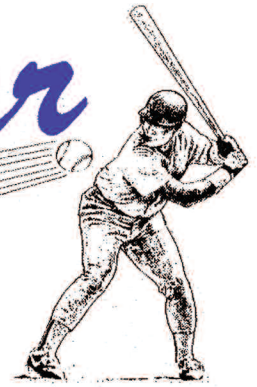




# The Messenger



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## WASA Hall of Fame Hits 100

ASHWAUBENON – Membership in the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association’s Hall of Fame has hit the century mark.

Five prominent individuals were inducted on the warm, sunny afternoon of July 28 at the Ashwaubenon Sports Complex to boost the hall’s enrollment to an even 100.

Comprising the highly distinguished Class of 2007, by order of enshrinement, are:

- Todd (Odie) Albrecht . . . Ripon**
- Judy Cmeyla . . . . . Green Bay**
- Denny Delorit . . . . . Green Bay**
- Mike Haley . . . . . Chippewa Falls**
- Silas (Si) Johnson . . . . . Madison (posthumous)**

Also honored at the ceremony were 2006 WASA Umpire of the Year Bill Bartingale from Eau Claire and 2005 Umpire of the Year Tom Ueberroth of Hales Corners, who was unable to attend.

This year’s class is the 17th edition since the Hall of Fame was established in 1984. Inductions have been on a biennial basis since 1993.

The Umpire of the Year honor has been bestowed annually since 1982 with the winners from the previous two years feted at the next Hall of Fame induction.

There was a heavy emphasis on infielders with this class as both Cmeyla and Delorit were standouts at third base in fast pitch while the versatile Haley spent a lot of time there while starring for Bankers Life and Houligan’s in slow pitch.

Albrecht is the most decorated modified pitch hurler in WASA history and Johnson, who passed away in 1965, was instrumental in founding the WASA in the early

1930s and served as the organization’s first commissioner from 1935-42.

Presenting the Class of 2007 for induction were WASA Hall of Famer Tom Rausch for Albrecht; Jean Rivett for Cmeyla; Aaron and Jesse Delorit for their father; and Hall of Fame charter member Jim Ganther for Haley.

Accepting the plaque for Si Johnson was his son, Silas (Hap) Johnson, Jr., from Madison.

Hap amused the crowd by revealing that he’d passed Green Bay’s Austin Straubel International Airport on the way to the ceremony and it reminded him that the airport’s namesake, Austin Straubel, had been the best man at his father’s wedding.

The hour-long ceremony was held during an intermission in the WASA Men’s Class B and Women’s Class A Modified Pitch State Tournaments and was followed by a dinner at the Green Bay Howard Johnson’s.

This was Ashwaubenon’s initial shot at hosting the Hall of Fame festivities and the production, coordinated by village parks and recreation director Rex Mehlberg and intern Megan Sackett, unfolded flawlessly.

“Rex and Megan did a great job in staging the ceremonies,” remarked WASA Commissioner Tom Raimer. “I congratulate both of them and their staff, and the WASA certainly looks forward to returning to Ashwaubenon in the future.”

The WASA will now go to work on its second 100 members with the next Hall of Fame class slated to be chosen for induction in 2009.

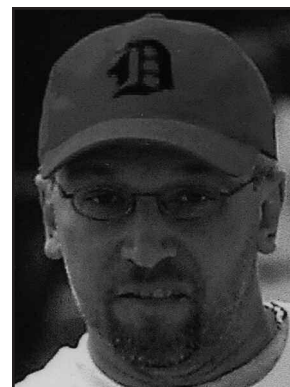
Career highlights for each member of the WASA Hall of Fame Class of 2007 are listed on the following pages of this section.



• **Todd (Odie) Albrecht** •

*Pitcher*  
**Ripon**

**WASA HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007**



Dillinger's right-hand man!

Without a doubt the most decorated pitcher ever in the Wisconsin ASA's modified pitch program.

