

YOUNG MEN'S SOFTBALL NEWS

BRINGING SOFTBALL NEWS DIRECTLY TO YOUR DOORSTEP!



MORRIS KASSIN, pictured above, believes WINTER IS COMING.



Umpire Mike Russomanno has been calling balls and strikes in the YMSL for 12 years.

WHITE TALKERS

SAUL TAWIL, Chief of Staff, YMSL

DISCLAIMER: GAME OF THRONES SEASON 8 SPOILER. READ AT YOUR OWN RISK.

The White Walkers captivated the nation, with their effective resiliency, strive for the slaughter, and non-stop pursuit of taking over the world. They held the breaths of millions of Americans weekly, who feared the Walkers' every step and next move.

They stood ready to take over the world, until a little girl took down their empire. Is that all it takes? We asked Raw Dog Greenberg how the fall of their brothers in Game of Thrones affects their team going forward. He said "We don't actually feel anything, we are dead".

Captain and Mountain Sir Grigor Morris Kassin took a different approach. Claiming that he will get "George RR Martin to write us back in" and that the Lord of Light will resurrect his team. Mo-Kass, fired up with the strength of 3 (1) Dragon(s), added that "Arya had her list, we have ours... What's left is the following:

Lumber Kings, Smackdown, One Hit, Butter. I'm sure come playoff time, we'll be adding some more names and we'll bring the cold weather to the YMSL. NRJ won't be happy having to deal with snow delays in the middle of the summer."

News flash, the series finale is this Sunday. Will it be the end of the White Walkers forever, or will they, powered by their protective Mountain (also dead), rise above and take the Throne? 'Valar Morghules,' White Walkers. Watch the team take on the Lumber Kings Sunday 9:00am (channel YMSL 2), and watch the series finale of Game of Thrones, exclusively on the YMSL network.

BEHIND HOME PLATE

with Umpire

MIKE RUSSOMANNO

NORMAN JEMAL

Tie game, extra innings, and there's a base hit to centerfield. The runner on second has speed, but he didn't get a perfect jump when the ball was hit. He rounds third and goes right through the stop sign of his coach. The throw from center is fielded by the catcher on a hop, a nice play, for sure, and a tag is made precisely as the runner's leg touches the plate. The offense thinks the game is over, and the defense feels that they've just recorded the third out of the inning in dramatic fashion... But only one person's viewpoint matters – the umpire. Will he signal safe with two outstretched hands and bring jubilation to the runner and his team? Or will a single fist rise in the air, and cause the defense to rally around their catcher who just saved the game?

We caught up with veteran umpire Mike Russomanno and asked him to share some thoughts about umping our games in the YMSL.

Q: How long have you been an umpire for?
A: 12 years.

Q: What other sports do you ref or ump for?
A: Basketball.

Q: Which sport is easier, and why?
A: Good question, I think basketball because it is usually indoors, and there are no weather issues. Plus, there's a clock and it's very fast-paced, which I like.

Q: Are you married and do you have kids?
A: Yes, I've been happily married for 38 years and I have a son and a daughter, and two grandkids.

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NAME GAME

TROPHY CASE

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BEHIND HOME PLATE

Our Q & A with Mike Russomanno

Q: When you're not umpiring games, what do you do for a living?

A: I am a residential Realtor. If anyone is looking to buy or sell, please call me.

Q: What's the worst call you've ever made on a softball field?

A: There was a guy walking his dog on Fireman's, and the batter asked me if we should wait for him to move. I told him, 'Nah don't worry, play ball.' The very next pitch, the batter hit the ball almost directly towards the dog. The outfielder stopped running because of the dog, and all heck broke loose."

Q: Do you know how you ended up ruling?

A: No, I forgot. Everyone remembers the play, but nobody remembers how it was called.

Q: What was your best moment as an umpire?

A: Striking out Jimmy Malakh looking. He didn't talk to me for three weeks.

