 2017, the year he retired.



**2013**  
**JERRY RAETHER**  
**CAMPBELLSPORT**

Raether successfully built and led the Campbellsport Cougars program for 21 years. He finished his career record with a 397-233. He guided his teams to the State Tournament in 1996, 1997, and 2000, finishing State Runner-up in 1997, which is impressive considering

that Campbellsport has an enrollment under 500. Raether, one of the classiest men in Wisconsin baseball, served as a Conference Rep for the Eastern Wisconsin Conference for the past 20 years. Raether retired from coaching in 2012.

**2013**  
**AUGIE SCHMIDT**  
**CARTHAGE COLLEGE**

Schmidt has compiled a 781-321 record in 25 years at Carthage College, a .708 career winning percentage. Under his tenure, Carthage has claimed eight outright CCIW divisional titles, one divisional-title tie, nine conference crowns, 16 NCAA regional berths, including nine

straight from 1992-2000, six regional titles, third-place finishes in both the 1993 and 1994 NCAA Division III Baseball Championships and fourth place in both 1995 and 1997. Schmidt retired from Carthage after nearly four decades leading that program. He retired after the 2025 season.



**2012**  
**JOHN GALEWSKI**  
**SOUTH MILWAUKEE**

For 24 years, Galewski has been the coach of the South Milwaukee Rockets. At the time of his induction, he had accumulated 449 wins. His accomplishments include one Conference Championship, nine Sectional appearances, and in 1996, a State Championship. Galewski has coached over 70 seasons, including football and basketball, as well as baseball. He has run many clinics around the Milwaukee area, has twice coached in the Jim Gantner Classic, and the WBCA All-Star Classic. Galweski is South Milwaukee baseball. He continues to be the head coach at South Milwaukee. He retired after the 2018 season.

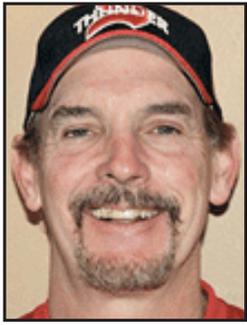


**2012**  
**TERRY PETRIE**  
**UW-STOUT**

When Petrie retired in 2000, he held the record for career wins in the WSUC, with 537 victories. He began coaching at UW-Stout in 1971. During that time, he was named the College Coach of the Year twice by the WBCA. He also earned two WSUC Coach of the Year awards, as well



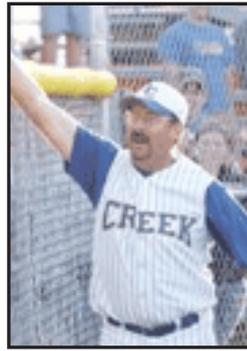
as being named by the NAIA as their Coach of the Year in 1989. He coached the Stout Blue Devils to seven Northern Championships, and two WSUC Championships. Fifteen of coach Petrie's players were named All-American, and four reached the professional ranks. He retired after the 2000 season.



**2012  
TOM WILSON  
SEYMOUR • WBCA**

Wilson, coaching the Seymour Thunder, was not only one of the top coaches in Wisconsin, but is also one of the most involved coaches in the WBCA. As a coach, Wilson's teams won six Conference Championships and made 11 Sectional appearances. During the 2011 campaign, Wilson earned his 300th career victory. He

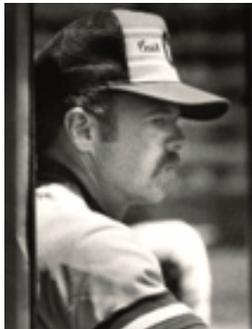
has coached Team Wisconsin in the Midwest Classic, twice coached in the Jim Gantner Classic, and in the WBCA All-Star Classic. Wilson served two years as WBCA President and has been the WBCA Treasurer since 2003. Wilson retired from Seymour in 2014 with 330 career victories in 31 years. He became an assistant coach at Saint Norbert in 2014 and continues to serve on the WBCA Executive Board as Treasurer.



**2011  
GEORGE SABOL  
JOHNSON CREEK**

For 37 seasons, Sabol was the head coach at Johnson Creek. He earned his 400th career victory in 2010, and retired in 2011 with 420 career victories. His Blue Jays won the State Championship in 2007. He ranks 24th in career coaching victories and won Coach of the Year Awards in both the Eastern Suburban Conference

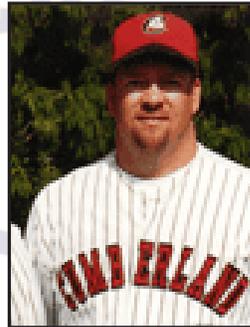
and the Trailways Conference. He had helped hundreds of players develop a love of the game, some of whom have become coaches themselves.



**2011  
TOM BRANDON  
RACINE CASE**

Over a 24 year coaching career at Racine Case High School, Brandon posted a 280-199 record. Under his leadership, the Eagles won six Conference titles, five Regional titles, and made one State appearance. In addition to coaching baseball, he also coached football, basketball, and track. For several years, he was an instructor at UW-River Falls Hitting Camp. He was also the coordinator

of the Racine Youth Baseball Clinic for 15 years, as well as coaching Legion Baseball in Racine.



**2011  
JOE WAITE  
CUMBERLAND • WBCA**

Waite is best known for his work with Baseball Wisconsin, which he continues to write and edit for 34 years and counting as well as the All Star Classic Program (35 years) and the website. He was named WBCA Assistant Coach of the Year in 2000 and WBCA Man of the Year in 1995. Every copy of Baseball Wisconsin was accepted into the MLB Hall of Fame library

in 2012. Now retired from teaching, Waite at times was coaching three sports yet still managed to complete the projects that he does for the WBCA. He was Mark Fuller's varsity assistant coach at Cumberland for 23 years, being part of eight Heart O'North Championships and two State appearances. The Beavers had only one losing season during that time. He was the head coach at Prairie Farm for four years before accepting the head coaching position at Cumberland in 2019. He led the Panthers to 49 wins and a conference championship and the Beavers to the Sectional Finals his first and last year there. He is currently serving the Barron baseball program as a volunteer assistant. He continues to serve as WBCA's Publications Director, in charge of baseballwisconsin.com, Baseball Wisconsin, the All-Star Classic Program, and coordinates State Rankings.



**2011  
BILL DETTMAN  
SAUK PRAIRIE**

Dettman spent 33 years coaching the Sauk Prairie Eagles, racking up over 330 wins. One of the classiest coaches around, Dettman had been a proud member of the WBCA for years and served as a conference representative for many seasons. Dettman retired in 2011.

**2011  
PETE DREXLER  
LOMIRA**

Drexler has been the head coach at Lomira since 1980. He had accumulated 302 wins at the time of his induction. His teams had won six Flyway Championships, made five Sectional appearances, and won a State Championship in 1991. His father-in-law, Harlan Quandt, was a charter member of the WBCA Hall of Fame. Drexler retired after the 2016 season.



**2010  
DICK IVERSON  
RIB LAKE**

Iverson, entering his 37th year in 2020 as the head coach at Rib Lake High School, has a 479-216 record. During that time, Rib Lake had never had a losing season. His teams have won seven Conference Championships and made one State Tournament appearance. He has coached at every level in

Rib Lake, tee-ball through Legion, a program that he started and is still running 20 years later. Four of his former players are head coaching at other schools in Wisconsin. Currently still active at Rib Lake.



**2010  
DAN HEINRITZ  
APPLETON EAST**

Heinritz had been the head coach at Appleton East for over 20 years. One of the most successful programs in Wisconsin, in one of the toughest conferences in Wisconsin, he logged over 300 career victories with the Patriots. His resume included a DI State Championship in 1996. He also served as the Appleton South Side Little League commissioner, coached in the All-Star Classic, and is a member of the UW-La Crosse Hall of Fame. He retired in 2010.



**2010  
DIP DADE  
TOMAH**

Dade has coached at various levels since the late 1950's. He coached at Tomah High School for nearly 40 years, then named the Indians, as both a head coach and assistant coach. He followed that with 10 seasons at Sevastopol. A veteran of the Korean War, and a member of the Milton College Hall of Fame, Dip also spent three seasons pitching in the Cubs organization. Coach Dade passed away in 2024 at the age of 96.



**2010  
JACK PAULIN  
LANCASTER**

Jack Paulin began his coaching career at Gays Mills High School, (now known as North Crawford). His was an era when baseball was not only played in the spring but in the fall as well. After four seasons, Paulin became Lancaster's head coach, leading them on an impressive run, including six Conference titles and three State Tournament appearances. All told, his teams won 12 Conference Championships and played in five State Tournaments, going 254-112 in the process. He died at age 95 in 2021.



