

#### Tim Whitson Meritorious Service

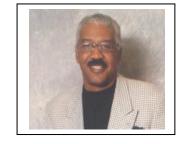
Tim has been involved with softball for more than 38 years in many capacities – a player, softball administrator and board member for Metro Detroit ASA. He served on the MDASA board member from 1982 to present. Served as president in 1989, 2004, and 2005.

Tim was selected to serve as the Metro Detroit national player representative on the ASA national council where he held that position for more than 15 years. Tim also served on various committees at the local and national levels. He was instrumental in formulating the local adult tournament program for men, women, and coed dating back to the 1980's.

Tim retired in 2003 as Director of Parks and Recreation from the City of Garden City where his responsibilities included the administration supervision and coordination of all adult men's and women's slow-pitch leagues and tournaments throughout the year, youth slow-pitch, and umpire programs.

#### Don Sheffield Slow Pitch Player

The flashy Sheffield began his playing career in the Late 1970's playing with such teams as Softball City, Miller Auto, Lockey's, and Nothdurft just to name a few of the teams he made a major impact as a player. His start began with the Ford



Adray team. He was also a major contributor on teams when he played in the famed Major Metro Travel league in the early 1980's.

Don greatest achievement was when he helped the Nothdurft team capture a national ASA title in 1987....his first national title. The speedster and hot glove at shortstop helped his teams win six more ASA national titles while being selected to five all-american teams from 1987-1993. Sheffield also played some outfield positions; and with his quickness took away many hits from the opposing teams. Don continues to star on the diamond playing with a travel 55 and over team (Salsa) where he is defending their 2011 title. He credits his softball prowess to Fred Nothdurft, who helped him achieve star status on the field.

# **Gary Bryce Meritorious Service**

Gary Bryce completed his 31st season as head coach of the Wayne State softball program in 2012. Bryce became just the 20th softball coach in NCAA history with 1,000 wins when the Warriors won at Findlay on April 20, 2011.



Gary has done it all on the diamond – playing 20
Years of men's ASA fast pitch softball; head coach at Royal Oak Dondero high school from 1977-81 while capturing a state title in 1979; captured an ASA women's class A regional title in 1984; and also an ASA umpire!

Bryce entered 2012 19th on the NCAA All-Time softball coaches wins list with 1,007. Coach Bryce was inducted into the NFCA Hall of Fame in December 2008. His 2003 squad became the first in school history to advance to the College World Series after winning the NCAA Great Lakes Regional in Allendale, while his 2010 team shattered the previous wins record (43 in 1993) by winning 52 games including the NCAA Midwest Regional and Super Regional titles to advance to the College World Series.

During his tenure, he has built one of the most successful collegiate programs among Michigan universities and colleges, compiling a 1007-615-7 (.620) overall record in 30 seasons. Under Bryce's guidance, Wayne State's softball program has been nationally ranked 24 times in his 30 seasons. WSU has made 16 appearances (1983-84-86-88-90-92-93-94-96-02-03-06-07-08-09-10) in the NCAA Division II National Championship tournament since 1982, tied-for-seventh most in NCAA Division II.

The 2009 senior class was the first in school history to make four consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, while the class of 2010 became the first with three 40-plus win seasons. Gary has made an impact on softball in metro Detroit that is recognized by the entire state!

## Hall of Fame on Display

The current Hall of Fame is on display at Canton Softball Center – Victory Park located at 46555 West Michigan Avenue, approximately two miles west of I-275.



#### Bob Kost Umpire

Bob started umpiring Jr. Baseball in the late 1960's. In 1971, Bob joined the Westland Athletic Officials Association under the guidance of Hall of Famer George Gillies. Bob umpired



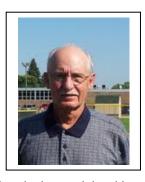
fast pitch, modified pitch, and slow pitch softball. That first year Bob got invited to umpire the ASA National tournament in Southgate which included Detroit's own Little Caesars, who captured the title that year. That experience helped Bob a great deal learning the art and control of a game as an umpire.

In the years that followed Bob decided ASA was the avenue to continue his umpiring career. In the following years he worked many metro Detroit and state district tournaments while also working several national tournaments. In the late 70's, Bob was appointed as a Deputy UIC in Wayne county for metro Detroit overseeing many umpire clinics throughout the area.

Looking back to those years Bob met so many class umpires, players and recreational administrators of the sport, which was a learning curve for his life. Kost truly represents the class of an ASA umpire!

#### Al Land Meritorious Service

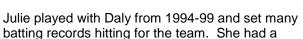
Al Land has been with the Compuware girl's fastpitch program since it was first organized back in 1982. During that time, Al was a head coach for 25 years; and a board member for 10 years along with assisting at the 18U for the last four years.



His teams went to different age divisions at ASA nationals, but mainly with the 18U division. They finished in the ASA National top 10 on four occasions with the 1998 16U ASA national held in Novi where his Compuware team finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place the most gratifying. Land has worked with, instructed, coached and mentored more than 1000 players, with many playing college softball. He has also served as Compuware tournament director for 25 years (attracting 92 plus teams annually) at the nationally known event. Al has also coached at the high school varsity level for more than 20 years and has been involved with youth sports in the community both as a coach and supervisor. He feels strongly that a young person needs to feel important and sports (softball) provide them an avenue to that direction. Working and building character young ladies was his most important drive; his goal was to be a mentor and positive influence on their lives!

### Julie Liljeberg Fast Pitch Player

Julie joined the Daly Restaurant class A fast pitch team in 1994 after completing a successful college career at Western Michigan University.





lifetime batting average of .370, fourth highest in Daly team history with 400 or more at bats. Julie was a standout left-handed first basemen turning many double plays and defending the bunt down first base exceptional. Julie played in nine national championships, six with Daly. She was named ASA all-american four times – first team in 1995, second team in 1996 and 1999, and third team in 1997. Julie was a major contributor to the success of any team she played on during her illustrious career. She was also inducted into the Western Michigan University Hall of Fame in 2002.

#### Tony Profita Meritorious Service

Across the country, Tony Profita is one of the most recognized faces in slow pitch softball. Known by many as the number one softball fan in the country, "Tony Pro" has been involved in ASA softball for more than 65 years. As a young employee with the Detroit Packard company in the 1940's, Tony helped organize the company



softball league, which exposed him to Detroit softball – and he's been hooked ever since. Tony became a regular Detroit parks and recreation leagues, following local players and their teams to tournaments and world championships. He was a long time friend, confidant and advisor to Bill Svochak and Tony Lutomski, and proudly carried his ASA District Commissioner card to ASA tournaments and events.

In his prime, Tony watched more than 500 softball games a year. His weekend travels included trips to almost every state where softball is played and he forged many friendships with softball players, managers and sponsors. Tony began collecting team jerseys and softball caps from his favorite players and teams as souvenirs and created a collection that is unmatched anywhere – his own Hall of Fame museum in his home. At age 89, Tony continues to watch games each night in hopes of catching up with many of his softball friends.