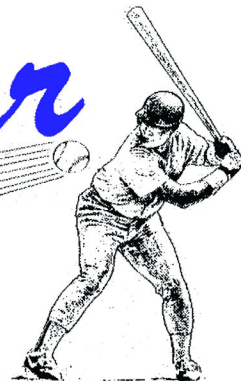




The Messenger



May 2010 Edition

Official Publication of the Wisconsin ASA

The Messenger — This Is It

There are plenty of miniature items in our seemingly ever-shrinking world: minivans, miniskirts, minicamps (the type that Brett Favre loves to avoid), mini-malls and micro-breweries, to name but a few.

What you are currently reading is a mini-Messenger, a brief issue that, like the mini-burgers numerous restaurants now feature, is designed to serve as an appetizer, in this case for the 2010 Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association season, which is just getting started in many communities across America's Dairyland.

The WASA is fresh from a tremendous 2009 campaign and Tom Raimer, the organization's commissioner, is optimistic that 2010 will follow in last year's footsteps.

"The WASA is expanding into some new areas of the state and has an attractive schedule of events available this summer," Raimer stated. "It promises to be another exciting season for us."

WASA Junior Olympic (JO) Commissioner Dale Ferron is also expecting big things from his flourishing girls fast pitch program.

"Our State Championship Series offers plenty of tournament opportunities for our youth teams and we also should see a large number of entries for the WASA state championships in Watertown, Baraboo and the Eau Claire area. Plus, Kimberly's got the ASA's 12-U Northern Nationals in August."

Last year, a record four WASA teams won ASA national titles, three of which came from the JO program.

That lofty mark will be hard to eclipse, partially because The Farm, the Men's Major fast pitch dynasty from Madison, has folded due to the retirement of legendary sponsor/manager Rod Peterson (see Roger Regez's column for more on Peterson).

Nevertheless, the WASA still looks forward to strong national representation in many levels of fast pitch, slow pitch and modified. An abundance of available national berths for WASA teams through state tournament play won't hurt at all in this regard.

So, take a quick look at this miniature edition, then get involved with the wonderful sport of softball. WASA team and umpire registration forms for 2010 are provided in this publication.

Let the games begin!

10 for '10

Here are 10 randomly selected items of interest (perhaps) for the 2010 WASA season:

① As of Jan. 1, 2010 the optic yellow ball is to be used in all ASA slow pitch championship play. This rather colorful development would probably make Charlie O. Finley, the late and extremely eccentric owner of the Oakland A's, very happy because he urged his fellow owners to switch to orange baseballs for improved visibility way back in the 1960s.

Finley even produced an official orange baseball that has become something of a collectors' item.

Will white softballs be the next rarity?

② The maximum height of a pitch in slow pitch will be 10 feet in 2010, down from the old limit of 12. This could very well be the most influential ASA rule change of the year.

Why?

Simple. With the decrease in trajectory should come a spike in offensive production ... along with pitchers' health care premiums!

③ An intriguing addition to the WASA's state tournament calendar is the Men's 9-Man Modified Pitch event slated for Wautoma August 13-15.

This will be an open classification tourney and Paul Wagner, the WASA's modified commissioner who's still giddy from the Yankees' World Series triumph, believes the 9-Man will take off and become a regular part of the WASA program.

(Continued on page 2)

10 for '10

(Continued from page 1)

4 Should you encounter Tim Joly working a game this summer, congratulate him on being named the WASA Umpire of the Year for 2009.

The Seymour resident also won the award in 1991 and joins Madison's John Peterson as the only two-time recipients of the honor, which was established in 1982.

5 The only ASA national championships to be contested in Wisconsin during 2010 are the Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch 12-U Class A and B Northern Nationals in Kimberly the first week of August.

Both of these tourneys should draw large fields featuring many of the best teams in the Midwest and most of Wisconsin's premier clubs. We expect that the out-of-state visitors will discover that Kimberly's a great place to play.

6 Because Kimberly is focusing on the aforementioned Northern Nationals, the 2010 JO Girls Fast Pitch Class B WASA state tourneys will be held at venues across the Eau Claire area July 8-11.

This was welcome news to many Class B teams from the western part of the state who had grown accustomed to making long journeys to the east for the WASA championships.

A great turnout of Class B teams is anticipated and should enjoy the fine facilities in the Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls/Hallie community, which the WASA heartily welcomes to its roster of JO state tournament sites.

7 The Oshkosh Raiders JO Girls Fast Pitch 10-U Class B club will attempt to become the first WASA team at any level to capture three consecutive ASA national championships.