**2010  
JOHN SCHMITZ  
MILWAUKEE JUNEAU**

Schmitz coached for 37 years, 19 of them at Milwaukee Juneau High School. Despite being a small school competing against other city schools with much higher enrollments, Schmitz's teams posted a 238-132 record during his career. Juneau won six City Titles and made five Sectional appearances. They made the State Tournament once, the only time in Juneau history. Six times Schmitz was named City Coach of the Year. He also served with the Milwaukee Brewers' youth camps for 13 years. Schmitz passed away in 2009.



**2009  
TOM LECHNIR  
UW-OSHKOSH**

Lechnir is the winningest baseball coach in WIAC history. In the 19 seasons leading up to his induction, he had a career record of 594-194. His winning percentage of .753 ranked third among active NCAA DIII coaches. Prior to being the head coach at UW-Oshkosh, he played for the Titans for four seasons and was an assistant coach for six seasons. The Mosinee native had a hand in 21 WIAC Championships, 17 trips to the NCAA Division III World Series, and two NCAA Division III National titles.



**2009  
ROBIN SCHRANK  
GREENDALE**

In 20 seasons as the head coach at Greendale, Schrank's teams posted a record of 375-226, averaging over 18 wins per season. Under his leadership, the Panthers won six Conference titles, made eight Sectionals, and made five trips to the State Tournament. In those five State Tournament appearances, Schrank's teams were silver medalists once and won State titles in 1980, 1987, and 1995. He also coached in the All-Star Classic and was a speaker at the WBCA State Clinic. 1995 was Greendale's last appearance at State.



**2009  
MARK SIMON  
DC EVEREST**

Following a brief career in the Twins organization, Simon began his teaching career at DC Everest High School in Schofield. He spent 19 years as the junior varsity coach before spending the next 19 years as the varsity head coach. In those 19 years, DC Everest compiled a mark of 268 wins and only 92 losses. They made three trips to State under Simon's guidance. In addition to coaching at both the junior varsity and varsity level, he spent many years coaching the Everest Adult semi-pro team and Legion team. He retired in 2004 and passed away in 2018.



**2009  
PETE SWANSON  
VIROQUA LEGION**

Swanson had posted a 161-128 record as the head coach at Viroqua at the time of his induction after serving many years as the junior varsity coach. His teams won three Coulee titles and two Regional titles during that time. However, he is best known for his work with the Viroqua Legion Program. Swanson got his 1000th victory in 2013, and played in 15 State Legion Tournaments. Viroqua won State Legion Class A Championships in 1991, 2004, and 2005. Sadly, Swanson passed away suddenly in the summer of 2024.



**2008  
TOM BENNETT  
MADISON MEMORIAL**

Bennett was head coach at Madison Memorial for 30 years. His teams posted 392 wins in the tough Big Eight Conference, which included five Conference Championships. Under Bennett's leadership, Memorial won State Championships in 1990 and 1992. He was named the Big Eight Coach of the Year five times and the WBCA Coach of the Year twice. Bennett was a team captain for the Wisconsin Badgers during his collegiate career. He retired in 2008.



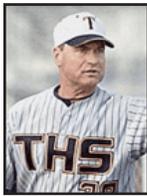
**2008  
JOE BRAUN  
NEENAH**

A graduate of Algoma High School, Braun played football and baseball at UW – River Falls. In 1934, he started the baseball program at Frederic High School, where he coached until 1941. In 1949, he started the baseball program at Neenah High School, where he coached until 1966. During that 17 year stretch, Neenah compiled a record of 115 – 88, including five FVA Conference titles, and a second-place finish in the 1966 State Tournament. Beloved by his former players, Braun passed away in 2014 at the age of 101.



**2008  
LYNN HELD  
WHITEWATER**

For 21 years, Held was the head coach at Whitewater. The Whippets posted a 308-132 mark during his reign. He won eight Conf. titles and 11 Regional titles. The high water mark during his career came when he led Whitewater to State Championships in 1993, 1995, and 1999. Very active in the WBCA, Held was a Conference Rep and the East representative to the All-Star Classic.



**2008  
RICK HOFEDITZ  
BELOIT TURNER**

Hofeditz was the head coach at the Beloit Turner High School for 20 years. During that time, the Trojans won 313 games while losing only 93. They won 10 Conference Championships, three Sectional Championships, and one State Championship. He was named Conference Coach of the Year eight times and was the WBCA Coach of the Year in 2001. He retired in 2008.



**2008  
RICHARD SYKES  
NICOLET**

A former All-State player, as well as a former player at UW-Parkside, Sykes had coached at Bay View and Nicolet High Schools for over 30 years, accumulating 563 career victories at his retirement in 2013. While at Nicolet, Sykes led the Knights to five Conference Championships and reached the State Tournament three times. Nicolet won the Summer State title in 1998. He is third all-time in career victories among summer coaches. He retired in 2013 from Nicolet but has coached at Saint Francis into 2020.



**2007  
GENE MAND  
MANITOWOC**

Mand coached baseball for 33 years, with 23 of them as head coach at Manitowoc Lincoln High School. His career record is 223-199, which includes five Conference championships, 11 appearances in Sectionals, and a trip to the State in 1992. Mand was a two-time coach in the All-Star Classic, and was honored twice as the Fox River Valley Conference Coach of the Year.



**2007  
PAT NEARY  
OCONOMOWOC**

Neary entered the 2007 season with over 300 wins under his belt. His coaching career began in 1970 as Oconomowoc's freshman coach. He has been Oconomowoc's head coach since 1984. In addition to nine Conference championships, Neary's teams have advanced to Sectionals 10 times, and reached the state level six times. Three times his teams placed second at state. Neary had also coached twice in the All-Star Classic. Neary retired in 2010 with 339 career victories.



**2007  
PAT REILLY  
DODGEVILLE**

Reilly has coached baseball at various levels in Dodgeville for 47 years. He has worked at the high school level for over 25 years, including nine as head coach, winning two Conference Championships. He was the WBCA Amateur Baseball Coach of the Year in 1996. In a community ceremony in 2002, the local baseball field was renamed Reilly Field. Currently still coaching at Dodgeville.



**2006  
JAY BUCKLEY  
LA CROSSE CENTRAL**

Buckley was an assistant coach at La Crosse Central for 29 years, winning 18 Conference Championships, and making 15 trips to State Tournament, winning two State Championships. He also coached the La Crosse Juniors for 22 years, winning a National Title in 1986. He was the director of the Stars of Tomorrow Tournament for 16 years. Since 1982 he has run Jay Buckley Baseball Tours, the biggest baseball tour group in the United States. He was named the WBCA's Man of the Year in 2020.



**2006  
MIKE DEE  
LA CROSSE AQUINAS • UIC**

Dee was the head coach at La Crosse Aquinas for seven years, posting a record of 100-26. They won five Conference Championships, appeared at State six times, and won three State Championships. In 1987 Dee was the WBCA Coach of the Year. For several years he was an assistant coach at the University of Minnesota, before becoming the head coach at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He has led UIC to five conference titles, and two NCAA berths. He continues to lead UIC. He has been named the Horizon League Coach of the Year ten times. He returned to Aquinas after his retirement at UIC. He led the Blugolds to State three times and won State Gold in 2024.



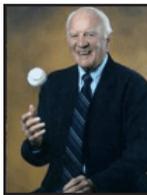
**2006**  
**ERNIE KROGMAN**  
**CAZENOVIA**

Krogman began his head coaching career at Cazenovia High School, which later consolidated to become Weston High School. He also coached at St. Francis High School. During his 12 years at Cazenovia/Weston, his teams earned eight Conference Championships, including seven undefeated Conference seasons. During that time his teams posted a 109-24 record. They made five Sectional appearances, and went to the State Tournament in 1957 and 1962, a great accomplishment for a small school at that time.



**2005**  
**TOM ARMSTRONG SR**  
**PARK FALLS**

Armstrong, Sr., was a head coach for 28 years, 27 of them at Park Falls High School. During that time he posted a 404-260 record. His teams won nine Conference Championships, and reached State four times, including a runner-up in 1987. He was named Conference Coach of the Year nine times. Park Falls renamed their baseball field after Thomas Armstrong, Sr., and his wife Ann. Armstrong died suddenly in 2000. His son, Tom, Jr., took over the program.



