

PRESS RELEASE

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Wisconsin State Baseball League
Inaugurates Hall with 10 Inductees

The Wisconsin State Baseball League which begins its 39th year of operation in 2008 will induct 10 of its finest when it inaugurates its Hall of Fame January 26 in Sheboygan.

Members of the League's first Hall of Fame Class are:

From the Green Bay Blue Ribbons: Greg Howell, Dennis Ruh

From the Janesville Aces: Jim Coulter, Dan Davis, Tom Klawitter

From the Lombard Orioles: Greg Iavarone

From the Sheboygan A's: Gene Mand, Denny Moyer, Lee Wetenkamp, Randy Wilke.

The general public is welcome to attend the banquet that will be held at CityStreets Restaurant. Tickets, priced at \$25 each, can be reserved by sending in the reservation form that appears on the Wisconsin State League website: www.wisconsinstateleague.com

The League began play in the 1970 season, when officials from Horicon, Green Bay, Madison, Menasha, Racine and Sheboygan decided that it was worth the travel time and expense to play competitive semi-pro baseball. Under that premise, the league has flourished ever since.

It has been touted as the best semi-pro baseball league in Wisconsin because it combines current collegiate players with former college and professional players. Teams in the league for the 2008 season are the Addison (IL) Braves, Eau Claire Cavaliers, Janesville Aces, Kenosha Kings, Lombard (IL) Orioles, Manitowoc Bandits, Oshkosh Giants and Sheboygan A's.

There is no question that longevity and durability was on the minds of franchise voters when they elected the first hall of fame class.

Thumbnails of the 10 charter members of the Wisconsin State Baseball League Hall of Fame are:

Jim Coulter, infielder, 1983-2006 Janesville Aces. All-League Team 1989-90, 1992, 1995-97, 2002, 2004, 2006. Led league in: plate appearances 1989 (133), 1991 (129), 1992 (139), 1995 (141), 1996 (144), 2003, 124); hits, 1992 (39) doubles 1989. Holds career records in sacrifice bunts, 45; and assists, 1,123; ranks in top five in 14 career categories including second in games played (583), plate appearances (2,374), at bats (2,016), runs (400), hits (583) and base on balls (287). Career record: .289 batting average over 21 seasons. Played on Janesville's championship teams of 1989, 1990 and 1993.

Dan Davis, pitcher, 1981 Beloit Blues, 1982, Green Bay Blue Ribbons, 1983-84 Rockford Blackhawks, 1988-1997 Janesville Aces. League's Most Valuable Pitcher 1984, 1990, 1991. All-League Team 1989-91, 1993, 1995. Led league in: innings pitched 1991 (86.2); wins 1991 (9); winning percentage 1984 (5-0), 1990 (6-0), 1991 (9-0); earned run average 1984 (1.69), 1990 (0.75). Holds one-season winning percentage record, 1000, 9-0, 1991. Ranks in the top five in seven career categories including third in all time victories, (59); second in shutouts, (12); third in innings pitched, (589.1); third in complete games, (54), and third in games started, (85). Career record: 59-20, 2.58 earned run average over 14 seasons. Played on Janesville's championship teams of 1989 and 1990

Greg Howell, catcher, 1971-1979 Green Bay Blue Ribbons. League's Most Valuable Player, 1973, 1974. Led league in: hitting 1973 (.469); hits 1973 (45), 1976 (37); runs batted in 1974 (26), 1976 (26); doubles 1971 (4); total bases 1972 (47); slugging percentage, 1972 (.618). Hit over .400 twice (.469 in 1973 and .411 in 1974), in nine seasons, never hit less than .344 for a career .387 average and .582 slugging percentage. Played on Green Bay's championship teams of 1971, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977 and 1979.

Greg Iavarone, catcher, 1992-2000, Lombard Orioles. All-League team 1992, 1994, 1996-98. Led league in hitting 1996 (.489), 1997 (.446); runs batted in 1999 (36), doubles 1996 (13). Ranks eight in career runs batted in (211) and seventh in career batting average (.414). Hit over .400 for five straight

years 1995-1999 (.436, .489, .446, .420, .458), but didn't have enough at bats to qualify for the championship in 1995 and 1999. Career record: hit .414 over nine seasons. Played on Lombard's championship teams of 1992-93, 1996, and 1998-99.

