

THOMAS CHAPPELLE

Thomas Chappelle has devoted more to the game of softball besides being an outstanding athlete on the diamond.

Chappelle has been instrumental in administering and promoting successful softball programs beginning more than 22 years ago in the City of Detroit - Cannon Recreation Center. He then moved on to the City of Oak Park for six years as Deputy Director.

While in Oak Park, he established one of the premier softball tournaments in the Detroit area - the Oak Park Invitational. This well known tournament attracted Detroit area - the Oak Park Invitational. This well known tournament attracted the top softball teams in the Detroit area and from surrounding states.

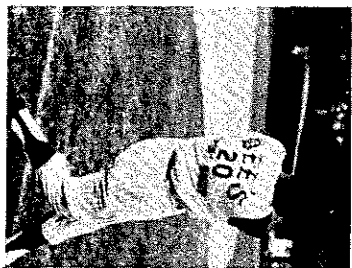
Chappelle is currently Director of Parks and Recreation in the City of Sterling Heights for the past 12 years where he was a strong supporter in the building of the city's Delia Park - a four diamond lighted complex. His interest also included a two-year stint on the Metro Detroit ASA board of directors in the 1970's.

The famed slow-pitch pitcher, played eight years on the Dees Sport Shop/ Detroit Parks and Recreation team and two years on the Sox's Inn squad. Chappelle participated in six national ASA Industrial Open tournaments.

A highlight of his career occurred when he was named to the All-American all-tournament teams in the 1965 and 1969 world tournaments.

Chappelle's accomplishments include winning 21 games in his world tournament appearances. In 1961, he slugged six home runs while hurling his team to six victories.

Chappelle currently resides in Sterling Heights with his wife Beth. The Chappelle's have six children - Kristin, Matthew, John, Marybeth, Robert and Susan.



SAMMY GEE

The career of Samuel "Sammy" Gee was like a Hollywood premier - electrifying!

Prior to his outstanding career in softball, Sammy Gee attended Miller High School where he gained notoriety with all-city honors in basketball, football and baseball.

Gee was recognized as the first high school all-american (basketball and baseball) to come out of the Detroit area. Following his graduation in 1946, Gee was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers, where he became the first Detroit black athlete to be signed by a major league

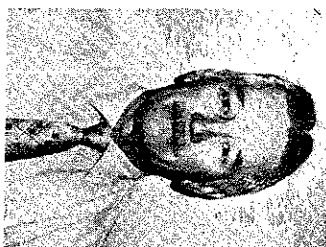


team. In 1948, the 5'4" talented star became a member of the famed Harlem Globetrotters before a two-year stint in the armed services.

Gee's softball career began to blossom in 1954 when he became known as one of the finest fast-pitch players in the nation. Gee played an important role on some of the finest teams in the Detroit area - Club 500, Burch Gage and Nothdurft Tool.

His career spanned more than 15 years until he fell victim of a heart attack and past away in 1969 while playing softball at a Windsor (Ontario) park. He was 41 years old at the time.

Gee was selected to at least three all-world tournament teams (1961, 62 and 64) climaxed in an impressive showing in 1964. In that year, Gee led the Burch Gage squad to a world title as 107 teams competed for the coveted crown. Gee guided his team batting .350 and played at the 'hot' corner - third base.



BOB MCCAFFREY

Umpires always seem to take the brunt of complaints during a softball game. Bob McCaffrey shed a new ray of light when it came to umpiring.

Not only did McCaffrey possess a strong dedication and commitment when umpiring, he managed one of the finest umpire associations in the Detroit area.

In 1952, McCaffrey took over the reins of the Metro Detroit Umpires Association. He handled the organization, recruitment and training of 100-150 umpires on a yearly basis for more than 30 years. More than 500 different individuals have worked under the leadership of McCaffrey.