**2005**  
**GORDIE GILLESPIE**  
**RIPON COLLEGE**

Gillespie is the winningest baseball coach in NCAA history, entering the 2005 season with over 1,600 wins. In nine years at Ripon College his teams have made five NCAA Tournament appearances, and won five Midwest Conference Championships. Four times he has been named MWC Coach of the Year. He is considered one of the top baseball clinicians in the country. After 59 years and a college baseball-best 1,893 coaching victories, Gillespie finally called it quits in 2011, at the age of 85. He died in 2015 at the age of 88.



**2005**  
**MARK GOBLER**  
**AMERY**

Gobler coached baseball for 26 years, with 20 of them as a head coach. For 16 seasons he was the head coach at Amery High School. His career record is 341-170. His teams won seven Conference Championships, and went to Sectionals ten times. He also coached in State Tournament three times, Gobler also served as the head coach at Eau Claire Regis, and Moose Lake, Minnesota.



**2005**  
**LARRY VILLIARD**  
**BRUCE**

Villiard was the head coach at Weston High School for 16 years and he continued to coach at Bruce for another 21 years. His teams have posted 314-141 record, which includes 14 Conference Championships, eight Sectional appearances, and two trips to State Tournament, including a 2nd place finish in 1982. Villiard began his coaching career as a 17 year old Legion coach in Bruce. He retired at the end of 2015 with a record of 509-201.

**2004**

**DENNIS MURPHY**  
**BLACK HAWK**

Murphy was the head coach at Black Hawk High School for 36 years. During the summers, he also helped coach the Darlington baseball team, a job he held for 15 years. While at Black Hawk High School, Murphy had a record of 405 wins and 214 losses. He won 11 Conference Championships during that time. In 2000, he served as an All-Star coach for the WBCA All-Star Classic. Murphy is also a member of the Wisconsin State Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Black Hawk School's football field is named Dennis Murphy Field.

**2004**

**WHITEY STEINAGEL**  
**MOSINEE**

Steinagel served as Mosinee's head coach for 21 years. His team won four Conference Championships, and made one appearance at State Tournament. During his 21 years at Mosinee, his team compiled a 218-123 record. Steinagel was twice named District II Coach of the Year, and was also an All-Star Classic Coach in 1992. Steinagel was very active in the WBCA. He served for several years as a District Rep, and was also a member of the WIAA Coaches Advisory Committee. Steinagel has presented several coaching clinics to Little League organizations.

**2004**

**JIM STROMMEN**  
**PECATONICA**



Strommen's career record entering 2020 was 587-214 in 40 seasons. During that time, Pecatonica has won eight Conference Championships, and played in Sectionals four times. Strommen was the District V coach of the year in 1995, and coached in the WBCA All-Star game in 1990. In addition to coaching Pecatonica High School, Strommen has also coached Babe Ruth baseball for 16 years, and Little League for five years. Strommen was also a member of the MATC Hall of Fame where he played baseball in 1973-74. He is currently active at Pecatonica and became the third spring-season only coach to hit 600 career wins. Entering 2026, his career record stood at 676-242.

**2003**

**JIM MILLER**  
**UW-WHITWATER**



At the time of his induction, Miller had been coaching for over 30 years. He had been the head coach at UW-Whitewater for the past 16 years. The Warhawks had won 381 games during that stretch, a UW-Whitewater record. He had been named College Coach of the Year by the WBCA three times. His teams received six NCAA tournament bids. During the past 16 years, coach Miller and his staff had turned UW-Whitewater into one of the top 25 NCAA Division III baseball schools in the country. He retired in 2003 and passed away in 2016.

**2003  
DENNIS OVERBY  
CHETEK**

Overby had been involved with baseball his entire life. After high school he played several years of professional baseball in the Milwaukee Braves organizations. Upon the conclusion of his playing career, Overby became head coach at Chetek High School. He remained in that capacity for 32 years. For his career, Overby has compiled a 318-254 record, which includes two Conference titles, six Sectional appearances, and one trip to State Tournament. He retired in 2005 with 348 wins. He passed away in 2024.

**2003  
JERRY TOUBL  
WAUWATOSA EAST**



Toubl had been coaching baseball for 23 years, 22 of them as head coach of Wauwatosa East High School at the time of his induction. During his reign, Tosa East had won three Conference Titles and advanced to Sectionals six times. His teams made two State Tournament appearances and won the WIAA State Title in 1997, resulting in Toubl being named the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Coach of the Year. Toubl was a three time Conference Coach of the Year, and has accumulated a career record of 350-264. He retired in 2008 with 440 career victories.

**2002  
CY BUKER  
GREENWOOD**



Buker was a high school head coach for 23 years. He coached at Sturgeon Bay, Sevastopol, Greenwood, Whitehall, Shullsburg, Eau Claire, Loyal, and Rib Lake. During that span, Buker's teams posted a record of 260-85. His teams won 11 Conference Championships and nine Regional Championships. Prior to Buker's coaching career, he was an outstanding player. He was a minor league teammate of Jackie Robinson' and his career culminated in a stint with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Buker died in 2011 at the age of 92.

**2002  
TOM LAWRENCE  
STOUGHTON**

Lawrence was the head coach at Stoughton for 25 years. During that span his teams posted a 272-202 record. He coached Stoughton to six Conference titles, three Sectional appearances, and one trip to the State Tournament. Lawrence has also coached the Stoughton Legion Team to two State Championships and was in charge of state rankings for Division I teams.

**2002  
JOE O'NEILL  
WILMOT UNION**



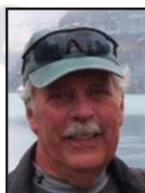
Wilmot High School had Joe O'Neill as their coach for 27 years, with 24 of them as head coach. Wilmot posted a 284-94 record during O'Neill's tenure. His teams won 13 Conference titles, made Sectional appearances 14 times, and played in the State Tournament four times. Wilmot's success resulted in O'Neill being named Southern Lakes Conference Coach of the Year numerous times as well as All-Area Coach of the Year several times.

**2002  
BRAD SAUVE  
SPRING VALLEY • WBCA**



Sauve had been actively involved with the WBCA for many years. He has served as a District Representative, a term as President, and resided over the All-State Committee. Sauve had been coaching baseball for 22 years at the time of his induction. For the past 21 years he had been the head coach at Spring Valley. Spring Valley had posted a 210-153 record during that time, winning two Conference Championships, and making Sectionals once. He remained active as a player, playing on one of Spring Valley's WBA teams. He had over 300 career victories while at Spring Valley. He retired in 2024.

**2001  
JEFF BEARDSLEY  
PALMYRA-EAGLE • WBCA**



Beardsley was the head coach at Palmyra-Eagle High School for 26 years. During that time his teams compiled a 248-211 record, with seven Conference titles, and appearing in Sectionals three times. He was named Conference Coach of the Year six times. Beardsley served the WBCA as District Representative and for the past 11 years he had been the Secretary of the WBCA.

**2001  
STEVE BLOCK  
PRESCOTT**



Block was the head coach at Prescott High School for 14 years, winning eight Conference titles, with 10 Sectional appearances, and three trips to the State Tournament, including winning a State Championship. His overall record at Prescott was 226-60 at the time of his 2001 induction. Block was named District Coach of the Year twice. He served as District Representative and was then named head coach at UW-River Falls. After UWRF dropped their program, Block rejoined the high school coaching ranks by taking the head coaching position at Ellsworth. Retired from Ellsworth in 2017 with a career 411-142.

**2001  
JOE VITCENDA  
ROYALL**



Vitcenda has been the head coach for Royall High School for 32 years at the time of his induction. His teams at Royall have compiled a 364-186 record during that period. Vitcenda's teams have won 12 Conference titles, and made three appearances in Sectionals, culminating in a State Championship in 1998. In addition to coaching high school, Joe Vitcenda has also spent over 20 years coaching Little League, Legion, and Senior League levels. Going into 2026, his career record is 685-396. 2026 will be his 58th season. He is the all time spring winningest coach with 685 victories and continues to add to that total.



**2000  
LEE HLAVKA  
KENOSHA TREMPER**

Hlavka had been coaching baseball for 31 years at the time of his induction. For 10 years he was the head coach at Kenosha St. Joseph's, and for the past 19 he has been the head coach at Kenosha Tremper. He has accumulated 376 wins during that span. Hlavka's teams have won 14 conference titles, reached Sectionals 10 times, and made State Tournament eight times. Hlavka was named Milwaukee Area Conference Coach of the Year in 1981 and 1984, coached in the first All Star Classic in 1984, and was District VII Coach of the Year in 1990. In 1993 Hlavka conducted three baseball clinics in Hungary. He had finished his career with 429 wins in 2003.