Since 1994 he's thrown nearly every meaningful pitch for the Dillinger's dynasty from Fond du Lac as they've steamrolled to 10 WASA 10-Man Modified state titles and three ASA national championships.

The tireless right-hander's career record is 700-80 (and counting), including a dazzling 53-5 in state tournament play and 52-19 at ASA nationals.

He's earned 10 WASA All-State awards plus five state tournament MVP trophies.

Hurled Dillinger's to ASA national titles in 2002, 2003 and 2006. The 2006 triumph was achieved at the

Ashwaubenon Sports Complex where, less than a year later, he is being inducted into the WASA Hall of Fame.

Named 1st Team ASA All-America in 1995, 2002, 2003 and 2006 and 2nd Team All-America in 1998 and 2001.

Won the Outstanding Pitcher award in the 2003 ASA National Championship in Fond du Lac.

Has amassed over 100 career tournament championships while twice winning more than 80 games in a season.

Believes he has been very fortunate to play with a Dillinger's group that's like a family and that any honors he's achieved are due to the combined efforts of his extremely talented softball team.



• **Judy Cmeyla** •

*Third Base*  
**Green Bay**

**WASA HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007**



Judy anchored the "hot corner" for some of the dominant women's fast pitch teams in Wisconsin during the late 1970s and 1980s.

A superb defensive player known for her glove and arm as well as her hustle, intensity and ability to play through injuries.

ASA Major class teams she played for included Rick's Circle Tap, Ernie's Happy Daze, the Olympic Sportswear Flames and The Settlement Bar, all from the Green Bay area.

Compiled a career batting average of over .300 and displayed a penchant for delivering in the clutch. For example,

her three-run double gave The Settlement a 3-2 win over Kimberly Credit Union in the championship game of the 1986 Kimberly Rec Association tournament.

A member of five WASA state champions and was named to four WASA All-State Tournament teams between 1977-87.

Played in five ASA Great Lakes Regionals during a time when it was difficult just to qualify for regional play.

Was MVP of the 1986 Kimberly Classic.

Nominated for induction by former WASA Commissioner and Hall of Fame committee chairman Roger Regez.



## • Denny Delorit •

*Third Base*  
Green Bay

### WASA HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007



Played fast pitch from 1970-2004 and was one of the most feared power hitters in state history.

Known as a clutch hitter who won many games with the long ball, he hit .320 for his career with 850 home runs and over 2,500 RBIs.

Enjoyed his greatest success with mighty Penn Corp. of Sioux City, Iowa, with whom he won a pair of ASA Men's Major national titles. Earned ASA All-America recognition three times.

In 1990 his Iowa teams won the ASA Major, the 45 & Over national and the ISC World.

Competed in 20 ASA nationals and 28 ISC World tourneys. Made two ISC All-World teams and tied a tournament home run mark with two in one game, which stood for 22 years.

Denny played for some of the most famous teams in state annals, including The Farm, All-Car and Tommy's Angels.

A three-time leading hitter of the prestigious Eau Claire Classic and tourney MVP in 1982.

Toured Japan and New Zealand while with national titans Penn Corp. and Home Savings and Loan of Aurora, Illinois.

Played the final three seasons of his career along with his sons Jesse and Aaron for the Des Moines Bombers.

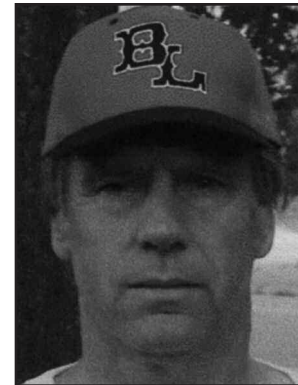
Concerning his election to the WASA Hall of Fame, he graciously stated, "I was very fortunate to play at the highest levels of the sport with some of the best-ever players of my time period and for, of course, the great sponsors who made it possible."



