



The Messenger



March 2006 - Section 3

Official Publication of the Wisconsin ASA

UIC Chatter

By Art Hill

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and prosperous New Year. Once again softball season is just around the corner with some college seasons having started in February and high school shortly thereafter, then league play and summer ball season.

Rule changes, banned bats, pitching and mechanics are issues we will face every year. Please try to go online to the ASA Web pages and keep abreast of the latest rule and banned bat issues. We will also discuss these issues at our umpire clinics.

Speaking of clinics, a special thanks goes to Lew Smith, Peter Dake, Dick Buskov, John Eckendorf, Brian Knab, Dan Glodowski, and Tom Ueberroth and his staff for all the clinics that were held last year. Thanks a lot, gentlemen, for your devotion to ASA softball umpires.

Once again, registration for Wisconsin umpires was up in 2005, bucking the decline that has been experienced lately nationwide. I would like to thank

those who helped me out through the year to manage the umpire program and state tournament series: Tom Ueberroth, Dan Glodowski, Dick Bustov, Dan Sonnenberg, Lew Smith, Don Baumgart, John Eckendorf, Pete Dake, Jim Mitchell and Tim Joly for their help at tournaments and support of the umpire program, my thanks.

When you get a chance to see any of these gentlemen, acknowledge their work by saying thank you. It takes a team to make it work. Our state tournament series could not be as effective without their help and support. I would also like to thank each one of you that helped out and umpired our state tournaments; we couldn't do it without you.

There are two National Umpire Schools fairly close to Wisconsin this year. The first is in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on May 6-7. Gary Evans is the contact at (517) 676-6546. The second school is slated for May 20-21 in Cincinnati. The contact person there is Dee Fick at (513) 563-2755.

There will be two Advance Schools this year: June 14-18 in Lancaster,

California for fast pitch and a first-ever slow pitch only school in Atlanta April 27-30. If interested in any of these, contact me ASAP.

Check the Wisconsin Web site often for tournament information and UIC assignments. If you are interested in working a state tournament then contact that UIC and let him know.

The Wisconsin ASA was fortunate to host two national events last year. Fond du Lac ran the ASA Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship and the Northern National Girls Fast Pitch 12 & Under and 10 & Under tourneys were held simultaneously in the Green Bay metro area.

The one thing that I really enjoy about being the WASA UIC is that I get to send and assign umpires to national tournaments and championships. In this regard, 2005 was another good year for Wisconsin umpires as 13 umpires got to work national championships and 22 got to work a national tournament.

The following worked the Girls 12 & Under and 10 & Under Northern

(See umpires page 26)

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To be added to *The Messenger* mailing list, please send an e-mail request to: matt@stevenspointsoftball.com



Tom Ueberroth
2005 WASA
Umpire of the Year



umpires

(Continued from page 25)

Nationals: Juli Adams, Gilbert Annis, Robert Augustian, Ted Blohm, Brooke Brazeau, Lee Button, Robert Church, Terry Conniff, Robert Fisher, Mike Jenssen, Mike Knoespel, Nick Krzewina, Chris Lenz, Gerald Lewis, Mike Niespodzany, Dick Pillsbury, Lukas Semrau, Jess Senn, Kevin Vanden Heuvel, Ron Vanderberg, Shannon Vertz and Dennis Wilson.

The following WASA umpires worked these national championship events in 2005:

Mike Brewer	Girls Fast Pitch 14 & Under National Championship
Jim Davidson	Women's Slow Pitch Class D East National Championship
Tim Joly	Girls Fast Pitch 18 & Under National Championship
Tom Ueberroth	Girls Fast Pitch 18 & Under National Championship
Brian Knab	Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship
Dennis Kostac	Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship
Mike Mikalsen	Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship
Lew Smith	Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship
Hank St. Clair	Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship
Ron Vandenberg	Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship
Ed Vodvarka	Men's Fast Pitch 45 & Over National Championship
Lew Smith	Men's Modified Major 10-Man National Championship

Thanks to all who represented Wisconsin umpires at national events!

One last note, congratulations to Tom Ueberroth of Hales Corners, who was selected as the WASA's 2005 Umpire of the Year. Tom has worked hard to get where he is and he represents the Wisconsin ASA very well at state and national events. Congratulations, Tom!!!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in my travels around the state and have another "Great Season"!!!

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ASA SOFTBALL IN WISCONSIN?