Q: Was it a strike?

A: Of course

Q: Do you ever make a call and then realize right away that it was the wrong call?

A: Yes, absolutely. Unfortunately, I can't change it. I apologize and say that I blew that one. Most people respect that.

Q: Is the YMSL different than other leagues you have Umped?

A: Come on, you know the answer to that. You guys are out of your minds.

Q: In what way?

A: The intensity. The Competitiveness.

Q: What do other Umpires say about our league?

A: They say your league is the hardest to umpire, and many guys come once and never return. They cannot handle it.

Q: Are they soft? Or do you just have thicker skin than most people?

A: Both.

Q: Are you some sort of masochist that you like Umping our games?

A: Hahahah, no, I just enjoy you guys. At the end of the day, everyone is alright. I actually look forward to Sundays and working for you guys, and consider you guys my friends.



Mike Russomanno says he enjoys Umping the YMSL, and considers some of the players his friends.

Q: Any advice for our players?

A: Keep having fun.

Q: Favorite movie?

A: Wall Street, and Taken.

Q: Favorite TV Show of all time?

A: These are tough questions, I guess Dallas and 24.

Q: Favorite restaurant?

A: Sparks, the steakhouse on 46th Street.

Q: Favorite new YMSL Rule?

A: The 9:00 strict start time.



Mike Russomanno is all smiles as he Umps a YMSL game earlier this season.

HISTORY LESSON

Deal Cup Restoration

SANDY SHALOM, League Historian

As the official Deal/YMSL softball league historian, I understand that the most prized possession is the winning of the "Deal Cup". I can remember as a seven-year-old the joy and pride my father took when walking the championship trophy into our home for the first time. **It rested on a stand in the foyer, and was the centerpiece of our home.**

Upon looking at the trophy a few months back, I was absolutely appalled by its current state. The wear and tear and abuse that the "Cup" has endured is criminal, to say the least.

With the help of taxpayers funding, YMSL has begun a major restoration project, which will basically reconstruct the trophy. Expect brand new plaques, completely new woodwork, as well as an actual upgrade in the silver cup on its top, which will reflect what this trophy should look like.

All I can say is that the 2019 champions will have **a work of art** to share for the next year!



SANDY SHALOM celebrating with the Cup in 2013, six years before his promotion and elevation to League Historian.



TOP LEFT, Abe J Cohen, the **PLAYER OF THE WEEK**, week 1.
TOP RIGHT: Solomon Fallas, the **PLAYER OF THE WEEK**, week 2.
BOTTOM LEFT: Steven Chalouh, the **PLAYER OF THE WEEK**, week 3.

The three **PLAYERS OF THE WEEKS** have had different reactions when they received their recognition... Can you guess who said what?

MATCH THE **PLAYER OF THE WEEK** WITH THE QUOTE...

“**WORTHLESS! THE BIG ONE COUNTS THE MOST!**”

“**AMAZING! THANK YOU!**”

“**UNBELIEVABLE! I’M NOT DONE YET THOUGH.**”

(answers at the bottom of this newsletter)



CATCHERS ON THE MOVE...

Changing the Batteries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

When **Eddie Malakh** and **Marcus Adjmi** got traded for each other, it marked the first straight-up catcher-for-catcher trade in the YMSL since 1997, when **Zac Gindi** was traded **Jody Laboz**.

When the trade was made over the Passover break, nobody could have ever imagined that the previously scheduled weeks 4 and 5 would be rained out – and suddenly, the two backstops are playing their former teams.

Marcus Adjmi, previously a White Walker, lost two wins as a result of the trade, but has the opportunity to catch one of his childhood mentors in **Abe Saka**. “I remember that Fountain of Yoots team, and how it captured a nation. To be able to catch **Abe Saka** is something I’ve always wanted to do.