## • Mike Haley •

*Infielder*  
Chippewa Falls

### WASA HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007



Mike's softball career began in 1970 and for most of the years since he's been an extremely valuable member of the Houligan's and Bankers Life teams from Eau Claire that've been winning slow pitch titles in Class A and various Masters and Senior age levels for over 30 years.

Competed in 22 Wisconsin ASA slow pitch state tournaments and has been on 12 state champions and three ASA Great Lakes Regional victors.

Consistently ranks among his team's leading hitters in batting average, home runs and RBIs. In 1979 he paced Houligan's sluggers with a .651 average and 80 homers. Maintains a lifetime average of over .600.

A two-time ASA All-America selection. In 1996 he was the

leading hitter in the 24-team ASA 45 & Over National Championship in Meridian, Mississippi as Bankers Life placed fourth with a 5-2 record. Named to 12 WASA All-State teams.

A very versatile performer who played most of the infield positions, including pitcher, and could go to the outfield if needed.

A member of three Senior Softball national champions and in 2006 he earned all-tourney honors in Senior nationals at Seattle and Las Vegas.

Mike has played most of his career with, and now joins, his Houligan's and Bankers Life teammates Jim Ganther, Dave Rasmussen, Al (Curly) Hanson, Kelly Stevens and Steve Frank in the WASA Hall of Fame.



• **Silas G. Johnson** •  
*Commissioner*  
**Madison/Mt. Horeb**



**WASA HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2007**

Known as “Si,” he could also be called the “George Washington of the Wisconsin Amateur Softball Association” since he helped establish the organization and served as its inaugural commissioner from 1935 to 1942.

He was also said to be involved in the creation of the national ASA in the 1930s.

Helped organize and run the first WASA state tournaments during the Depression when fast pitch drew huge crowds in many Wisconsin municipalities.

In 1934 he was highly commended by team members and followers of Ke-Nash-A Motors, the WASA state champions from Kenosha, during the National Softball Championship in Chicago, now considered the ASA’s 2nd-ever national tourney.

Teams from the USA and Canada competed in the

weekend event staged in Lincoln Park that drew over 200,000 fans and was won by Ke-Nash-A with five consecutive victories.

Newspaper accounts stated “Johnson was as enthusiastic as if he was the manager of the team. He assisted in every way possible to make the stay in Chicago a pleasant one.”

Stepped down as WASA Commissioner in 1942 to concentrate on his business career and role as a community leader in Madison.

A prep sports star from Mt. Horeb, he went on to excel in baseball and basketball at what is now UW-Whitewater and is a member of the university’s athletic hall of fame.

Si, who passed away in 1965, has the honor of being the 100th person inducted into the WASA Hall of Fame.



**Tom Ueberroth**



**Bill Bartingale**

**Wisconsin ASA Umpire of the Year**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>
1982	Ken Gracner	Madison
1983	Ed Johnson	La Crosse
1984	John Baltus	Eau Claire
1985	Clyde Schuette	Green Bay
1986	George Gannon	Chippewa Falls
1987	Arden Geisler	Wis. Rapids
1988	Fred Kratz	Montello
1989	John Peterson	Madison
1990	Joe Hamilton	Eau Claire
1991	Tim Joly	Green Bay

1992	Mike Lipp	Madison
1993	Joe Cyran	Stevens Point
1994	Wes Templeton	Madison
1995	Jim Mitchell	New Richmond
1996	Tim Irish	Onalaska
1997	Lorn Roehm	Sparta
1998	John Eckendorf	Stevens Point
1999	Pete Dake	Eau Claire
2000	Lew Smith	Green Bay
2001	Ron Deutsch	Eau Claire
2002	Tim Townsend	Greenfield
2003	Bill Gongoll	Wausau
2004	Mike Mikalsen	Cottage Grove
2005	Tom Ueberroth	Hales Corners
2006	Bill Bartingale	Eau Claire

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