COME CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:

www.wisconsin-asa.org



**TOURNAMENT DATES & RESULTS,
LOCAL ASA OFFICERS, RULES &
MORE ARE FOUND ON THE SITE**



2006 Umpire Registration Card

PLEASE PRINT Complete Form and Mail to Address Below

UMPIRE #	UMPIRE ASSN:
Name (First, Last)	Date: (Mo/Day/Yr)
Street Address	Phone: ()-
City, State, Zip Code	County:
Are you interested in working: <input type="checkbox"/> Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> State Tournament Series	Gender <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F E-mail _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Fast Pitch <input type="checkbox"/> Modified Pitch <input type="checkbox"/> Slow Pitch <input type="checkbox"/> All	

2006 Umpire Registration Fees	
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Umpire..... \$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Umpire \$20.00	Make fee registration check to: Wisconsin ASA send fee and card to: Arthur Hill State UIC 1675 Birch ST Green Bay WI 54304

CIRCLE YOUR DISTRICT		
NORTHWEST SECTION District #1 – Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland District #2 – Burnett, Polk, St. Croix District #3 – Washburn, Sawyer, Barron, Rusk District #4 – Dunn, Pierce, Pepin District #5 – Chippewa, Eau Claire NORTH CENTRAL SECTION District #6 – Iron, Vilas, Oneida District #7 – Price, Taylor, Clark District #8 – Lincoln, Marathon District #9 – Forest, Florence, Langlade District #10 – Wood, Portage	NORTHEAST SECTION District #11 – Marinette, Oconto, Menomonee District #12 – Shawano, Waupaca, Outagamie District #13 – Brown, Door, Kewaunee District #14 – Waushara, Winnebago, Marquette, Green Lake, Fond du Lac District #15 – Calumet, Manitowoc, Sheboygan SOUTHEAST SECTION District #26 – Washington, Ozaukee District #27 – Waukesha District #28 – Milwaukee District #29 – Racine District #30 – Kenosha	SOUTHWEST SECTION District #16 – Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson District #17 – LaCrosse, Monroe District #18 – Juneau, Adams, Sauk District #19 – Vernon, Crawford, Richland District #20 – Grant, Iowa, LaFayette SOUTH CENTRAL SECTION District #21 – Columbia, Dodge District #22 – Dane District #23 – Jefferson, Walworth District #24 – Green, Rock

WASA Umpire of the Year Award Winners

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

Wisconsin Line Drives

By Roger Regez

I could not help but notice that very few Wisconsin men's minor class fast pitch teams competed in any of the ASA national tournaments in 2005. Wisconsin ASA men's fast pitch state tournaments seem to be almost non-existent.

The popular view is that the game is dying, but if you talk to Ronn Kopp of Rice Lake, who keeps a master list of state men's fast pitch teams, the number continues to hang around the 250-275 level and has for several years.

The problem may be blamed on the structure of the state meets, such as cost of umpires, entry fees, lack of expense monies, etc. No one can really put a finger on the real problem.

I think the Wisconsin ASA should consider a new game plan for their men's fast pitch program and that is bring the game back to the colleges.

I have stumped the bully pulpit on this issue for several years and it has fallen on deaf ears, but I continue to think it would work and it would no doubt, in my opinion, bring about an increase in overall teams in the future.

I would suggest staffing the program with four collegiate commissioners from each college with the job of organizing a team or league within the campus. Don't allow the "we don't have a pitcher" excuse to exist.

Retired pitchers love to teach pitching if someone wants point-



ers. Personally, I would bet if you line up 20 players who want to play the game, one or two would have the ability to pitch well enough to compete and, with some innings under his belt, who knows!

Many of today's number one pitchers did not toe the rubber until they were well into their 20s and had to fill in for someone else in an emergency. I find that most of today's pitchers were self-taught.

The Wisconsin ASA could then host a collegiate state tournament in late May or early June. After that, tournament players could then go home and play with their local town teams.

The more teams that could be developed at the collegiate level, the more players there will be available for town teams.

I feel the number of teams would increase over the years plus teams would pop up in cities and towns who do not have teams at the present time because players from those towns would be playing the game in the spring.

Everyone agrees on one thing in fast pitch, once you play it, you want to keep playing it. I think such a program is worth the gamble for the good of the sport.

Mike Geary, a Wisconsin ASA Hall of Fame member, was quoted this past summer in a newspaper

article, "We entertained a lot of people, now there is no one to entertain us." He was pertaining to the La Crosse area.