The Raiders are a combined 72-3 over the last two campaigns and have reached the Northern National finals three years running. So, history could be made

on August 1 in Topeka, Kansas.

Good luck to co-coaches Brian and Kim Gauthier and their youngsters in the quest for a three-peat.

8 After a long absence the WASA conducted a women's slow pitch state tournament last year in Fond du Lac where organizers are hoping to see the event expand this June 5-6 at Lakeside Park.

Women's teams that are interested in playing should contact Paula Suemnicht at (920) 960-9684 for more information.

9 Rumors prevail that the mysterious slow pitch squad known as Fat Man, Inc. could reappear in 2010.

Fat Man, Inc. entered a tournament a few years ago at the Moore Barn diamond in Plover sporting a ponderous lineup that mandated a minimum weight of 230 pounds, a standard that a couple of players might have doubled.

The only exception was, naturally, the catcher, who came in around 150 soaking wet.

FMI, which actually won two games, not to mention breezing away with the beer-drinking trophy, also lugged a scale to the field and had every hitter weigh in prior to his plate appearance. This practice came to an abrupt halt the second time through the batting order when the stressed-out measuring device gallantly expired.

A team spokesman, who requested anonymity, refused to dismiss the possibility of another tournament foray for the fat men at Doug's Sports Pub, the old Moore Barn, which is now owned by former WASA modified pitch star Doug Berry.

10 Finally, the WASA has announced that its annual meeting has been set for Saturday, Oct. 2 at the Ramada in Stevens Point. Season's over already?

The Messenger

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Wisconsin Line Drives

By Roger Regez

Rod Peterson walked on to a Madison softball field as a player in 1961 for the first time and he walked off the softball field some 50 seasons later at the ISC World Tournament in Rockford, IL, as a multi softball Hall of Fame inductee retiring from the game he loves so much.

The native of Rio, WI, became involved in every aspect of the game: playing, managing, sponsoring, and even directing softball tournaments. Away from the softball field, Peterson does field work, as he is a farmer.

During his playing days he carried a dangerous bat. During the 1972 Wisconsin Major fast pitch state tournament he had eight hits, two home runs, and seven RBIs to lead Madison Carpets to the state title, 7-6, over The Barr of Eau Claire which featured several future WASA Hall of Famers.

In an earlier game against the same team, Peterson hit a home run that slammed into the centerfield scoreboard in a stunning 5-2 win. That year, Wisconsin State Journal sports columnist Art Hinrichs wrote that Peterson was the most improved player in the Madison Major-American League. Four years later, his bat would put him on the tournament all-state team. In 1973 he was the Wisconsin-Illinois Traveling League (WITL) all-star first baseman.

Playing early in his career in the Classic League for Madison Music Box Tavern, in 1964 he had a homer, triple, double and six RBIs in one game and four hits in another game. This is just a sampling. The next year, playing for Spot Bar, he had four hits including a home run in a win over Millard's Bar. In another game he hit two homers in a win over Skip's Music City. Still another game against Millard's Bar he had a triple, two doubles and a single. In the following years he would move up the ladder to top caliber competition.

Peterson showed he was a dangerous hitter even at the top level of the game, as one could find scanning through some of the old Wisconsin State Journal newspapers. In 1974 he hit a home run and drove in three runs in a 4-1 Madison Carpets win over Oak Park Terrace in a Madison Major League game. The year before he hit a first-inning, two-run homer giving the Carpets a 3-0 win over Klein's Floral of Madison in the same circuit. Peterson hit a two-run homer to beat Freeport, IL in a 1972 WITL game. He hit more than 300 lifetime home runs in his long career.

A player-manager for much of his career, Peterson was a DH in the longest, most famous game ever played in the ISC World Tournament. On Aug. 18, 1981, The Farm Tavern was matched up with Midland (MI) Valley Mechanical Contracting at Saginaw, Michigan. The game would take seven hours and 26 minutes. There were 34 innings, 218 at-bats, only 21 hits, and 106 strikeouts, but overlooked in my opinion was the most remarkable statistic: a total of only five walks! Losing pitcher Pete Meredith struck out 42 and walked two. Winning pitcher Peter Finn had 64 Ks and three walks. The Farm lost 2-1. Their lead-off batter Bill Jochum had 14 at-bats and one hit.

In an interview with former ISC Information Director Gordon Wise, Peterson mentioned the top hurlers who played for him on The Farm over the years. He named Paul Algar, Korrey Gareau, Peter Meredith and Kevin Herlihy. He also gave a special plug to an opposing pitcher, Peter Finn. Jody Hennigar, Brian Martie, Donny Hale, Chris Delarwelle, Colin Abbott and Rob Gray were given mention as great hitters who donned the Madison team's uniform.