Tom Klawitter, pitcher 1977 Janesville Aces, 1978 Appleton Merchants, 1979-2007 Janesville Aces. League's Most Valuable Pitcher 1988-89, 1997, 2002-05. All-League team in 1989-91, 1993-94, 1996-98, 2000-2006 Led league in: innings pitched 1988 (87.1), 1989 (91), 1993 (66.2), 1995 (63), 1996 (73.2), 1997 (79.1), 1998 (87.1), 2002 (95.1), 2003 (71), 2004 (76), 2005 (102.3), 2006 (69); strikeouts 1988 (93) 1989 (74), 1991 (83), 1993 (49), 1994 (63), 1995 (66), 1996 (75), 1997 (74) 1998 (78), 2002 (114), 2004 (79), 2005 (112), 2007 (52); wins 1988 (9), 1989 (7), 1993 (7), 1997 (11), 1998 (9), 2002 (9), 2004 (9), 2005 (10); earned run average 1997 (1.81), 2000 (1.61) 2002 (0.76), 2004 (0.47); winning percentage 2002 (9-0), 2004 (9-0). Holds one-season records for appearances 19 (2005), starts 16 (2005), strikeouts 114 (2002), wins 11 (1997), winning percentage 1000, 9-0 (2002, 2004). Holds career records in pitching for years (24), appearances (2,548), starts (225), complete games (122), innings pitched (1,539), strikeouts (1,539), wins (147) and shutouts (23). Career record: 147-57, 2.29 earned run average over 24 seasons. Played on Janesville's championship teams of 1977, 1989, 1990 and 1993.

Gene Mand, outfield, infield 1971-1995 Sheboygan A's. All-League team 1989-1992. Led league in: plate appearances 1975 (120); hits 1974 (36); doubles 1980 (7), triples 1971 (3), 1981 (3); home runs 1974 (4), 1985 (9); put outs 1980 (129), 1981 (160), 1982 (140), 1983 (183), 1984 (237), 1985 (194), 1989 (245); Total chances 1981 (176), 1982 (152) 1983 (200), 1984 (253), 1985 (201), 1986 (138), 1989 (262). One-game records: triples (3), home runs (3), triple play (1). One season records: triple plays (1). Career records: years played (25), games played (613), plate appearances (2,400), at bats (2,131), runs scored (402), hits (637), runs batted in (425), base on balls (316), strikeouts (361), doubles (101), home runs (71), total bases (986), double plays 178, triple plays (1). Hit .400 in 1974, .431 in 1984 and finished with .299 career batting average over 25 seasons. Played on Sheboygan's 1991 championship team.

Denny Moyer, one of the founders of the league and League Executive Secretary, 1970-2007. General manager of the Sheboygan A's since 1967. The Sheboygan club is the only charter member of the league still competing in the league. Appeared in a few games between 1970 and 1979 as a fill-in player for Sheboygan A's (pitcher, infielder, outfielder), Career record: hit .292, went 2-0 with 8.23 earned run average over eight seasons.

Dennis Ruh, one of the founders of the league and Manager/General Manager of the Green Bay Blue Ribbons from 1970-1995. The Ribbons were 448-183 under Ruh's leadership and won 13 league or divisional championship in his tenure. He was named Manager of the Year seven times, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1992, 1994, 1995. Returned to the league this past year to serve on the Board of Directors.

Lee Wetenkamp, infield, Sheboygan A's, 1981-1991. League's Rookie of the Year 1981. League's Most Valuable Player 1981, 1985, 1988, 1989. All League Team 1989-91. League batting champion 1989. Led league in runs scored 1989 (30), hits 1989 (46), runs batted in 1981 (28), 1983 (28), 1989 (39); doubles 1985 (22), 1988 (14), 1990 (10); home runs 1981 (7), 1983 (7), 1990 (7); total bases 1989 (80), 1990 (71); slugging percentage 1983 (.774). In the top five in seven career categories: fourth in runs scored (255); fifth in hits (372); third in runs batted in (301); third in sacrifice flies (23); third in doubles (81); third in home runs (61), fourth in total bases (658). Hit over .400 five times: .414 in 1986, .422 in 1987, .415 in 1988, .404 in 1989 and .408 in 1990. Career record hit .367 over 11 seasons. Played in Sheboygan A's 1991 championship team.

Randy Wilke, infield, Sheboygan A's, 1987-93, 1996-2005. League's Most Valuable Player 1997, 2001. All League Team 1990, 1993, 1996-2002, 2004-05. Led league in: runs batted in 1990 (28), 1997 (51), 2000 (39), 2001 (38); home runs 1997 (12), 2000 (9), 2001 (10); total bases 2000 (73), 2001 (78); slugging percentage 2000 (.658); put outs 1990 (216), 1001 (258), 1992 (259), 1997 (221), 1998 (238), 2001 (243), 2003 (185); total chances 1990 (233), 1991 (283), 1992 (285), 1997 (237), 1998 (258), 2001 (258), 2002 (282), 2003 (199). One season records: runs batted in (51), put outs (259), total chances (285), double plays (24). Career records: sacrifice flies (29), doubles (101), put outs (2,435),

total chances (2,658), double plays (178). Ranks in top five in most career totals including: games played third (454), plate appearances third (1,705), at bats third (1,566), runs scored fifth (252), hits third (505), runs batted in second (369), hit by pitch third (25), home runs second (67), total bases (823). Career record: hit .322 over 17 seasons. Played on Sheboygan A's 1991, 1997 and 2000 championship teams.