His umpiring duties included little league baseball, high school games, fast pitch and slow pitch softball. His association worked predominantly on the east side and the city of Detroit. His umpires worked in Grosse Pointe, Harper Woods, East Detroit, Detroit, Mount Clemens, Fraser, Centerline, Clawson, General Motors Tech Center (where McCaffrey worked) and also various church and YMCA leagues.

McCaffrey, who umpired himself for nearly 40 years, made sure that his umpires were trained and indoctrinated under the "McCaffrey System". He stressed training as the most important aspect of umpiring, but also dwelled on the knowledge and interpretation of rules, hustle, uniform codes and punctuality for a person to be a successful umpire.

All of his umpires attended annual meetings and new umpires in his association were required to be rated by his experienced umpires before being accepted.

Following McCaffrey's death a few years ago, Jack Tobias took over the reins of the association that McCaffrey worked so hard to develop and establish over the past 30 years.

JOHN "JACK" TROMPICS

John Trompics better known as Jack or "Sheetmetal" to close friends, is one of the mainstays of Metro Detroit softball. This long time score keeper, trainer, equipment manager, traveling secretary, and bench jockey has been a key man on all of the teams he has been associated with throughout the years.

Starting with manager Roy Lombardo's East Side Sport team in 1962, Jack went on to work with Michael's Lounge when they went to and captured the 1966 national

championship in Parma, Ohio. From there Jack was an integral part of the great Little Caesar slow pitch dynasty that ruled Detroit softball from 1968 to 1976, winning the nationals in Southgate in 1970. Following a three year stint with the Detroit Caesar pro team, Jack joined manager Leon Grunault and Andy Kowalek's Budweiser Men's Master champions who have won the ASA 35 and over nationals since its inception a few years ago. Jack has participated in softball for 25 years, having taken part in 18 National Tournaments.

The teams he has been associated with have won an impressive six national championships as amateurs, and 2 other as pros. Along with his brothers Tom, Harry, and Bill, the Trompics have been an important part of Detroit sports history. His dad is a member of the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame.

Jack Trompics, although known for his quick wit, hard work and keen sense of humor is widely respected for his spirit and unwavering loyalty to the teams he is with. He is a fitting addition to Detroit's gallery of softball legends.





JACK WESTERLUND

This power packed hitter was one of the great home run sluggers in the Metro Detroit area during the 16 years that he competed on the top amateur level.

Jack started in the Major Metro Travel League when the league was considered the strongest in the country, being selected as the league MVP in 1972 and 1973 when he starred for the Daly Drive Inn and Bryant Walker Carpeting west side powers.

In the first season of the MMTL, Jack led the league in HR'S with 43, RBI'S with 109, runs scored with 86, total bases with 237, second in hits with 94 and a batting average of .618.

Jack was one of the reasons home run fences began their backward trek in the mid to late 70's. Many of the opponent would prefer to walk Big Jack, even with bases loaded than risk one of his patented right center field shots. Teamed with brother Vern, the Westerlund's comprised the most dangerous brother combo in Detroit softball history. Jack was selected to 32 tournament all-star teams, and was voted the MVP award 10 times. Jack played in two national tournaments batting 21 times with 11 hits and 8 HR's.

Six times Westerlund recorded four-home run games and had a streak where he hit home runs in 11 consecutive games. Perhaps no other single player dominated a game the way Jack Westerlund did in the 70's, making him a natural selection for the Metro Detroit ASA Softball Hall of Fame.

PAST INDUCTEES

1982	George Corliss	Edward Figselski	1984
Bill Cole	Mike Fitch	Mike Avery	Bob Auren
Carl Tex Collins	Bernice Lottier	Mark Phillips	Johnny Spring
Mike Gouin	Roy Lombardo	Frank Verbanse	
Bonnie Jones	Jim Snyder		
Sam Lashburne			
1985			
Alphonse Doracki	Mike Avelson	1987	
Joe Gaudet	George Gillies	Joe Castaldi	Felix Meeberis
Charles Justice	Wilbur Landis	Jim Blackett	
Anthony Lutomski	Rocco Palmieri		
William Swoback			