Peterson began managing in 1966 when he also played first base for Music Box Tavern. In 1975, he bought The Farm Tavern and began his sponsorship of the team which would become one of the world's best. From there, The Farm went on to win 16 Wisconsin ASA Major state titles. Beginning in 1982, the Madison team won four consecutive ASA Regional tournaments, marking the beginning of a national power that would last for nearly 30 years.

The Farm captured their first ISC title in 1997. They added titles in 1999 and 2007, to go along with runner-up finishes in 1998, 2001 and 2005. ASA Major national titles came in 2003, 2004 and 2009, and The Farm was runner-up in 1988, 1997, 2002 and 2007.

Peterson's managerial record in the last 10 ISC World Tournaments is 16-0 in pool play and a stunning 56-16 overall going against the very best in the world. His mark is 47-14 in the last 10 ASA Major nationals. Combined, that record is a fantastic 103-30 going against the very best in major class softball.

Thanks to Peterson, Wisconsin fast pitch fans were able to watch the best players in the world perform. His teams over the years had top talent both in pitching and position players. He had a knack for being able to recruit new players who would mesh well with his veteran players.

(Continued on page 11)

2010 ASA Playing Rule Changes

Rule 2, Section 1: The pitching distance for Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch 18U B and 16U A/B classifications will be 43 feet.

Comments: This adapts the ASA pitching distance with the ability of the Junior Olympic athletes.

Rule 2, Section 1H: The Double Base... Half of the base is white (over fair territory) and half of the base (over foul territory) is a contrasting color.

Comment: This allows the host of a National Championship more options with the foul territory portion of the base.

Rule 3, Section 1A: The official bat for ASA Championship Play must meet all the ASA specifications and the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1, and

- 1) The official bat shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, and audible rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat shall be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer, be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance expansion. The official bat shall be smooth and round to 0.050 inches in diameter and bear either the ASA 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 certification mark as shown below (in the 2010 ASA Rule Book) and must not be listed on the ASA Non Approved Bat List. And
- 2) must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA or
- 3) must in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA Bat Performance Standard.

Comments: Gives a better description of the approved ASA bat design.

Rule 3, Section 1B Safety Knob: The knob shall have a diameter of at least 1.6 inches with no

sharp edges. The knob will be permanently attached to the bat and may be taped with safety tape

Comments: Describes the minimum knob used in ASA and allows a less restricted knob design.

Rule 3, Section 1C Handle: The region of the bat from the knob, not including the knob, to the start of the taper where the diameter increases. The handle will include a safety grip.

Comments: Adds a definition of a handle to the rule book.

Rule 3, Section 1D Safety Grip: Covers the handle region of the bat. The safety grip shall not be less than 10 inches and not more than 15 inches. There shall be no exposed metal in the 10 – 15 inch area. The safety grip may be a molded finger formed grip as long as it is permanently attached to the bat, or attached with safety tape. Resin, pine tar or spray substances are permissible on the safety grip only. Any tape applied to the safety grip must be a continuous spiral. A bat having a flare or cone shaped grip attached is legal.

Comments: Eliminates the extra tape issue and allows cone and flare grips.

Rule 3, Section 1E Taper: The transition area between the handle and the barrel. The taper shall have a generally conical shape. It starts where the barrel decreases in size and ends where the handle diameter becomes constant. The taper shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, and audible rattles and show no signs of excessive wear.

Comments: Adds a definition of a taper to the rule book and helps the bat manufacturers with their designs.

Rule 3, Section 1F Barrel: The region of the bat from the end of the taper to the end cap, not including the end cap. The barrel region shall be round within 0.050 inches.

Comments: Better defines the barrel of the bat.

(Continued on page 5)

2010 ASA Playing Rule Changes

(Continued from page 4)

Rule 3, Section 1G End Cap: The cap placed at the barrel end of the bat. The end cap shall be permanently affixed to the bat to prevent alterations to the interior of the bat. It shall be affixed so that it cannot be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer without damaging or destroying the end cap or barrel.

Comments: Adds a better definition of an end cap.

Rule 3, Section 1H Altered Bat: The official bat shall not be an altered bat. The distribution of weight and length of the bat shall remain fixed at the time of manufacturing and may not be altered in any way thereafter, except otherwise specifically provided in Rule 3, Section 1 or as specifically approved by the ASA. Inserting material inside the bat, or painting a bat other than the top for identification purposes are examples of altering a bat. Laser marking for ID purposes is not considered an altered bat. Engraving ID marking on the barrel end of a metal bat is considered an altered bat. Approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer and shall be considered an altered bat.

