

Mike Adray a life long resident of Dearborn, Michigan was proclaimed by the Detroit Free Press as Dearborn's number one citizen in 1981. As president of Adray Appliance and Photo Center, Inc., Mike has helped thousands of others by taking leadership roles in amateur athletics, contributing to higher education and in a variety of community causes. Adray serves on the board of directors of numerous businesses and fraternal organizations and has received several awards for his contributions and service including: Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame (1973), Michigan Sports Hall of Fame (1983), United Foundation "Sportman of the Year" (1982-1983), United States Baseball Federation's Certificate of Service Award (1979).



MIKE ADRAY
Hall of Honor

Youth athletics has always been a favorite interest of Adray's. His involvement began in 1956 when he sponsored his first Class E baseball team. Twenty-Seven years later this modest beginning has mushroomed to the point where he now sponsors over 600 little-league teams, 26 Class A through E baseball teams and approximately 50 men's and women's slow pitch softball teams. Adray has been a hockey sponsor since 1959. Today, 42 fully equipped teams play under the Adray banner. In 1974 he founded the Adray Community Hockey Leagues in the Detroit area which is comprised of over 3,500 youngsters paying on 217 teams.

Adray and his wife Louise have two married daughters and are proud grandparents.

The Metro Detroit Amateur Softball Association is proud to honor Detroit's #1 Sportsman, Mr. Mike Adray.

Bob Auten began his softball career in 1962 with the Maybee Tavern team of Maybee, MI.

The power hitting, left-hander got his first taste of national tournament competition in 1965 when his Monroe Bomber team went to the A.S.A. Nationals in Parma, Ohio. Although the team only won two games, Bob "arrived" on the national scene by being selected 1st team All American with an .866 batting average.

Auten returned to the A.S.A. nationals five more times during his career. Bob pitched Mike Ilitch's Little Caesars team to a third, second and seventh place finish in 1969, 1971 and 1972 respectively, where he was selected first team All American as pitcher each time.

It was at the 1970 National Tournament in Southgate, Michigan that Bob took his place as one of the great all time hitter's. In the six game march to the A.S.A. National Title, Auten went 17 for 25 for a .680 batting average including seven home runs and fifteen R.B.I.'s.

In the 1970 championship game against defending champion Milwaukee Copper Hearth, Auten belted four home runs as Caesar's took it all in front of the home town fans.

Earlier that same year at Springfield, Ohio Auten, was the M.V.P. as Little Caesars took the prestigious Stroh's Invitational.

Bob is employed by Ford Motor Co. at Rawsonville. He and his wife, Patricia were married in 1973 and have two children Brian and Aaron.



BOB AUTEN
Slow Pitch



MACK PHILLIPS
Fastpitch

Mack Phillips for 14 years, from 1939 to 1953, was an outstanding catcher and one of the leaders of the famed Briggs Beautyware fastpitch team who won ASA world tournaments in 1949, 1952 and 1953 and who finished runners-up in 1940, 1941, 1943 and 1951. (Phillips was selected first team All-American as a catcher for Briggs in the 1950 world tournament.)

Phillip's teams won the highly competitive Detroit Times tournament an unprecedented nine consecutive years, 1937-1947 and again in 1950 and 1951.

In 1949, Phillips was awarded the Sports Guild Award synonymous with his being selected the top Detroit athlete in his sport.

Phillips and his wife, Lillian, have four children: Jerry, Robert, John and Mary-Elizabeth.

His three boys work with him at his highly regarded East-Side Sporting Goods

Jon Spring gave an idea of what was to come in later years of his career when, at the age of 19, he hurled a no-hitter for Briggs Beautyware against Cincinnati (7-0) at Little Rock, AK, in the ASA national tournament.

In the years that followed, Spring established himself as one of the all-time great hurlers, winning 483 games while losing only 62.

He began his ASA competition at the age of 16 as a bat boy for Hudson Motors in Detroit.