When I attended UW-La Crosse, the La Crosse State College back in the 1960s, they had intramural men's fast pitch, two leagues. Many of the players continued to play with local towns and cities.

One product from that intramural league was Willie Taylor, now a Wisconsin ASA Hall of Fame inductee. Mike Geary reflects the thoughts of almost all ex-fast pitch players.

The Wisconsin Blue Book lists 27 universities, including the UW-centers, and there are quite a few others that are not part of the state system, making a huge potential for hundreds of players in the 18-22 age group.

Collegiate club baseball does exist and has a national tournament. Why not club fast pitch?

Hundreds of former varsity high school baseball players walk the halls of our colleges and universities. The 18- to 22-year-old group of potential players have a problem getting on an established town team, mainly because of no experience and the level of play.

A college level program would give the student a chance to play several games and a better chance to then hook up or create new teams.

I'd sure like to see some organization bring this fine game to the very locations where hundreds of good quality athletes exist.

Personally I am of the opinion that some good PR and organizational meetings with a staff of college students would bring about a future boom in minor class men's fast pitch.

Junior Olympic News

By Dale Ferron

Once again we have come to the end of another softball season. I know by my travels throughout the state that the Wisconsin ASA has had another great year in 2005. Our numbers in the youth program continue to grow each year. The total number of teams for the 2004 season was 1,131. The 2005 season was an unbelievable year for individual registrations which, when converted to team numbers, totaled 1,457 youth teams for Wisconsin. These numbers allowed Wisconsin to be the 17th-largest association out of 88 in the United States. Congratulations to all the individuals and teams who made this possible for the Wisconsin ASA.

The number of teams registered each year determines the number of berths allowed for each association at the USA/ASA National Championship Finals tournaments. This means that for the 2006 season Wisconsin will be allowed three berths in each of the Class A National Championship Finals.

Wisconsin also received another berth from the Great Lakes Region for Class A. Therefore, the Class A division for the 2006 NCFs will have a total of four berths in each division of youth play available for Wisconsin entries.

I would also like to note that if we had registered about 50 more teams we would have been the 14th-largest association in the country.

I will try once again to secure two to three berths in the 2006 East Class B national tourneys.

I would like to congratulate all of the JO teams that played in our state

tournaments during 2005. A special thanks to the teams that advanced to play in the national tournaments. To me, this shows our youths' ambition to see how well they can play against some of the toughest competition in the Midwest.

Found below is a list of the teams and how they ended up in the 2005 nationals.

The Wisconsin ASA will be trying a new type of playing format for 2006. The idea came from one of our strongest softball supporters. This was discussed in great detail at the 2005 WASA fall meeting in Stevens Point and it was decided that this is the way the WASA will proceed in future years. This idea

offers our teams more of a chance to play numerous weekend tournaments in the different age groups and then play on after the state tournaments.

It has been decided there will be numerous tournaments called State Championship Series (SCS) tournaments in all age groups. For the 2006 season teams will need to play in one SCS tournament and the WASA state tournament to be able to advance to any type of ASA national tournament.

For the 2007 season teams will need to play in two SCS tournaments and the state tournament to advance.

(See JO News page 30)

Girls Fast Pitch Northern Nationals

Age	Team	City	Record	Place
10-U	Cyclones	Kenosha	2-2	9
10-U	De Pere Fast Pitch	De Pere	0-3	17
12-U	Ghosts	Kaukauna	3-2	9
12-U	Starz	Shawano	1-2	25
12-U	Stateline Explosion	Janesville	0-4	33
12-U	AGSA Jaguars	Ashwaubenon	0-4	33
12-U	De Pere Fast Pitch	De Pere	0-4	33
14-U	Racine Belles	Racine	3-2	9
14-U	Cyclones	Kenosha	2-2	13
16-U	Chippewa Valley Flash	Chippewa Falls	4-2	13
16-U	North Shore Stars	Germantown	1-2	33
18-U	West Wisconsin Batgirls	Eau Claire	4-2	9
18-U	North Shore Stars	Colgate	3-2	13
18-U	Greener Grass	Eau Claire	2-2	17
18-U	Cyclones	Kenosha	1-2	17

National Class A

12-U	Cyclones Blue	Kenosha	3-2	49
16-U	Cyclones	Kenosha	1-2	65
16-U	Precision	Racine	1-2	65