**2000  
RON KADING  
POTOSI • WBCA**

Kading had been the head coach at Potosi High School for the past 22 years at the time of his induction. Prior to that he served four years at Oshkosh North as a freshman coach, and three years as the head coach of the Oshkosh Legion team. While at Potosi, his teams have won 295 games, won 13 Conference titles, reached Sectionals 9 times, and played in the State tournament twice, winning the State Championship in 1993. Kading has served the WBCA as a District Rep, served a term as President, and is currently in charge of the WBCA awards. In 1988 he was a coach in the All Star Classic. In 1993 Kading was named Wisconsin's Coach of the Year. He retired from Potosi following the 2018 season with a record of 562-304. He continues to serve on the WBCA Executive Board and is in charge of being the All-State Chair, the Hall of Fame Program, and the South All-Star Classic Team, and is the Association's Historian.



**1999  
JOHN BALL  
NEW RICHMOND • WBCA**

Ball had been the head baseball coach at New Richmond High School for 21 years at the time of his induction. His teams compiled 334 wins with six State appearances, 12 Sectional appearances, and 10 conference titles. Ball was the District I Coach of the Year twice and coached in the first All-Star Classic in 1984. He was also the athletic director at New Richmond High School. He finished his career at New Richmond with 532 wins during mostly summer season coaching, putting him fourth all-time on that list. He served a two-year term as WBCA President. He received the Ethics in Coaching Award in 2015. He retired at the end of the 2016 season.



**1999  
JACK FRIESS  
CEDARBURG • WBCA**

Friess had coached baseball for 22 years at the time of his induction, the last 20 as head coach at Cedarburg High School. His teams have won 316 games, appeared in 6 state tournaments and were State runners-up in 1997 and 1998. He took nine teams to the sectionals and had three Conference titles. Friess was the 1998 District VI Coach of the Year, was a WBCA clinic speaker in 1990, and coached in the 1992 WBCA All-Star Classic. He was the first WBCA Ethics in Coaching Award winner in 2014. He retired from Cedarburg in 2021 with a career record of 600-530, putting him 3rd all-time for career victories by a summer season coach.

**1998  
TED EVANS  
MINERAL POINT**

Evans had been the head baseball coach at Mineral Point High School for 23 years from 1972-1995. His teams compiled 250 wins with two Conference titles, five Sectional appearances, and one State appearance in 1974. Evans was a coach in the 1987 All-Star Classic played in Milwaukee County Stadium.

**1998  
JIM GLENN  
STRATFORD**

Glenn was the head baseball coach at Stratford High School for 25 years. His record is 261-128 with one State appearance, three Sectional appearances and seven Conference titles. He was a District II Representative for seven years, a District II Coach of the Year and has coached in Plymouth, Indiana.

**1998  
RALPH SOBOTA  
ALMA CENTER**

Sobota had coached for 37 years, 28 of them as head baseball coach of Alma Center Lincoln High School. His teams compiled a 312-180 record with three state appearances, seven Sectional appearances and 10 Conference championships. He was instrumental in starting Little League baseball at Alma Center, umpired baseball for 10 years and played professional baseball for one year at Omaha in the St. Louis Cardinals farm system.



**1998  
DON WILLIAMS  
HORTONVILLE**

Williams coached for 23 years, 18 of them as head baseball coach at Hortonville High School at the time of his induction. His record of 288-65 with seven State appearances including State runner-up in 1980 and Champions 1987 and 1997, nine Sectional appearances and 12 Conference championships. He was an All-Star Classic coach in 1989, District IV Coach of the Year in 1987 and was the 1997 WBCA State Coach of the Year. Going into 2014, his final year, Williams had 563 victories, putting him 1st all-time among spring coaches at that time.

**1997  
KEN ANDERSON  
NEW HOLSTEIN**

Anderson had been a head baseball coach for 29 years, 28 of them at New Holstein at the time of his induction. He has compiled a 408-251 record with nine State appearances, 12 sectional appearances and 10 Conference titles. He helped coach the 1994 North All-Star squad in the WBCA All-Star Classic and helped develop and design their current baseball diamond.



**1997**  
**EARL LOCHNER**  
**MIDDLETON**

Lochner had been head baseball coach at Middleton High School for 22 years at the time of his induction. His record is 251-125 with one State appearance, nine Sectional appearances and 10 Conference titles. In 1989 he was the District V Coach of the Year and he had coached in the WBCA All-Star Classic. Three players he coached went on to coach high school baseball.



**1997**  
**LEON PIDDINGTON**  
**SUN PRAIRIE**

Piddington had been coaching for 32 years, 27 of those years as head baseball coach. He spent 30 years coaching in Sun Prairie and accumulated over 300 victories during that span. His teams made State appearances in 1966, 1974 and 1981. His 1974 team was State champs and Piddington was then named 1974 State Coach of the Year for his efforts. He was twice Big Eight Coach of the Year and received the UW-Platteville Distinguished Alumnus plaque. Piddington was a WBCA member for 25 years.

**1996**  
**DON GREEN**  
**RANDOM LAKE**

Green had coached 28 years at Random Lake at the time of his induction. He also served as Athletic Director, had coached football, and has also officiated basketball for 26 years. In 1970, Green and his players built their own high school baseball field. He finished his career with a record of 506-279 in 35 years. He was District IV Coach of the Year in 1993 and coached in the All-Star Classic in 1994.



**1996**  
**ED KRCMAR**  
**ASHWAUBENON • WBCA**

Although Krcmar had been coaching football for the past 30 years, he had also been busy coaching baseball for 23 years, the last 18 seasons as Ashwaubenon's head coach. His teams had won 222 games, seven Conference titles, and had eight Sectional appearances. In 1985 he helped coach the North All-Stars. Krcmar had been a WBCA member for 23 years, serving as District Rep, Secretary, Vice President, Assistant Clinic Director, Awards Chairman, and Clinic Coordinator. He had coached numerous teams in the Ashwaubenon Little League, as well as JV and varsity Legion.



**1996**  
**FRED YAGODINSKI**  
**LUXEMBURG-CASCO**

In his 29 years of coaching at Luxemburg-Casco, Yagodinski had helped develop their baseball program from the ground up. He helped set up Little League, Babe Ruth, and Legion baseball at L-C and Kewaunee County. During that time, his Spartan teams have won 278 games and seven conference titles, and they have appeared in five Sectionals and one State Tournament. He coached in the WBCA All-Star Classic and has had three of his players sign professional contracts. He retired in 2011 after 38 years, with a career record of 348-222. He coached as many as three or four teams a summer. He died in 2018 at the age of 77. The baseball field in Luxemburg was named after him in 2016.



**1995**  
**JOHN CIBRARIO**  
**KENOSHA BRADFORD**

In 31 years of coaching, Cibrario had distinguished himself among his peers for his dedication to the game. During this span, his Bradford teams had won 309 games and won eight titles in the old South Shore and Big Nine Conference while advancing to the Sectional level on six occasions. Twice he was honored by his colleagues as Conference Coach of the Year. Besides coaching at the high school level, Cibrario had also directed the Kenosha team in the Land 'o Lakes for ten years and been associated with Little League and Pony League on the local level. He had been actively involved in the WBCA as District VI Representative since 1985 and has been selected to coach in the All-Star Classic.



**1995**  
**MARK FULLER**  
**CUMBERLAND • WBCA**

Fuller retired from Cumberland High School as one of the most successful coaches in the State, with a record of 482-244, good for 9th all-time at the time. He won 10 Conference Championships and made four State appearances during his 34 year tenure. He is perhaps even better known for his role with the WBCA. For the past 40+ years, he has put together the Annual WBCA State Clinic, was a founding member and continues to work with the WBCA All-Star Classic, worked with State Rankings and helped found Baseball Wisconsin along with his long time assistant coach Joe Waite. His contributions to Wisconsin Baseball are immeasurable and he is called The Godfather of Wisconsin Baseball for good reason. He continues to procure the speakers for the WBCA State Clinic and chair the West Team for the All-Star Classic. He has served the WBCA, and promoted the organization nationally, for almost four decades. He was the 2nd Wisconsin High School coach to be inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He retired as Cumberland's all time winningest coach in 2013 but continues to volunteer with UW-Whitewater even though it is 5-1/2 drive from his home north of Cumberland to Whitewater.



