Dugout Chatter – March 2019

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Minnesota State High School Baseball Coaches Association

As I am writing this version of Dugout Chatter it is snowing! In fact February 2019 is the 4th snowiest month in Minnesota since 1875. By all signs this will be another battle as Spring tries to strikeout Winter. Keep the faith coaches. The fields will clear and we eventually hear the ump say “play ball”.

There are many responsibilities that come with being the head baseball coach. Make sure you have joined the MSHSBCA. There are multiple benefits including liability coverage, the ability to nominate your players for post season awards and the 2019 Play Ball! MN All Star Series. Also, for members only, the TWINS will be offering game tickets to certain games during the season. Coaches also have many responsibilities to fulfill at the MSHSL website. The Coaches Clipboard opens March 11 and closes March 27. Updating rosters and games is also a necessity. After games you need to access the website and update all of your pitch count information.

The MSHSBCA would like to welcome the following baseball coaches into our Hall of Fame. **Dale Bruns** – Holdingford **Jon Fellows** – Ortonville **Hans Hanson** – Perham **Jack Kelly** – Windom **Bill Lechner** – Hill-Murray **Bucky Lindow** – Cannon Falls **Jim O’Neil** – Cretin-Derham Hall **Jeff Wollin** – Litchfield Congratulations to these amazing coaches for all they have done for their players, schools, and communities. Also, the TWINS will be honoring the HOF inductees, with a pregame ceremony, on August 23rd at Target Field.

Be sure to nominate your players for the 2019 Play Ball! MN All Star Series. The six team tournament will be played on June 28-29 at Chaska. This will be one week later than normal. When nominating your deserving players first ask them if they would be able to attend, if selected. If you are unsure if your player is deserving of this honor - I would say nominate him. The selection committee and series coaches will do their best to build a competitive team. Please visit [www.mshsbca.org](http://www.mshsbca.org) for more information.

**Our 2019 Play Ball! MN All Star Series Coaches are as follows:** Congratulations coaches on this honor!

**South**: Brandon Raymo – Montevideo and Aaron Nesvold - Sleepy Eye

**North**: Paul Walsh - Parkers Prairie and Brian Gruber - Minnewaska

**Metro South**: Rob Walsh – Burnsville and Jim Gess - Bloomington Jefferson

**Metro East**: Rob Garry – Mahtomedi and Mike Parker - Stillwater

**Metro West**: Jon Ledeboer - Heritage Christian Academy and Brooks Marquart - Maple Lake

**Metro North**: Danny Nalepka - Fridley and Cole Deible – Monticello

Please visit the association website at [www.mshsbca.org](http://www.mshsbca.org). There is a plethora of information available. Hopefully, you voted on the recent survey questions. Information will be released once the results are in. Your input gives the advisory board direction to pursue changes to our great game.

Feel free to contact me or any members of the advisory or executive boards with questions. My email is [rick.zollner@pas.k12.mn.us](mailto:rick.zollner@pas.k12.mn.us)

“There are three things in my life which I really love: God, My Family, and Baseball.

The only problem – once baseball season starts, I change the order around a bit.” Al Gallagher 1971