Class B East

12-U	Golden Gloves	Lancaster	1-3	13
14-U	Cardinals Red	Kimberly	4-3	7
14-U	Cardinals White	Kimberly	0-3	25
16-U	Cardinals	Kimberly	2-2	3

Boys Fast Pitch

National Class A

14-U	Rice Lake #1 Cheetas	Rice Lake	2-1	2
14-U	Rice Lake #2 Cougars	Rice Lake	0-2	3
16-U	Badger Boys	Rice Lake	2-2	4

JO News

(Continued from page 29)

When playing in the SCS tournaments teams can play in either Class A or Class B. The intent is to have tournaments each weekend for the teams to play in and tournaments in different parts of the state. There are different versions of these types of tournaments used throughout the United States.

Please check the WASA Web site www.wisconsin-asa.org for a complete listing of the SCS tournaments. If areas are interested in hosting an SCS tournament please contact me.

Please remember for the 2006 season all players and coaches will be required to register as individuals. The individual registration includes both individual and team registrations. The cost will be same for 2006 as it was for 2005. Please contact me at ferron.softball@charter.net for registration information. It also helps to register early in the year, which then allows me to get your individual and team registration cards to everyone. You should remember that you must be registered with the ASA (individually) to play in the state tournaments or the sanctioned tournaments.

Also, remember that the teams playing in the state tournaments and beyond must have an ASA Official

Championship Roster completed and signed. Any teams going to play out of state are usually required by that state to have a travel permit from Wisconsin. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete your registration or acquire your travel permit.

I will also be conducting ACE coaching schools once again in 2006. We held three very successful ACE coaching schools in 2005 and I'm looking forward to more of the same this year with the cost remaining the same as in 2005.

It was decided at the 2005 ASA National Convention in Tucson last November that the ASA would be going away from the triple elimination tournaments. ASA will be going back to the round-robin tournament, which will then lead to the double elimination tournament. It also looks like the new roster forms will not be multi-part, but will be single sheet and will need to be filled out for each of the state and national tournaments.

The tournaments to look forward to this year include the ASA National Qualifiers in 18 & Under and 16 & Under to be held in Watertown June 23-25. The same towns will host the state tournaments as last year, with the Class A in Watertown and the Class B in Kimberly, both on the weekend of July 7-9.

Have a great season and I hope to see a lot of you on the diamonds this spring and summer.



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For more information, contact Joe Eagan
Tel: (608) 754-6077
Fax: (608) 754-6122
Email: jvajo@charterinternet.com

2006 WASA State Championship Series (SCS) Tournaments

YOUTH:

Tournament Information	Contact Person	Telephone Numbers	Other Information
JP Memorial Madness May 27 - 28, 2006 May 29 Rain Date	Dan Pollard Columbus, WI	414-429-8088 Pollard Sports LLC	
Spring Fling June 3 - 4, 2006 Entry Deadline: May 7	Lou Aponte 4010 68th Street Franksville, WI 53126	262-488-0519 Age: 12U - 14U - 16U Entry Fee \$250	4 Game Guarantee Gate Fee Covered
MidWest Championship June 16 - 18, 2006 Deadline: June 1, 2006	Dan Pollard Horicon, WI	414-429-8088 Age: 12U and 18U Entry Fee \$300	4 Game Guarantee, Pool Play to Create Brackets Gate Fee Covered
FUTURES SHOWCASE June 16 - 18, 2006 Minimum 2 Pools per Age	Dan Pollard Horicon, WI	414-429-8088 Age: 14U and 16U Entry Fee \$325	Six Team Pools, 5 Games Round Robin Games Gate Fee Covered
SUMMER SIZZLE June 23 - 25, 2006 Deadline: June 2, 2006	Jack Fitzpatrick 716 S Beaumont Ave Kansasville, WI 53139	262-878-4525 Ages: 10U, 12U, 14U Entry Fee: \$300	4 Game Guarantee mailto:shockersf@yahoo.com No Gate Fee - 36 Teams
Verona Area Girls Tournament June 23 - 25, 2006 Host: Verona Area Girls Softball	Ron Wagman 1053 Tamarack Way Verona, WI 53593	608-770-9241 Ages: 10U, 12U, 14U Fee: 12/14 \$325. 10U \$250.	3 Game Round Robin rpw01@charter.net Top 4 Teams Single Elimination
WIS GRANDSLAM June 30 - July 2, 2006 Deadline: June 1, 2006	John Ruffolo 4032 14th Ave Kenosha, WI 53140	262-652-3782 Age: 10U Through 18U Entry Fee \$300	4 Game Guarantee 80 Team Limit Gate Fee Covered
DICK MULRY CLASSIC July 14 - 16, 2006 Host: CYS Inc	Bryan Menting P O Box 82 Kimberly, WI 54136	920-882-2040 Ages: 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U Entry Fee: \$275	4 Game Minimum bmenting@tds.net
SUMMER SIZZLE July 21 - 23, 2006 Deadline: June 15, 2006	Tom Jushka 841 S Comanche Ln Waukesha, WI 53188 tjushka@wi.rr.com	414-975-0132 Age: 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U, 10U Entry Fee: \$300 by 4-1-06 Entry Fee: \$325 after 4-1-06	4 Game Guarantee Number of Teams Limited Host: Waukesha Firebirds
XPLOZION July 28 - 30, 2006 No Gate Fee \$3 per Car Parking	John Roth 479 Fuller St Columbus, WI 53925	920-689-0514 Age: 18U, 16U, 14U, 12U, 10U Entry Fee: \$300	4 Game Guarantee xplozion@charter.net Host XPLOZION Teams

