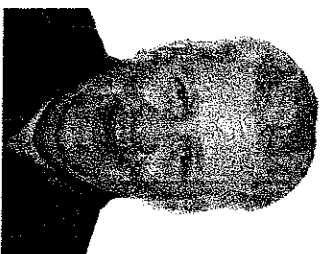


Mike Barei Umpire



Mike began his career as an ASA umpire in 1976. He organized the Metro Softball Umpire Association 1986 at the Total Sports facility and then took over coordination of their softball program for 10 years.

Mike was an excellent teacher and mentor to his umpires. They were recognized as some of the best in metro Detroit as many were selected to work metro, regional, and national tournaments. Mike demanded a lot from his staff, but he always led by example and was a friend that could always be counted on by "the brotherhood of the blue".

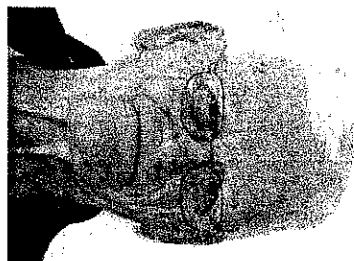
Barei joined the Metro Detroit umpire staff in 1983 and helped make the MDASA umpire staff one of the best in nation. He was recognized as a respected clinician who adhered strictly to ASA rules, mechanics, positioning, and uniform requirements. He served as deputy umpire-in-chief until 1996.

Mike participated in National Umpire schools in 1990, 1992, and 1996. He is a member of the Medals program, the National Indicator Fraternity and the Elite Umpire programs. He is also certified as a slow pitch umpire by the International Softball Federation.

He worked many national ASA tournaments including: Women's Major (86), Men's Industrial A (91), Women's Major Slow Pitch (91), Masters 35-Over - Rochester-Troy, MI (92), Men's C (92), Men's Major (95), and Men's Super (96).

Mike umpires high school softball and was selected to work the state finals in 2002. He also officiates basketball, baseball, volleyball, and football. Barei's mastery, expertise and dedication to his avocation have earned him the reputation as a most respected and admired ASA umpire.

Richard "Dick" Collard Meritorious Service



Dick Collard started as a volunteer coach in 1969 at Waterford Village Elementary. After two championship seasons at the elementary level, Collard was then asked to coach at the Junior High level. Since there was no league for them to play in, Dick took the idea to the Waterford Parks and Recreation department. The league began play in 1973 and is still in existence today!

In 1981, the North Oakland girls fast pitch league was started for high school girls with Dick being named the Director of the league. The first year there were four teams and the league became a part of ASA. The championship team was sent to the ASA national tournament and now the league has blossomed over the years with many teams now playing in ASA championship tournaments.

For many years, Dick spearheaded the Oakland Merchants Softball organization. Each summer they played in ASA sponsored tournaments in many divisions of play. The girls did not have to try out and were not recruited... they called and wanted to play for the organization. The players could stay and play as long as they wanted throughout the years. Loyalty and commitment were very important to Dick.

Coach Collard also spent many hours in gyms during the winter months with pitchers, getting ready for the coming seasons. Dick is still called upon today to help pitchers improve their techniques. Collard coached more than 400 girls in 33 years of service. Coach Collard retired from coaching in 2002.

Dick's wife of 55 years, Beverlee, supported him by being at the games and bringing the lemonade for the team. They are the proud parents of five – Lee, Mark, Ruth, Steve, and Kevin... and blessed grandparents of eight.

John Eckstein Slow Pitch Player

John Eckstein was a dominant force on the men's slow pitch scene not only in the metro Detroit area, but on the national scene. His playing days included being a member of some of the finest teams in the area such as Dino's Pizza, Uniroyal, Stags, Jolly Bar, Snyders, Budweiser, St. Pat's, and culminated with being a member of the famed Nothdurft teams in the 1980's and 1990's.



Eckstein played on the Nothdurft teams from 1984 to 1992. He made five all-american teams at the national level while slugging out a .615 batting average. He won the batting title in 1988 while slugging .727 for Budweiser at the national tournament. His consistency and outstanding defensive skills made him one of the best at playing shortstop, third base, and in the outfield.

Eckstein also played in the famed Major Metro Travel League, one of the premier leagues in metro Detroit in the 1970's. He made the all-star team numerous times. Eckstein retired from the game of softball 10 years ago due to injuries.