In 1952, he hurled Briggs Beautyware to the national title, as he won all five games and was a unanimous choice for the national All-Star team. Adding to this feat in the semi-finals he hurled a perfect game against "Buck" Miller and his Memphis, TN teammates. During the regular season he was 24-2.

In 1953, Spring, then 23, he put one of the most remarkable pitching demonstrations in the history of national tournament play when he pitched Briggs out of the loser's bracket to the national championship. He pitched 3 games on the final day, blanked Bloomington, Ill. (1-0), entering in the first inning with bases loaded, and came back at night to beat Herb Dudley (20) and John J. Hunter, of Clearwater Bombers (1-0).

Counting the loss and a game he entered in the first inning and won, Spring, pitched five games in 24 hours.

In all, Spring was named to the All-Star first team eight times and to the second team twice. He appeared in 17 consecutive nationals and had a 43-12 pitching record, which is still a national tournament record.

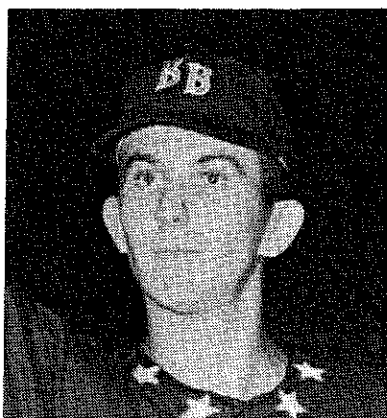
Following the 1954 season, when Briggs disbanded, he joined the Raybestos Cardinals of Stratford, Ct., and compiled a 209-35 won and lost record for them, including a perfect game in the finals of 1958 tourney needing only 67 pitches to accomplish the task against Labe Charles, LA.

From 1963 to July 1966, he hurled for the Aurora, Ill. Sealmasters and compiled a record of 76-5, including being a member of the 1965 national champions. Spring was a member of five national championship teams and four national runner ups.

He retired from active play in 1966. His last game being the world all-star game which he won (3-0).

He was elected to the National Softball Hall of Fame in 1970.

John makes his home in Grosse Pointe Woods and is employed by Eonic, Inc., where he serves as vice-president of sales. He and his wife, Jo-Anne, have been married 28 years and have two daughters, Debbie and Terri.



JOHNNY SPRING
Fastpitch

Frank Verbanac a great all around athlete, played college football and baseball. Tried out for pro hockey and played in the Brooklyn Dodgers triple A affiliate in Montreal.

Verbanac, who maintained a 600 plus career batting average, turned his attentions to softball in 1958. Verbanac led his Detroit Dee's Sport Shop team to seven consecutive Greater Detroit Championships.

Five times during the 1960's, Verbanac was named to the All-American team for his performance in ASA National Tournaments at third base.

As great an athlete as Verbanac was and is yet today, his greatest contributions were not made as a ballplayer, but as a coach and teacher to inner-city youth.

Verbanac, known affectionately as "Mr. V" to his players and pupils, has taught at Williams Elementary School in Detroit for 29 years. In addition, Frank was a Recreation Director at Pershing High School and Fletcher Field in Detroit for 16 years where he regularly turned out great players and championship teams.

More importantly still was the role model that "Mr. V" portrayed for thousands of kids who learned that good things come to those who work hard.

Verbanac and his wife Mary have four children, Paula, Chris, Pete and Tony.

Verbanac was inducted into the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in 1977 and it is the Metro Detroit ASA's distinct honor to afford Frank Verbanac a permanent niche in Detroit softball history.



FRANK VERBANAC
Slowpitch

PAST INDUCTEES

1982

George Calola
Bill Cole
Carl "Tex" Collins
Mike Gouin
Bonnie Jones
Sam Lombardo

1983

Edward Figelski
Mike Ilitch
Beatrice Lollar
Roy Lombardo
Jim Snyder

**Metro Detroit
A.S.A. Softball
The Game For Amateurs
run by Professionals**