Consult the WASA Web site <www.wisconsin-asa.org> for updates to this list.

2006 WISCONSIN ASA STATE TOURNAMENTS

SLOW PITCH

MEN'S

Class B	July 7 - 9	Fond du Lac	Tom Rausch 619 Guinette Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54945	920-922-5517 June 27, 2006
	\$300.00			
Class C	July 21 - 23	Fond du Lac	Tom Rausch 619 Guinette Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54945	920-922-5517 July 11, 2006
	\$300.00			
Class D	July 21 - 23	Stevens Point	Mike Disher P.O. Box 663 Stevens Point, WI 54481	715-341-2804 July 14, 2006
	\$275.00			
Masters 35,40,45		Pending		
Seniors 50,55,60		Pending		

WOMEN'S

Class C/D Pending

CO-ED

Class A Pending July 12, 2005

MODIFIED PITCH

MEN'S

Class A 10 Man		Pending		
Class B 10 Man	Pending	Fond du Lac	Tom Rausch 619 Guinette Ave. Fond du Lac, WI 54935	920-922-5517 TBD
	\$300.00			
Class C 10 Man	Pending	Ashwaubenon	Rex Melhberg 2155 Holmgren Way Ashwaubenon, WI 54304	920-492-2331 TBD
	\$300.00			

WOMEN'S

Class A Pending Ashwaubenon Rex Melhberg
2155 Holmgren Way Ashwaubenon, WI 54304
920-492-2331
TBD
\$175.00

FAST PITCH

MEN'S

Class B/C Pending
Class D Pending
Masters 40+ Pending
Masters 45+ Pending

WOMEN'S

Class A/B/C July 28 - 30 New Berlin Jim Moreland
13420 W. Park Ave. 262-782-6175
New Berlin, WI 53151 July 21, 2006
\$300.00

(Continued on page 33)

2006 Wisconsin ASA State Tournaments

(Continued from page 32)

J.O. (Youth) FAST PITCH

GIRLS

18/16/14/12/10 & Under Class A	July 7 - 9 \$300.00	Watertown	Dan Pollard 2331 N. 118 th St. Wauwatosa, WI 53226	414-429-8088 June 26, 2005
18/16/14/12/10 & Under Class B	July 7 - 9 \$300.00	Kimberly	Brian Menting PO Box 82 Kimberly, WI 54136	920-882-2040 June 25, 2005

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

GIRLS

18/16 Under	June 23 - 25 \$350.00	Watertown, WI	Dan Pollard 2331 N. 118 th St. Wauwatosa, WI 53226 dan_pollard@msn.com	414-429-8088
14/12 Under	May 26-28 \$350.00	Niles, MI	Dave Fisher 2428 11 th Street Niles, MI 49120 dfisr722@aol.com	269-683-1013 574-220-2750