**1995**  
**BOB SUTER**  
**JANESVILLE CRAIG**

Since 1965, Suter had been coaching Babe Ruth, Legion and High School ball in Janesville. His Craig teams had compiled a 323-139 record over that span, winning nine Conference crowns and traveling to the State Tournament eight times where they captured back-to-back titles in 1983 and 1984. He had been selected Coach of the Year eight times in his league and won the WBCA honor in 1984. For the past quarter-century, Suter had also coached football and basketball. His baseball teams have never finished lower than 4th place in their league. In 1968, he coached the Post 205 team to the State Championship and advanced to the Missouri regional before losing. He retired in 2004 with a career record of 468-215 during a 37 year span.



**1995**  
**GREG WENDORF**  
**STEVENS POINT PACELLI**

Before becoming the Athletic Director at Ashwaubenon High School in Green Bay, Wendorf led his Pacelli teams to a 205-114 record in his eighteen years of coaching at the High School. His charges won six Central Wisconsin Catholic Conference titles in that span advancing to the WISAA tournament ten times, winning it all in 1974. He was selected Conference Coach of the Year five times and was chosen coach in the first WBCA All-Star Classic in 1983. After four years of high school baseball, Wendorf played at UW- Stevens Point where he was named MVP before being drafted and playing two years in the Twins organization. During his tenure at Pacelli, he was also actively involved with the operations of the WISAA tournament held each year in Point. From 1979-1987 he assisted in the running of the affair and served in the leadership role from 1988 until moving to Ashwaubenon.



**1994**  
**JIM HUGHES**  
**FRANKLIN**

Hughes began his coaching career at Milwaukee Washington High School where he also began his baseball coaching career twenty-two years ago at the time of his induction. In fact, he is one of the few coaches in Wisconsin who coached a spring league and a summer team during the same season, splitting duties between Washington and Franklin in the late 80's. Hughes coached in the Classic in 1989 and has been very active as a member of the Board of the Franklin Little League. Formerly a basketball assistant at Washington, he played his prep ball at Milwaukee West. He retired at Franklin after the 2019 season. He owns Wisconsin's record in most coaching victories with a record of 938-448 during his 48 years.



**1994**  
**DOC KOEHLER**  
**REEDSBURG**

After two years at Mellen High School, Koehler moved to Reedsburg, where he spent the past twenty-eight years. During this span his teams have won almost three hundred games and six Conference Championships and advanced to the WIAA Sectionals thirteen times. Koehler's charges had also been to State once. In 1987, he was given the honor of coaching the South team in the annual All-Star Classic. He has also served as a District Rep and as a volunteer at the Classic. He has been very helpful with the Little League programs in his area, running clinics and donating time for tournaments. Koehler had been also named as past recipient of District Coach of the Year award. Koehler died in 2006 at the age of 64.



**1994**  
**GARY PERKINS**  
**WEST BEND EAST**

A former secretary of the WBCA, from 1976-78, Perkins had become one of the winningest coaches in Wisconsin prep annals, compiling a 411-153 in his 23 years as the head coach at East. During this span, his team had won six Conference titles, advanced to the WIAA Sectionals twelve times, and appeared in the State Summer Tournament seven times. His involvement in baseball spans over forty years, since 1952, when

he marched in a parade to welcome the Milwaukee Braves to town. As a player, he lettered for four years at Milwaukee Rufus King High School, was chosen to play in the Milwaukee Sentinel Sliver Sluggers All-Star game, and captained the UW-Milwaukee squad in 1965. At his final game as a coach last summer in Stevens Point, after his team won the State Championship, he literally took off his spikes for good and laid them on home plate.

**1994**  
**JOE ZOLECKI**  
**SAINT THOMAS MORE**

In 34 years of coaching, twenty of those in baseball, Zolecki has become a familiar figure in the Milwaukee Area and has distinguished himself among his colleagues. He had been a member of the WBCA since its formative years, he began the baseball program at Thomas More when the school, a merging of two small all-boys schools, Pio Nono and Don Bosco, was opened in the 70's. Originally the head football coach at Pio Nono and a collegiate star himself, Zolecki was left without a gridiron job after the merger and snatched the opportunity to build a baseball team from scratch. His teams reached the WISAA tourney thirteen times since, finishing as runners up in 1980, 1990, and 1993 and winning it all in 1991. His teams have also won six Metro Conference Crowns while amassing 270 wins. In the summer of 1983, Zolecki joined his friend Jim Hughes and took over another struggling program, this one South Milwaukee High School, taking a team that had not won a title in 17 years and building a highly respected program that eventually won a crown in 1987.

**1993**  
**EARL GENGLER**  
**BROWN DEER • WBCA**

An original officer of the WBCA, Gengler began his career as an assistant coach to fellow Hall of Famer Murray Denmark of Milwaukee Custer before moving to Brown Deer in 1969. As a player, Gengler was a four-year starter, letterwinner, and co-captain at UWM where he was enshrined into the UWM Hall of Fame in 1980. At Brown Deer, his squads have won 349 games, including two WIAA State Titles in 1975 and 1977, and runners-up in 1982. He coached the East Squad in the first All-Star Classic in 1984 and also assisted with Wisconsin's National AAU Championship team in 1988.

**1993**  
**RUSS LUND**  
**GALE-ETRICK-TREMPEALEAU**

Counting football, basketball, track, softball and baseball, when Lund finally hung up his well-worn spikes, he had spent an incredible 72 seasons as a head coach and 24 seasons as an assistant. Lund, who had also been inducted into both the Football and Basketball Coaches Hall of Fames, began his career at Tomah where he spent two years coaching baseball. After a short stint there, he moved to Markesan, where he coached baseball for six years and started their track program. He completed his career at Gale-Etrick-Trempealeau, where he coached another 22 years, 18 in baseball. His teams compiled a 343-108 record during his 25 year coaching career. His teams won 13 Conference titles and made seven trips to the State Tournament. They finished runner-up in 1984.

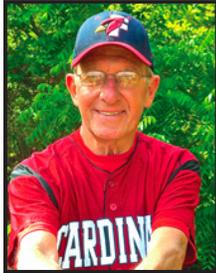


**1993**  
**TOM NYGAARD**  
**XAVIER • WBCA**

In 15 years at Xavier, Nygaard distinguished himself as one of the hardest working coaches in the state. As a coach, he led his teams to the WISSA Tourney 11 times, twice capturing State titles. Nygaard was also very active with the WBCA. Chosen as Man of the Year in 1996 for his work in starting the All-

Star Classic, he also served as President of the WBCA and later on as Treasurer. He authored two articles for Scholastic Coach and three times has been published in the ABCA Coaching Digest.

**1993**  
**MARTY PAULSEN**  
**FOND du LAC • WBCA**



Paulsen had been the head coach at Fond du Lac for 24 seasons at the time of his induction. His teams had made four WIAA Tournament appearances up to that point and won nine Regional titles. His Cardinals won the FVA seven times in the first 12 years in the Conference. Paulsen has been active in the WBCA and currently serves as facilities director.

He at times had chaired the All-State Selection Committee. He, along with his good friend Mark Fuller, have traveled across the United States and Canada presenting at baseball clinics. He retired from Fond du Lac after a 55-year head coaching career, finishing with a career record of \_\_\_+\_\_\_. He continues to serve the WBCA's Executive Board as Secretary.

**1993**  
**LARRY SOMMERVILLE**  
**HAYWARD**

Sommerville began his 31st year at the controls of the Hurricanes the season of his induction. Over the last three decades, his teams have won 325 games while losing only 169 and capturing nine Heart O'North conference championships. In 1968, Sommerville guided his school to its only WIAA State Tournament appearance. Also the school's basketball coach, he was chosen in the 1991 All-Star Classic in Appleton. He retired in 2000 with a career record of 384-230 that spanned a 38 year career.



**1992**  
**RAY SEIBEL**  
**WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN**

Seibel was the Vikings' head baseball coach for 42 years, starting in the late 1950s to his retirement in 1996. He amassed more than 400 career victories, though the exact number is unknown. His teams won 12 conference championships

and appeared in the WISSA State Tournament seven times, finishing runner-up in 1983 and 1989.

**1992**  
**DAN MADDEN**  
**JANESVILLE PARKER**

Madden was the head coach at Janesville Parker from 1970-1979. During that time, his Vikings went to State three times and won it all in 1977.

