

DUGOUT CHATTER – June 2020

Rick Zollner – Pipestone Area

President MSHSBCA

The MSHSBCA would like to pay tribute to ALL the high school players, families and coaches who lost their baseball season. We are used to mother nature causing us problems in the spring but no one could have predicted a global pandemic. This pandemic has robbed players of memories and the chance to compete for a state championship but it can never take away your love for the game!

Our incredible group of coaches for the 2020 Play Ball! Minnesota All-Star Series will now be the 2021 coaches! Cole Flick (Dassel-Cokato), Tom Konz (Minnehaha Academy), Dan Shuck (Columbia Heights), Brian Harapat (Rogers), Scott Courtright (Mounds View), Matt Kelly (St. Thomas Academy), Chris Swansson (Rosemount), Don Plaisance (New Prague), Chris Stanton (Randolph), Casey Krekling (Hayfield), Jay Wetzel (Hibbing) and Joe Wicklund (Marshall School, Duluth). Thank you coaches for taking time away from your family to coach in this series!

The 13th Annual Junior Showcase has a new date of August 2nd (Sunday). The site will be at Minnetonka High School. Up to 150+ invited juniors (senior class of 2021) will be showcasing their baseball talents. No games are played. Players will work out at just one position, other than pitchers who may work out at another position. All players will take batting practice. All players will be timed in the 60 yard dash. Catchers will be timed and gunned on their throws to second base. Outfielders will show their arm strength with throws from right field to third base and home plate. First basemen will field ground balls at first and show their arm strength on throws to third base. Shortstops, second basemen and third basemen will field ground balls at shortstop and show their fielding ability and arm strength with a variety of throws to first base. Pitchers will throw 12 pitches off the bullpen mound, showing their fastball, breaking ball and change-up. Many college coaches and pro scouts will be in attendance.

The MSHSBCA Fall Clinic will be November 20-21 (Friday/Saturday). The new site will be the Omni Viking Lakes Hotel in Eagan. This will be an unbelievable event with a new format, great speakers, and accommodations! I would also like to congratulate the Hall of Fame class for 2020. Darby Carlson (Maple Grove), Don Dvorak (New Prague), Gary Palm (St. Anthony Village), Todd Smrekar (Cambridge-Isanti), Ken Solarz (Upsala) and Herb Wolf (Fairmont). These excellent coaches will be honored Saturday evening. I encourage all coaches to purchase tickets and attend.

Congratulations to the following MSHSBCA Scholarship winners. Brett Bateman (Mounds View), Carter Bratland (Spring Grove), Nathan Culley (Anoka), Christian Diederich (KMS), Adam Eldredge (Elk River), Jake Gawreluk (Anoka), Luke Imdieke (Osakis), Ben Kuehni (Red Wing), Ben Reilley (Maple Lake), Benjamin Reinhard (Concordia Academy), Brock Rinehart (Woodbury), Ethan Schafer (Goodhue), Joseph Schleper (Shakopee) and William Weick (Rochester Mayo).

This is a perfect time of the year to update your membership to the MSHSCA and MSHSBCA for the 2020-21 year. Go to www.mshsca.org. Membership provides liability insurance and it provides eligibility for your players to receive post-season awards. Also, consider membership in one or both of the national associations (BCA or ABCA). Additionally, follow our association on Twitter @mshsbca, and continue to check for updated information at our website; www.mshsbca.org. At this link you can also check out current baseball records in the state of Minnesota. If you are looking back at past seasons and notice a player of yours tied or broke any record please contact Tink Larson at tlarson@hickorytech.net.

The MSHSBCA is looking for nominations for our Hall of Fame and other awards. Please consider nominating a deserving coach or baseball person from your community. Check out the awards criteria and past winners at www.mshsbca.org!

If you have concerns please contact any member of the Executive Board. We have weekly meetings through Zoom.