JO NORTHERN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

GIRLS

10/12 Under	Aug. 3 – 6 \$300.00	Springfield, MO	Mark Nelson 1923 N. Weller Springfield, MO 65803 Mark_Nelson@ci.springfield.mo.uc	417-837-5817
14 Under	Aug. 3 – 6 \$300.00	Rockford, IL	Chuck Lockinger 533 Burbank Woodstock, IL 60098	815-338-8945
16 Under	Aug. 2 – 6 \$300.00	Jasper, IN	Stacy Kueber 7020 Arla Jane Dr. Evansville, IN 47710 iasajo@aol.com	812-204-0561
18 Under	Aug. 3 – 6 \$300.00	Brooklyn Park, MN	Jessica Composto 7833 Hwy 65 NE Spring Lake, MN 55432 jessica@msfl.org	763-241-1789

ASA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

MEN'S 10-MAN MODIFIED

Sept. 1 - 4	Ashwaubenon	Rex Melhberg 2155 Holmgren Way Ashwaubenon, WI 54304	920-492-2331 \$300.00
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Consult the WASA Web site <www.wisconsin-asa.org> for updates to this list.



2006 Point Classic Men's Slowpitch Tournament

- Date: June 9-11, 2006
- Deadline: June 2, 2005 – Entry Fee & Roster
- Format: Men's Slowpitch. This is an ASA Sanctioned Tournament in affiliation with the World Softball League (WSL). ALL TEAMS ARE GUARANTEED 3 GAMES. After preliminary play, teams will be placed in tournament based on record: A/B (3-0,2-1); C (1-1); D (0-2). A/B Division will be double elimination; C & D will be single elimination. Tournament Director Reserves the right to change tournament format due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
- Home Runs: In preliminary play there will be six (6) per game. Home runs in excess of 6 will be recorded as an out. In tournament play: A/B Bracket, 8 Homeruns; C Bracket, 3 Homeruns; D Bracket, 1 Homerun. Homeruns in excess will be recorded as an out.
- Awards: Based on 24 Teams:

	<u>A/B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>
1 st	\$1000	\$350	\$200
2 nd	\$750	\$250	\$100
3 rd	\$500	\$150	
4 th	\$300	\$100	

All teams finishing in the above positions will also qualify for the 2006 WSL/Miken North American Championships, September 8-10, 2006 in Panama City, Florida. LEVELS OF PLAY IN THE POINT CLASSIC ARE JUST THAT, LEVELS OF PLAY. TEAMS QUALIFYING FOR THE WSL NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS **MUST** PLAY IN THE CLASSIFICATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ASA ASSOCIATION.

- Entry Fee: \$175.00 (Non-ASA Sanctioned teams \$200)
 Make Checks Payable to: Stevens Point Softball Association
 Send payment and SPSA Tournament Entry Form to:
 Stevens Point Softball Association
 PO Box 663
 Stevens Point WI 54481

- Additional Info: Zenoff Park – 715.341.2804
 Randy Wievel – 715.344.6846
 Website – <http://www.stevenspointsoftball.com>
 E-mail – info@stevenspointsoftball.com

1st Annual Miller Lite Invite Men's Softball Tournament



August 18-20, 2006

Zenoff Park, Stevens Point, WI

We must have roster and money by August 11, 2006

Limited to Class C and D Teams that played in the WASA State Tournament in 2006 (Must use State Roster) or within 50 miles of Stevens Point (Must be a League Roster, No Class A or B Players), Tournament Directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any team. 3 Balls, 2 Strikes; 3 HR's;

ASA Bat List will be enforced

3 game Guarantee Bracket

Entry Fee - \$200 (SPSA League Teams \$150)

Guaranteed **\$1000** & Trophy For First Place
and Trophies for 2nd, 3rd & 4th

Prize Money

(Based on 32 Teams)

1st—\$2000.00 + Team Trophy

2nd—\$1000.00 + Team Trophy

3rd—\$750.00 + Team Trophy

4th—\$500.00 + Team Trophy

Highest Finishing SPSA Team (Not in prize money)—\$200.00

For More information Contact the Stevens Point Softball Association @ 715-341-2804, on the web - www.stevenspointsoftball.com or via e-mail - matt@stevenspointsoftball.com

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**2006 STEVENS POINT SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
MEN'S CLASS "D" STATE TOURNAMENT
STEVENS POINT, WISCONSIN**

DATE: July 21st, 22nd and 23rd, 2006

ENTRY FEE: \$275.00

ROSTER & ENTRY DEADLINE: Tuesday, July 11th, 2006

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: Teams wanting to participate in ASA championship play must be registered with the Wisconsin ASA for 2006. The tournament will be a Double Elimination format. Official ASA tiebreaker rule will be applied if the tournament cannot be completed as scheduled. The top 6 teams will qualify for the ASA East National Championship Finals **September 1 – 5, 2005** in **Montgomery, AL**. All teams earning berths must inform tournament officials if they will accept the berth before they leave the state tournament.