Comments: Clarification of an altered bat.

Rule 3, Section 6G: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Boys and Girls 18U A/B, Gold and 16U A/B classifications of play may wear metal cleats.

Comments: This allows the upper classifications of Junior Olympic Boys and Girls Fast Pitch players to wear metal cleats.

Rule 3, Section 7: Characteristics of approved equipment cannot be changed. Examples include icing or cooling of any equipment. In addition, approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer. Warming sleeves on bats are now approved.

Comments: Changes the rules to allow warming sleeves used on bats and includes rolling or shaving

of bats to be an illegal act.

Rule 4, Section 6C [3]: Replaces the words when reaches base safely with “when they complete their turn at bat and are discovered”

Comments: Clarifies the rule that previously stated when the batter reached first base safely.

Rule 4, Section 7C [5]: No electronic equipment to include cell phones, pagers, etc. is allowed to be worn or carried on the playing field.

Comments: This would change the rule from communication to electronic and eliminate the use of video equipment from the dugout.

Rule 6, Section 3H: The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding a height of 10 feet from the ground.

Comments: The Slow Pitch players wanted this change implemented into the Slow Pitch game.

Rule 6, Section 3K [1]: The 9 Man A Modified Pitching Rule now becomes the same as the 9 Man Major Modified Pitching Rule.

Comments: This allows for a single pitching rule in 9 Man Modified.

Rule 6, Section 6A: The pitcher may use an approved manufactured drying agent in Modified Pitch.

Comments: Is now consistent with Fast Pitch.

Rule 8, Section 10: Allow a courtesy runner in the game of Modified.

Comments: Is now consistent with Fast Pitch.



2010 Wisconsin ASA State Tournaments

SLOW PITCH

MEN'S

Class B	July 10	Stevens Point	Randy Wievel P.O. Box 663 Stevens Point, WI 54481	(715) 341-2804 July 9, 2010
	\$275.00			
Class C	July 16-18	Stevens Point	Randy Wievel P.O. Box 663 Stevens Point, WI 54481	(715) 341-2804 July 9, 2010
	\$275.00			
Class D	July 16-18	Stevens Point	Randy Wievel P.O. Box 663 Stevens Point, WI 54481	(715) 341-2804 July 9, 2010
	\$275.00			

WOMEN'S

Class C/D	June 5-6	Fond du Lac	Paula Suemnicht N9352 Elm Beach Fond du Lac, WI 54935	(920) 960-9684
	\$275.00			

MODIFIED PITCH

MEN'S 10-MAN

Class A/B	July 23-25	Ashwaubenon	Rex Melhberg 2155 Holmgren Way Ashwaubenon WI 54304	(920) 492-2331 July 16, 2010
	\$275.00			

WOMEN'S

Class A	July 23-25	Ashwaubenon	Rex Mehlberg 2155 Holmgren Way Ashwaubenon, WI 54304	(920) 492-2331 July 16, 2010
	\$195.00			

FAST PITCH

WOMEN'S

23 & Under (6-Team Minimum)	July 8-11	Eau Claire/ Seymour	Fred Hankel 5776 Perth Dr. Eau Claire, WI 54703	(715) 552-4428 July 1, 2010
	\$400.00			

JO (YOUTH) FAST PITCH

GIRLS

18/16/14/12/10 & Under Class A	July 8-11	Watertown	Scott Pomerence N9650 Dewey Rd Watertown, WI 53094	(920) 261-5212 June 30, 2010
	\$400.00			

18/16/14/12/10
& Under
Class B

July 8-11
\$400.00

Eau Claire/
Seymour

Fred Hankel
5776 Perth Dr.
Eau Claire, WI 54703

(715) 552-4428
July 1, 2010

18/16/14/12/10
& Under
Class C

Aug. 6-8
\$300.00

Baraboo

Carl Jacobsen
421 Moore St.
Baraboo, WI 53913

(608) 335-7673
July 28, 2010

JO GREAT LAKES NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

GIRLS

18/16 Under Class A	June 24-26	Watertown	Scott Pomerence N9650 Dewey Rd Watertown, WI 53094	(920) 261-5212
	\$400.00			

2010 Wisconsin ASA State Tournaments

The following tournaments were pending when this edition of *The Messenger* was published:

- Slow Pitch Men's Class E
- Women's Class A
- Modified Pitch Men's 9-Man Open
- Fast Pitch Men's Class C/D
- Fast Pitch Women's Class A/B/C
- JO Great Lakes National Qualifier Girls Class A

Check the WASA Web site (<http://www.wisconsin-asa.org>) for further updates on the above tournaments.