**1992**  
**CHARLIE McDONALD**  
**BEAVER DAM**



McDonald led the Golden Beavers for 36 years, 1967-2002, and had an overall record of 451-199. His teams won 17 Wisconsin Little Ten Championships, 23 Regional titles, and six Sectional titles. He was also named to the Wisconsin Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

**1992**  
**GEORGE ROMAN**  
**STEVENS POINT**



During his time at SPASH as head baseball coach, Roman had amassed a 420-110 record with several conference and tournament championships, including the state baseball title in 1979, 1987, and 1989, as well as state runner-up in 1984. Overall career-wise, his teams won 60 championships: 17 Conference, 29 regional, 11 sectional, and the above mentioned SPASH State baseball championships. His teams made eleven trips to the Wisconsin State Baseball Tournament. He served as a West All-Star Summer Classic baseball coach in 1988 and again in 2003. Roman was a five-time nominee for Wisconsin Coach of the Year, named District II Coach of the Year in 1987, 1988, 1989 and was named Wisconsin State High School Coach of the Year in 1989. He was also involved with Legion and Stevens Point Youth Baseball (SPYBA) teams. Roman is considered the dean of Wisconsin baseball coaches with 526 wins and 180 losses; which until the spring of 2013, was the highest number of career wins for spring baseball in the state of Wisconsin. Roman died in 2014.

**1992**  
**TOM KONOWALSKI**  
**MILWAUKEE TECH-WBCA**



Tom Konowalski has been described as one of Milwaukee's greatest football and baseball coaches. He was stubborn, tough, and passionate about coaching. 'Kono' was one of the founding members of the WBCA All-Star Classic and a past president of the WBCA. He was tough on kids but he cared about them and they knew it. He led Tech to the 1985 Division I State Championship. He coached from 1977 to 2008 and had a career record of 454-152. His teams were also state runners-up in 1982 and 1983. Tech went to State 13 times under Konowalski, including a run of nine in a row. He, along with others, started a Saturday league for local prep players in the mid 1980's. Konowalski was a graduate of Milwaukee Tech and played football at UW-Whitewater. Konowalski passed away in December of 2017 at the age of 68.

**1991**  
**TOM GRAFENAUER**  
**WHITNALL-WBCA**

Grafenauer was an outstanding player at Milwaukee Don Bosco High School (now Thomas More) and UW-La Crosse. He was an extremely successful coach at St. Francis High School and Whitnall High School. Unsure of his career record, it would probably rank in the top five all time. His teams, before they joined the WIAA tournament, usually played 50 + games per year and won most of them.

Most importantly, he was one of the founding fathers of the WHSBCA along with Jim Martin, Tom Meyer, and Tex Belich. He was the first clinic director of our organization, conducting the clinic from 1970 until 1975. He passed away in December of 2017, shortly before fellow Hall of Famer Tom Konowalski.

**1991**  
**LARRY MCGINLEY**  
**PLATTEVILLE**

Larry McGinley was a long time middle school teacher and head baseball coach at Platteville High School. He played outfield and firstbase for the *Kickapoo Kids*, a team honored by the WBCA who inspired a book highlighting a team from a school of 150 students who were beating teams with enrollments over 1000 on their way to the State Tournament when it was one division.

**1991**  
**TIM O'DRISCOLL**  
**ARROWHEAD • WBCA**



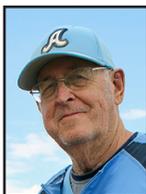
O'Driscoll is 2nd among summer coaches in career victories with a record of 742-334 in a career that spanned from 1979 to 2009. O'Driscoll continues to be the official scorer for the Milwaukee Brewers. He chaired the East Team for the All-Star Classic for several years as well and was on the WBCA's Executive Board. He retired in 2011.

**1990**  
**GEORGE HUSBY**  
**STURGEON BAY LEGION**



One of the American Legion baseball's most influential men, Husby was involved with the Sturgeon Bay Legion from 1966-2014. He was head coach from 1967-1970, again from 1981-2014, leading his team to 710 wins during his 38 years as head coach. Involved at all levels of youth baseball in Sturgeon Bay, Husby started and coached a Babe Ruth team there in addition to coaching Little League for three years. The opportunities he provided for Sturgeon Bay youth in baseball were endless.

**1990**  
**DON HAWKINS**  
**APPLETON LEGION**



Hawkins coached his first little league team at the age of 16 to a La Crosse City Championship. He took on the Appleton Legion Team in 1965, taking the head job in 1968 where he compiled a record of 526-253 over 30 years. He was instrumental in forming the Legion All-Star Game which has been

played in either County Stadium or Miller Park since 1972. He not only led his team to a State Legion Championship in 1979, it was the first year Appleton Legion played on Don Hawkins Field, which it was renamed in 2000. He ran the Magic Mix company which built and repaired many fields throughout the Midwest. Still coaching into the year 2020, he has logged over 700 wins in over 55 years of coaching baseball for Appleton Youth Baseball.



**1990**  
**FRANK THORNTON**  
**LA CROSSE CENTRAL**

For thirty years Thornton skippered the La-Crosse Central Red Raiders where he compiled a record of 459-131-1 which included seventeen trips to the State tournament, two State Championships in 1978 and 1986 and finishing runner up six times. Twice named WBCA Coach of the Year, 81 of his former players went on to play collegiate baseball.

**1990**  
**JOE THOMPSON**  
**WEST ALLIS**

**1989**  
**ARLYN COLBY**  
**BARRON**



Although his exact coaching record is not available, as original game book pages were given to his graduating players every year as part of the scrap books he put together, his two stints spanning over 20 years as the head coach of the Barron Golden Bears were very successful, which included leading the Bears to a State Championship in 1979. His current passion is writing books about early Barron County railroads and depots.

**1989**  
**BILL GRAF**  
**BROOKFIELD CENTRAL • WBCA**



Past President of the WBCA from 1975-77, Graf was a coaches' coach. Beginning in 1966 and concluding in 2000, he coached baseball, football, boys basketball and girls softball and took his baseball teams to three State tournaments. His baseball team won it all in 1976. Graf also took the Brookfield Central boys basketball and girls softball teams to State tournaments. He is also a member of the Brookfield Central Hall of Fame and the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame.

**1988**  
**DALE McREYNOLDS**  
**SCOUT - WALWORTH**

McReynolds was a true baseball man. He wrote *The Baseball Scout's Notebook* which former Twins GM Terry Ryan, among many others, used as a foundation for work in scouting. His long career included work with the Royals, Reds, and Dodgers. He passed away in 1988 in his hometown of Walworth.



**1988**

**TOM MEYER**

**UW-MADISON • RIVERSIDE HS • WBCA**

Meyer was the head coach at the University of Wisconsin from 1971-1983 compiling a record of 279-276-2 in his 12 seasons. While at the helm for UW, Meyer helped develop five players who went on to Major League Baseball careers. Meyer also coached at Northern Illinois University for a career record of 379-351. He was head coach at Riverside University High School in Milwaukee until 2017 and continues to assist there. He is one of the WBCA's Founding Fathers.



**1987**

**TED BAUMGARTEN  
SAUK PRAIRIE**

A Baraboo native, Baumgarten coached 20 seasons at Prairie du Sac (1956 - 1963) and Sauk Prairie (1964 - 1975) after Prairie du Sac and Sauk City consolidated. During that time, he was a part-time scout for the Baltimore Orioles. He had also served on the WIAA Board of Control. He was Superintendent of the Eleva-Strum school district before his retirement at the end of the 1985-1986 school year. Baumgarten played baseball for four years at the University of Wisconsin. In 1952, he finished 11th in the Big Ten with an average of .356. His teams won eight Conference Championships, made four State appearances when there was only a single WIAA Division, and a career record of 202-77.



**1987**

**TOM O'CONNELL  
MILWAUKEE PULASKI -  
CATHOLIC CENTRAL -  
WBCA**

Going into the 2014 season, O'Connell got his 500th victory, just the 7th spring coach in history to get 500 or more career victories. His record stands at 503-388 for a career that started in 1974. O'Connell, one of just 24 high school coaches to be inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame, is a former WBCA and ABCA President. He has traveled the world promoting baseball and is considered one of Wisconsin's greatest baseball ambassadors. His Burlington Catholic Central teams won DIV State titles in 2004, 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2011. Currently active as co-head coach at Saint Francis with fellow Hall of Famer Richard Sykes.