TEAMS MUST BE PREPARED TO PLAY FRIDAY NIGHT!!

Official ASA National Championship Roster, Wisconsin Official Tournament Entry Form and **SPSA Tournament Entry Form** **must** be included with entry fee. Absolutely no refunds after tournament draw. Local ground rules may apply. Players must provide proper photo ID to be eligible.

CARRY-INS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED into Zenoff Park **and** parking lot area.
Failure to obey no carry-in rule may result in expulsion from tournament.

TOURNAMENT AWARDS:

1st \$1000.00
2nd \$500.00
3rd \$250.00
4th \$200.00

***** Prize Monies Based on 32 Entries *****

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION: ASA National Championship Rosters, Wisconsin ASA Tournament Entry Form and **SPSA Tournament Entry Form** including entry fee should be mailed to:

**Stevens Point Softball Association
PO Box 663,
Stevens Point WI 54481**

For further information contact the SPSA at (715) 341-2804, Randy Wievel (715) 344-6846,
Mike Disher (715) 341-6856 or Matt Disher (715) 342-6886

HOTEL INFORMATION: Please see room block information on the SPSA Web Page.
<http://www.stevenspointsoftball.com/Tournaments/roomblocks.htm>

For additional Hotel & Stevens Point Area Information, Contact the Stevens Point Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau @ 715-344-2556 or on the web at www.stevenspointarea.com

Why I Played Softball

Or What I Did for 20+ Summer Vacations

By Marc D. Vollrath

For over 20 years I stood in the middle of a special universe, toeing the pitching rubber for a softball team called Buffy's. Though many years have passed since I stood on that mound, the journey is fondly recalled.

I got out of the Army in 1970, returning to Stevens Point, Wisconsin to resurrect a somewhat dubious college career. Having a taste for beer (which may have hastened the onset of my military experience in the first place), I also thought of myself as being athletic. The question was, how could I meld those talents?

The answer was found on a slow pitch softball diamond first, and Buffy's Lampoon, a raucous drinking establishment located on Stevens Point's Market Square, immediately afterwards. Ironically, my career as a pitcher began as a catcher. George Glodosky (pitching then) was relieved of his duties by J.J. Jastromski, the home plate umpire.

George took umbrage to J.J. calling his strikes "balls" and inadvertently threw his glove (Frisbee-like), hitting the umpire in the head. That short walk from behind the plate to the mound on that day made me the all-time long relief pitcher. Unless someone else can beat 20 years.

Unless I was at bat, I always considered slow pitch softball to be a "hitter's game." As a pitcher, I not only ensured that legacy, but carried it to new heights – literally.

Though we had landed on the moon several years before I tossed my first pitch, the term "moon shot" was not commonly used until I started serving them up.

I was once named "pitcher of the year," a rather dubious

award I later discovered, since it was sponsored by a windshield replacement company, but what the heck, a trophy's a trophy. Enough about personal accomplishments.

As a "team," we actually played two games. There was the one on the field followed by the same one replayed over a couple of "cold ones." Usually, an 8-run loss on the field was deemed an aberration.

Back at Buffy's, the replay version saw that a hit here, a missed call there, led to total bewilderment. How could those guys who beat us by eight even have been in that game?

For all those years, and the moments in between, I was lucky enough to be exactly where I wanted to be. In my heart, I have never left it either. Who would want to?

I was a young man standing in the middle of a softball diamond, surrounded by friends, playing a game we all loved in a place where good memories have overcome sad losses. Great wins may linger, but in the end, none of the above can be forfeited or rained out.

In the end, I learned that guys in the other dugout were my friends, too. They shared the passion for a game that separated us by only a half-inning and the sponsor's name on a jersey.

At the end of the game, I remember shaking hands of the smiling opponents. Come to think of it, most of the guys with those smiles had taken me "deep."

After all this time, I think most have since landed.

Marc Vollrath is a writer who lives in Stevens Point and is currently more concerned with bunker shots than moon shots.



The Messenger

To be added to *The Messenger* mailing list, please send an e-mail request to: matt@stevenspointsoftball.com