Youth Tournaments

Information on the following youth tournaments can be found on the WASA Web site pages listed below each tourney (these Web pages feature information which is updated on a regular basis):

WASA Youth State Tournaments and National Qualifiers

<http://www.wisconsin-asa.org/wasa.html>

State Championship Series (SCS) Tournaments:

<http://www.wisconsin-asa.org/scs.html>

ASA Youth National Tournaments

<http://www.wisconsin-asa.org/under.html>

Umpire Registration Form 2010

Please complete form, print and mail to address below:

Name (First,Last)	Current Date:(mmddy)
Street Address:	Home Phone:
City,State,Zip:	Cell Phone:
County:	E-mail:
Gender: M -----F	Section: NW NE NC SW SE SC (please circle)
Please circle all Umpiring you are interested in working: Adult --- Youth --- State Tournaments --- SCS Tournaments Fast Pitch --- Modified Pitch --- Slow Pitch --- All	2010 Umpire Registration Fees: Adult Umpire (18 Years & Older) \$50.00 Youth Umpire (Under 18 Years Old) \$25.00

Make registration check payable to: Wisconsin ASA. Send fee and card to: Wisconsin ASA, Dale E. Ferron, 4801 Marsh Rd., Madison, WI 53718

2010 Team Registration Card

Please Print Complete Form and Mail To Address Below

TEAM NAME:		ASA CODE _____	
MANAGER'S NAME (First, Last):			
STREET ADDRESS		HOME PHONE:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP		SECTION: DISTRICT:	
REC. ASSN.:		WPRA AFFILIATION: Yes No	
SEX: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – Men <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – Women <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – Co-Ed <input type="checkbox"/> 4 – Boys <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – Girls	CLASS: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – Super <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – Major <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – Class A <input type="checkbox"/> 4 – Class B <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – Class C <input type="checkbox"/> 6 – Class D <input type="checkbox"/> 7 – Class E <input type="checkbox"/> 8 – Masters <input type="checkbox"/> 9 – Seniors	DIVISION: <input type="checkbox"/> 0 – Unclass <input type="checkbox"/> 1 – Fast Pitch <input type="checkbox"/> 2 – Slow Pitch <input type="checkbox"/> 3 – Modified 10 Man <input type="checkbox"/> 4 – Modified 9 Man <input type="checkbox"/> 5 – Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> 6 – Church S.P. <input type="checkbox"/> 7 – 16" Slow Pitch <input type="checkbox"/> 8 – 14" Slow Pitch	AGE Youth <input type="checkbox"/> 10 & Under <input type="checkbox"/> 12 & Under <input type="checkbox"/> 14 & Under <input type="checkbox"/> 16 & Under <input type="checkbox"/> 18 & Under <input type="checkbox"/> 23 & Under Masters <input type="checkbox"/> 35 & Over <input type="checkbox"/> 40 & Over <input type="checkbox"/> 45 & Over Seniors <input type="checkbox"/> 50 & Over <input type="checkbox"/> 55 & Over <input type="checkbox"/> 60 & Over
Do you intend to participate in the State Tournament Play? Yes No Do you have a team packet? Yes No To receive League Discount all team cards should be submitted together with Affiliation Card (tan color).			

2010 Team Registration Fees		
<input type="checkbox"/> J.O. Teams.....Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Teams Registering Entire League.....\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Adult Team Registration.....\$40.00	Make fee registration check to: Wisconsin ASA and send fee and card to: DALE FERRON 4801 Marsh Rd MADISON WI 53718 For Youth registration, send to: DALE FERRON 4801 Marsh Rd MADISON WI 53718	
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Wisconsin Line Drives

(Continued from page 3)

He left no doubt about it, he was in charge and would call the shots. Peterson would consider ideas from his players but in the end it would be his call and those players understood that. During games he was not afraid to express his displeasure with an umpire. A fan poll taken during the 1993 ISC World Tournament by Fastpitch Chronicle publisher Bob Tomlinson showed fans chose Peterson as their favorite and most colorful manager.

I would argue that winning an ISC World Tournament or an ASA Major national has the same degree of difficulty as winning the NCAA basketball tournament, the NFL Super Bowl, the NBA playoffs or baseball's World Series. In my book, Rod Peterson ranks with Vince Lombardi, Phil Jackson, John Wooden, Bob Knight, Joe Torre and many other famous national coaches and managers.

The sad thing is that the national media continue to carry a sack over their heads when it comes to covering

major fast pitch softball. A national legend ... Rod Peterson's accomplishments should have been covered in Wisconsin Sports and Sports Illustrated, and on ESPN.