**1987**

**JACK TORRESANI  
WAUSAU EAST**

Torresani was the baseball coach at Wausau High School, later Wausau East, from 1959-90 and led Wausau to five WIAA state tournament appearances. He also coached the alpine ski team from 1972-91 and led program to state championships in 1976 and '78. He coached the boys basketball team from 1961-64.

**1986**

**JAMES MASON  
VIROQUA**

After an illustrious career as a high school athlete in La Crosse where he was picked as MVP in the 1951 Legion State Tournament and was named Athlete of the Year at Central High School in 1952, Mason attended UW-La Crosse where he won eight var-

city letters in football and baseball. After college, he began teaching and coaching in Viroqua, where he compiled a 223-136 record in 30 years at the time of his induction. His teams won six Coulee Championships and were State Runners-Up twice. In 1957 as coach of the La Crosse Legion team, he led his players to a 2nd place finish in the State Finals. He coached in the WHSBCA All-Star series in 1975. He also served as Commissioner of the Southwest Athletic League and as an associate scout for the Royals. Mason died in 2011 at the age of 77.



**1986**

**BILL TERRY  
UW-LA CROSSE**

Terry began his coaching career at Maxwell, Iowa before moving to Westby High School where he spent eight years. In 1968, he became the head coach at UW-La Crosse. During the next eleven seasons, his teams compiled a 113-39 record in WSUC games and were 199-146 overall. In 1979, his final season as coach, Terry guided the Indians to a fifth place finish in the NAIA World Series after winning the WSUC with a 12-1 mark. In all, his teams won seven WSUC titles. Terry was also known as a top clinician, appearing several times at WHSBCA clinics. He led a spirited effort that successfully saved UW-La Crosse baseball in 2010 and was named the La Crosse Tribune Sportsman of the Year that same year. He passed away in 2021.

**1985**

**KEN KIRBY  
UMPIRE - DARLINGTON**

At one time, one of the most recognizable figures on the baseball scene in Wisconsin, Kirby was often quoted as saying, "When you're an umpire you only have to know seven words: ball, strike, fair, foul, safe, out, and time. That's it." If only it were that easy to sum up his contributions to the game in Wisconsin. He had done it all. He umpired and officiated high school and collegiate games in football, basketball, and baseball; he umpired in the minor leagues and even had a brief stint in the Big Leagues. It is estimated that Kirby had officiated or umpired in over 13,000 games at all levels during his half-century of involvement. He had worked in the WIAC and the Big Ten, numerous WIAA and WIS-SA State Championships, and even State Semi-Pro games. He is the only umpire ever enshrined into the WBCA Hall of Fame and was honored by having the State Umpire Year of the Year Award renamed the Ken Kirby Umpire of the Year Award after his death.

**1985**

**RED OBERBRUNER  
UW-PARKSIDE**

UW-Parkside's baseball facility is known as Oberbruner Field, named after the late Ken "Red" Oberbruner, who coached the Rangers from 1970-1991. Oberbruner posted a 244-196 record at UW-Parkside to go with his 657-323 lifetime record. Prior to his time as a Ranger, Oberbruner coached for some 23 years at the former Milton College, in Milton, Wisconsin. From 1959-1980,

he served as a scout for the Pittsburgh Pirates, signing 24 players to major league contracts. As an athlete, Oberbruner played in both the NBA (Fort Wayne Pistons) and in professional baseball (St. Louis Browns). He graduated from Notre Dame in 1940, where he excelled in both basketball and baseball. Oberbruner, who resided in Burlington, Wisconsin, passed away in September of 1991. On February 23, 1997, Oberbruner was inducted into the UW-Parkside Athletic Hall of Fame. His jersey "No. 1" was subsequently retired and is commemorated with a sign on the outfield wall of the facility which bears his name. UW-Parkside, parksiderangers.com

**1985  
JIM PRICE  
WAUNAKEE**

Over his 36-year teaching career, Price devoted 35 years as a high school head coach in three different sports: baseball, basketball and football. However, his true calling came as a baseball coach. In his 25 years as head baseball coach at Waunakee (21 years), Brillion, Elroy and Blanchardville high schools, Price amassed a total of 237 wins, against only 94 losses, and a winning percentage of .716. Along the way his teams won 12 Conference championships and made four State tournament appearances. Price also spent eight years as a basketball coach, including three in Waunakee, and two years as a football coach.

**1985  
OTTO RUF  
DARLINGTON**

**1984  
FRANK BENEVIDES  
GREENFIELD**

Benevides started coaching in Greenfield in 1961, leading the Hustling Hawks to Summer State in 1965, 1979, 1983 and 1984. His team won the State Championship in 1983.

**1984  
HUBERT DIEKVOSS  
CAMPBELLSPORT**

**1984  
FRED PETERSON  
OCONTO FALLS**

Fred Peterson spent 25 years as the Oconto Falls High School head baseball coach, from 1967 – 1991. With a record of 232-152 (.642), his teams won eight conference titles and appeared in four State Championship tournaments, winning two of them: 1973, prior to the Class divisions and 1978 as the first Class B winner. His team also finished second in 1997. His team still holds the record for the longest game played at the State Tournament – a 16 inning win against Eau Claire Memorial in the 1973 semi-final game. He was selected the WBCA Coach of the Year in 1979.



**1983  
JIM BROWN  
WAUSAU WEST**

Throughout his life, Price had an incredible passion and love for sports with a special fondness for baseball and hockey. There wasn't a moment where Jim wasn't involved with baseball. As a player, he began in the All-star Babe Ruth and Little Bigger League and continued to play in high school, three years Legion, and two years in the US Air Force. Jim found great success as a baseball coach. He was the first baseball coach at Wausau West High School and also coached for the Wausau American Legion, Wausau Babe Ruth and Wausau Little League, and was on the Board of Directors of the Wausau Little League. Jim served as the director of WIAA state high school tournaments from 1973 to 1997 and brought the WIAA state high school tournament to Wausau in 1974. Jim also served as the General Manager of the Wausau Mets in the Midwest League, and was a scout for several Major League teams. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Old Time Ball Players Association Hall of Fame.



**1983  
RICHARD HRLEVICH  
MILWAUKEE HAMILTON-WBCA**

Richard Hrlevich was Milwaukee Hamilton's first varsity baseball coach from 1967 through 1990. During Hrlevich's 24 years of coaching, he had 356 wins, 143 losses, nine ties with a .713 winning percentage. Hamilton teams won nine conference titles (three of them in the Big Nine Conference with the Racine and Kenosha schools) five division titles, six second-place finishes, and one State appearance. He was the head coach of the East team All-Star Classic in 1985. He served as WHSBCA Secretary for one term. He played baseball, football, basketball and ran track at West Allis Nathan Hale, graduating in 1953. He also played American Legion ball and was on the Milwaukee Classic League for the Highway Beer Depot. He was a three-year letterman at the University Wisconsin - Madison, earning an All-Big Ten 3rd Team selection at third base in 1956.



**1983  
RICHARD HUXTABLE  
NICOLET**

Dick Huxtable coached at Nicolet High School for 29 years and left as one of the school's most successful coaches ever. "Hux" coached football for the Knights for 15 years, with six of those years as the freshman coach. He also coached 17 years for the High School track and field program. He was the very first President of the Wisconsin High School Track Association and the originator of the individual Event Coaching Clinics in Wisconsin, but his most successful coaching endeavors came on the baseball diamond. Dick coached high school baseball for 31 years with 23 of those years as the Nicolet Knights Head Baseball Coach. He coached his Knights to five conference championships (1980, 1983, 1984, 1988, 1989) and five state tournament appearances (1976, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1985). Dick also led the Knights to their first Wisconsin State Summer Baseball Championship in 1985, where he coached Major League pitcher and fellow Nicolet Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Lance Painter. Dick was a proud World War II Veteran and was very proud to have been a mathematics teacher at Nicolet High School for 27 years.

**1983**  
**BILL MARTIN**  
**OCONOMOWOC**



**1983**  
**RUSTY TIEDEMANN**  
**UW-OSHKOSH**

Tiedemann coached the UW-O from 1968-69 and 1971-88, building the program into a national power. He was at the helm for one National Championship, 15 Conference titles and more than 500 victories. Tiedemann led UW Oshkosh to 10 straight WIAC championships from 1979-88. He also guided the Titans to eight NCAA Division III World Series appearances and three NAIA World Series visits. In 1985, UW-Oshkosh became the first school from Wisconsin to win the NCAA Division III Baseball World Series. UW-Oshkosh concluded the 1985 season with a 37-3 record. Tiedemann, who recorded his 400th and 401st coaching victories at the World Series, was named NCAA Division III Coach of the Year following his team's performance. He also was selected as the NAIA Coach of the Year in 1974. Tiedemann concluded his 20 year baseball-coaching career at UW Oshkosh with a 501-165 record. His win total and .748 winning percentage both rank third in history. He passed away in 2015.