Hall of Fame to Expand

Special Thanks! On behalf of the Metro Detroit ASA, we would like to **THANK Fred and Karl Nothdurft** for their generous donation to the MDASA HOF expansion project. 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-265.

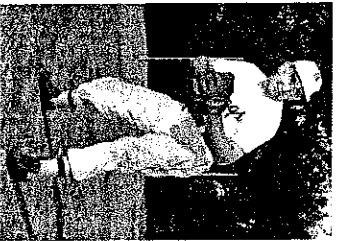
Construction will begin soon on the showcase expansion plans. HOF plaques year-by-year are on display as well as other softball memorabilia!



Danny Lipinski Commissioner

Danny Lipinski started to blossom in sports at the age of 16 (1929) in the Detroit area.

He was hired at Briggs Mfg. (which later became a subsidiary of Chrysler Corp.) in 1933. It was then that he found his calling to softball. He participated in Briggs athletics in softball and basketball, but softball was his true love. Briggs won the Metro Detroit Industrial Championship for the first time in 1934 and that began an incredible string of City Titles for their team that lasted well into the 1950's. Besides winning World Championships in 1937, 48, 52 and 53, they were runner-up in 1942, 43 and 54. Lipinski played third base during that time and managed the team later on.

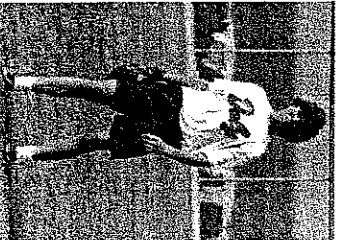


He eventually became ASA commissioner of Metro Detroit from 1943-55 serving as MDASA's second commissioner. Lipinski had tremendous organizational skills and was a very dynamic speaker representing the ASA well. He retired from Chrysler in 1978 after 43 of service for the Briggs/Chrysler Corporation. Lipinski leaves a strong legacy in the softball world!

Kelly Thayer Fast Pitch Player

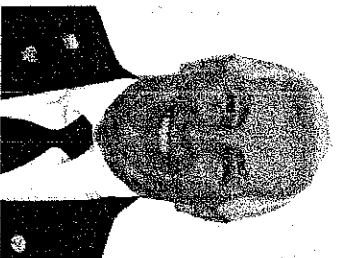
Thayer was well known in the fast pitch world for her speed, but her batting power also allowed her to hit the long ball.

Kelly joined the class A Daly Restaurant fast pitch team in 1989 playing left field. As a major contributor to the success of the team, she lead them to three national runner-up finishes (1989, 95, 97) and two third place finishers (1994 and 1996). Thayer played in nine national championships and was named ASA all-american six times. She was first team all-american in 1989 and 1997; second team in 1992; and named to the third team in 1994, 1995, and 1996.



Her lifetime batting average was .365 and in 1994 was the Daly team, batting champion with an impressive .456 average. She is also third on the Daly lifetime home run ranking list with 17 over the fence shots. Prior to joining the Daly team, Kelly played in the Compuware youth program. She also played softball at Western Michigan University on a scholarship.

Doug Zimmerman Umpire



Doug Zimmerman has been active as umpire since 1970. During his career, he has officiated at all levels of fast and slow pitch softball. Doug has worked nine ASA national tournaments including Women's Major slow pitch and twice at the Women's Major fast pitch nationals. He was selected to work the plate in the final game of the inaugural 18 and Under Gold national tournament at the ASA Hall of Fame stadium in Oklahoma City, OK in 1994.

Doug attended a National Umpire School in 1992, 1994, and 1996 and is a member of the ASA Medals program. He joined the National Indicator Fraternity in 1993 and earned his Elite Umpire status in 2003. He is the first metro Detroit umpire to be certified by the International Softball Federation in fast pitch.

Doug has been a member of the Metro Detroit ASA umpire staff since 1990. He has earned a reputation as an exceptional clinician with expertise in fast pitch. Doug has been a mentor to many of Detroit's finest umpires.

Doug is also recognized as an outstanding high school umpire who was selected to work the state finals in 1995 and 2002. He is also an NCAA umpire and has worked five Regionals and was an alternate for the Super Regionals. He has completed his second year working the national professional fast pitch league in Chicago. Internationally, Doug has worked an ISF Junior World Cup.

Zimmerman's honesty, integrity, professionalism, and love of the game of softball epitomize what an ASA umpire strives to become!