On the flip side, **Eddie ‘Abdo’ Malakh** received a phone call about the trade, and was immediately two wins richer! The change of scenery can only help, as it doesn’t get much worse than being 1-5. “I liked each guy on the Lumber Kings, and I will cherish my time there. But now, I am a White Walker, and I cannot wait to win it all with my new brothers,” said an optimistic **Malakh**.

Well, the road to the World Series starts now for these two backstops. They get to face each other, and get to face the teams that shipped them out, this Sunday morning, at Fireman’s Field East.

“Trading catchers is hard. The catcher is considered the glue of any team,” said league historian emeritus, **Sandy S. Shalom**. “I’ll never forget when **Maurice Zalta** and **Raymond ‘Ray-Day’ Dayan** got traded for each other in 1982. Each team, the Pink Panthers and Hard Times, expected an upgrade and the result was the extreme opposite. The catchers didn’t mesh with their respective pitchers, and the seasons went spiraling downward. Remember, a catcher is only half of the battery. **Adjmi** will have to learn to work well with **Saka**, and **Malakh** will need to figure out how to make **Leo** feel comfortable on the mound. I, for one, will be paying very close attention to this particular match-up.”

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

How the Internet defines your team name...

WIKIPEDIA, mostly.

The Maccabees were a group of Jewish rebel warriors who took control of Judea. They founded the Hasmonean Dynasty.

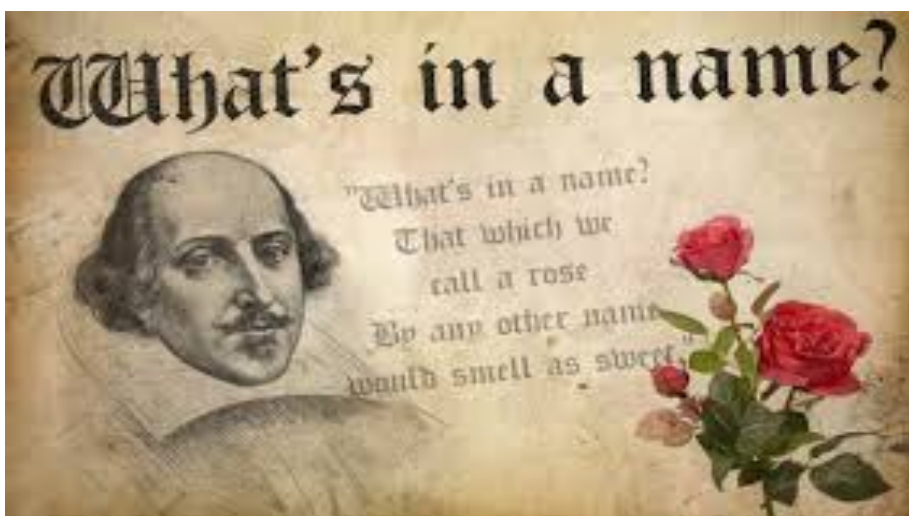
Smackdown is a professional wrestling television program, and refers to the Smackdown brand, to which WWE employees work for and perform under.

Butter is a dairy product with high butterfat content. It is solid when chilled, and liquid when warm.

One Hit Everybody Knows the Rules is a play on words from Barstool Sports’ pizza reviews, “One Bite, Everybody Knows the Rules.” What the rules actually are, is subject of folklore.

Mean Machine is a 2001 British sports comedy film, adapted from the 1974 American film, “The Longest Yard.”

ANSWERS to QUOTE GAME: A: Chalouh, B: Cohen, C: Fallas.



The **Lumber Kings** are a class-A franchise of the Miami Marlins, and play their home games in Clinton, Iowa, at Ashford University Field.

The **Phillies** are the Professional baseball team from Philadelphia, originally founded in 1883. The Phillies were World champions in 1980 and in 2008.

A **White Walker** is a humanoid creature from the HBO television series, Game of Thrones. The White Walkers are a supernatural threat to humankind who dwell north of the Wall in Westeros.