**1983**  
**KEN TROTT**  
**WESTBY**



Trott was 352-154 during his 27 year career as the head coach at Westby. His teams won 15 Coulee Championships, 10 Regional Titles, and made one trip to State in 1984. He also coach the Westby American Legion team for 14 years.

**1983**  
**RON UNKE**  
**WISCONSIN LUTHERAN • WBCA**



Unke was as founding father of the WBCA and our organization's first secretary. He led the Wisco baseball team for 36 years and football team for 22 years. After graduating from WLHS, Ron attended

UW-Madison and was baseball MVP in 1953. He signed with the St. Louis Cardinals that same year. When he returned to Milwaukee, Ron also assisted the Milwaukee Brewers.

**1982**  
**ROBERT DOUGLASS**  
**MUKWONAGO**

**1982**  
**RON WAHOSKE**  
**RIPON**

Wahoske was the coach at Ripon High School from 1956-1993. His record was 365-248. He had 13 Conference Championships, 14 Regional Championships, two Sectional championships and one State title in 1988.



**1981**  
**GEORGE HOLLAND**  
**NEKOOSA**

George Holland lettered in baseball at the UW-River Falls from 1956-58. He has an excellent coaching record at the high school level. He coached at Nekoosa High School from 1959-83 and had a 276-100 record. His teams won 12 Conference titles and three straight State class B titles (1980-82). His teams put together a 64-game winning streak from 1980-83. He was selected the Wisconsin High School baseball Coach of the Year three times (1977 1981, 1982).

**1981**  
**JIM MARTIN**  
**MILWAUKEE LUTHERAN • WBCA**



One of the WBCA's founding fathers, Martin, who played for Carthage began his teaching and coaching career at Milwaukee Lutheran in 1957. During his 12 years as head coach, his teams won seven conference titles. He became the co-founder of the WBCA along with Tom Meyer, and was elected at the WBCA's first president in 1969.

**1981**  
**JAMES NIRSCHL**  
**KIMBERLY**

Kimberly Athletics Department and Kimberly High School officials honored Jim by naming John R. Gerrits Junior High campus baseball diamond after him. The players on his teams called him 'the Ol' Fox', the name which is displayed on the marquee at the baseball diamond on Kennedy Avenue in Kimberly. His records while coaching at the smallest school in the Mid-Eastern Conference - later becoming the Fox Valley Association Conference - brought a football championship in 1955 and baseball championships in 1954 through 1959 and again in 1984.

**1980**  
**TEX BELICH**  
**WEST ALLIS HALE • WBCA**

Belich was as founding father of the WBCA and our organization's first Vice President.

**1980**  
**JOHN POLSCZYNSKI**  
**MILWAUKEE JUNEAU • WBCA**



Polsczynski was one of the founding fathers of the WBCA. During his coaching career, he was the first coach in the state of Wisconsin to achieve 300 victories.

**1980**  
**ANDY SMITH**  
**KENOSHA TREMPER**



In 1954, Smith, a Wausau native and UW graduate, fielded Kenosha High School's first baseball team and success was instantaneous. The inaugural KHS team finished 2nd at State. Eight years later, Smith guided KHS to another runner-up finish. A year later, KHS and Smith finally reached the top and captured a State title, a feat he would repeat in 1969 after moving to Tremper. During a ten-year span, he won 82 percent of his games. In his 21 years as a baseball coach in Kenosha, Smith put together 18 winning seasons. Smith guided Kenosha and Tremper high schools to six State Tournament appearances between 1953 and 1973. He died in 2003.



**1979  
JOHN BARTELT  
MARION**

Bartelt's records speak for themselves. His teams won twenty-five Central Wisconsin Conference championships from 1954 to 1994. He coached eight teams to undefeated Conference seasons; he made six appearances at the

WIAA State baseball tournaments; he won fifteen championships in the Central Wisconsin Boys Baseball League; he won eight league championships in American Legion Baseball, including three State tournament appearances. The baseball field in Marion was named John Bartelt Field in his honor in 2010.

**1979  
CHARLES BILEK  
MILWAUKEE WASHINGTON • WBCA**

Bilek was one of the founding fathers of the WBCA.

**1979  
RODNEY BILLERBECK  
RIPON**

Billerbeck first coached baseball in Cassville, where his teams won four conference titles in five years. In 1955, he moved to Gibraltar HS in Fish Creek, where he would coach for the next 41 years. His teams won numerous Conference championships and coached the 1979 State champions, which were undefeated, the same year he was inducted into the first class of the WBCA Hall of Fame. He died in 2009 at the age of 84.

**1979  
MURRAY DENEMARK  
MILWAUKEE CUSTER**

**1979  
FRANK GRANTIZ  
MANITOWOC**

Grantiz taught and coached at Lincoln High School for over 30 years, after serving in the US Army Air Corp from 1942-1945. During his years at Lincoln, he was dubbed 'Fundamental Frank' for his constant stressing of the sport he was teaching or coaching. Grantiz passed away in 2009 at the age of 89.



**1979  
WALT HEIN  
SHAWANO**

Hein was the first baseball coach in Shawano High School history. He began his career in 1942 and served until 1981. During his tenure Shawano won five consecutive Conference Championships from 1967-1973 and led his

baseball team to a state appearance in 1964.

1979



**1979  
DYNIE MANSFIELD  
UW-MADISON**

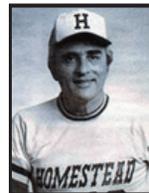
A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mansfield enrolled at Wisconsin in 1925 and would spend the next 45 years on the Madison campus. He lettered in baseball three times and was also the All-University boxing heavyweight champion in 1928 and

1929. He played baseball in the New York Giants organization and semi-pro football with the Madison Blues in the early 1930s before joining the Madison physical education faculty in 1936. In 1940, Mansfield became the Badger's baseball coach, a post he would hold through 1970, compiling a record of 441-339 and winning Big Ten titles in 1946 and 1950. He also coached Wisconsin's 1947 and 1948 150 pound football teams. He was a member of the 1956 US Olympic baseball committee and was elected to the ABCA Hall of Fame in 1970. He was inducted into the UW Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.



**1979  
HARLAND QUANDT  
OSHKOSH NORTH**

Quandt was Oshkosh baseball for over three decades. Quandt, who had 324 career victories at Oshkosh High School from 1950 to 1972, and then at Oshkosh North from 1972 to 1987, had teams appear in six State Tournaments, two of which they won in 1954 and 1956. He was the founding member of the Snitz Club, the main fundraising machine for Oshkosh baseball, and was instrumental in building Peeper Field and EJ Schneider Field. He organized the Babe Ruth program in Oshkosh and directed 13 junior baseball clinics for three different age groups. A pitcher and letter winner at the University of Wisconsin, Quandt was a member of the Badgers 1950 Big Ten Championship team, a team that finished fourth nationally. Quandt served in the 85th Regiment during the Korean War and was a retired Colonel in the US Army Reserve. Quandt passed away in 2011 at the age of 82.



**1979  
DON RENNIE  
HOMESTEAD • WBCA**

Rennie was a varsity baseball coach for 26 years at South Milwaukee (three years), Granville (eight years) and Homestead High School (15 years). While at Homestead, he set the standard for every coach who would follow in his footsteps. He led the Highlanders to six Braveland Conference Titles, seven Regional Titles, three Sectional Titles, and two (1974, 1978) State Titles during his tenure. He was Wisconsin State Coach of the Year in 1974, and accumulated 321 victories in his career. He also served as secretary for the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association for one year. The Homestead High School baseball field was named after him in 1979. He was one of the founding fathers of the WBCA.

**1979  
JOHN WILSON  
DODGEVILLE**

John "Winnie" Wilson coached the Dodger Baseball Teams from 1947 to 1968. The teams amassed a record of 166-42, ten Conference Championships, and three State appearances during that time. Wilson also played one year of minor league baseball in 1937 for the Williamson Colts of the Mountain State League in West Virginia. Wilson is also a member of both the Wisconsin football and basketball Halls of fame.