

NORTH DAKOTA



Building Dedication June 26th

Harvey, N. Dak.

AMATEUR **SOFTBALL** ASSOCIATION
HISTORY

and

HALL OF FAME DEDICATION
1965

HALL OF FAME BUILDING DEDICATION

Schedule of Activities

Saturday, June 26, 1965

Sunday, June 27, 1965

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PROGRAM

Saturday: REGISTRATION

- 6:00 Tour of the new building by present Hall of Famers and newly elected members
- 7:00 Hall of Fame Banquet for Hall of Famers, state officers, Harvey officials, and special invited guests. Don Porter, ASA Executive Secy., main speaker.
- 9:00 Tour of Hall of Fame Building by all others at banquet
- 9:00 First meeting of Hall of Fame members to establish a North Dakota Hall of Fame Society
- Sunday 9th annual Hall of Fame Tournament with a 16-team fast pitch division with the Wahpeton VFW defending their title, a 4-team slow pitch division and a 4-team women's division. The teams are chosen from throughout the state representing all areas
- 12:00 noon Special luncheon for dignitaries
- 1:30 Hall of Fame Dedication with Governor Guy dedicating
- 2:00 Continuation of tournament

★ Denotes firms and individuals giving financial assistance in the publication of this booklet. They deserve your patronage.



WILLIAM L. GUY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
BISMARCK

May 21, 1965

Greetings:
It is very encouraging to me to note that the game of softball has become one of North Dakota's most popular summer sports. The fact that we now have a Softball Hall of Fame is evidence in itself of the thousands of persons, both men and women, who play and enjoy the game of softball each year. Much of the credit for the increasing success softball has achieved in our state must be given to members of the North Dakota Amateur Softball Association. I hope each member will continue to encourage and promote this exciting and healthful outdoor pastime in the years ahead.

Sincerely,
William L. Guy
Governor



WLG:ku

"Buy North Dakota Products"

Origin and History of N. Dak. Hall of Frame

The North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame, the first of its kind in the nation, was originated by Sparky Thompson of Harvey.

Thompson hit on the idea of the Hall of Fame after returning from the commissioners council in 1957. He served as the state commissioner and became acquainted with the national Hall of Fame origination.

Thompson suggested his proposal to establish the Hall of Fame to the annual executive session of the North Dakota ASA in April, 1957.

The proposal was adopted and the implementation of the Hall of Fame was established under the jurisdiction of the state commissioner's office.

The Harvey City Council had granted permission in advance to Thompson to establish headquarters at the Harvey Armory for the new North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in the event of its reality. The NDASA voted to establish the Hall of Fame in Harvey. Thompson began a program of organization under his office. Included were plans for a committee to name candidates to the Hall of Fame.

Thompson appointed two members to a committee of three whose terms were of a lifetime tenure. This committee has since been augmented by six appointive term members and the three lifetime members. The purpose being to create a more knowledgeable working status on a state-wide basis. The committee is now identified as the Hall of Fame Council.



Local Chairman Dahl and Mayor Bennett at Kick-off Building Fund Drive.

A limit of three was established to be inducted into the Hall of Fame in each year, exclusive of Past State Commissioners. Four Ex-Commissioners and three other candidates were chosen to be inducted at the dedication event of July 7, 1957.

Upon return from the NDASA spring meeting of 1957, Marvin Theige and Bushy Hirschorn (also members of the Harvey Recreation Board) called attention of the Harvey Recreation Board the fact that some sort of annual observance for the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame should be originated in Harvey.

In May, 1957 Marvin Theige offered a resolution and proposed its adoption that a permanent Hall of Fame Committee be established in the recreation board. Their responsibility being to annually promote a Hall of Fame Softball Tournament which shall have the effect to enhance and perpetuate the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame. Recreation Board President Aloys Strauss appointed Marvin Theige and Bushy Hirschorn to fulfill the adopted resolution.

The first annual tournament was staged in conjunction with the official dedication of the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame July 7, 1957. The Hall of Fame Committee collaborated with Thompson in planning of the event. The Governor of North Dakota, and Hall of Famer Elect, John E. Davis, was the dedication speaker. Senator Aloys Wartner performed as Master of Ceremonies.

Gov. Davis was awarded honorary membership by the Massachusetts Association. Congratulatory telegrams were received from 42 state softball commissioners, three in Canada and one in Hong Kong, China.

In his dedication address Gov. Davis praised "the new day in North Dakota softball history" with his dedication of the Hall. He said it marked "the beginning of a new and special recognition of softball" in the state of North Dakota.

Gov. Davis complimented and paid tribute to Sparky Thompson as the driving force of the Hall of Fame. The governor said he supposed he had been picked for the Hall of Fame to symbolize the forgotten men of softball. He mentioned that he had been a left-handed pitcher in his day, but he had never been fortunate as to be on a championship team.

Seven members were initially inducted into the Hall of Fame and a 16-team invitational tournament was played in observance of the initial event.

In 1961 under the direction of State Commissioner Duane ("Tiny") Schafer, plans were begun to raise funds by the

NDASA to construct a Hall of Fame Building. Clem Kelly, of Bismarck, State Building Fund Chairman, officially opened the Statewide Building Fund Drive at the Hall of Fame Tournament in Harvey on June 25, 1961. The statewide building fund drive was completed in 1962 with the assistance of Don Miller and Arne Dahl, owners of Dahl-Miller Motor Co., Harvey N. D.

The building fund drive was climaxed at the tournament on July 22, 1962. The reason for the later than usual date of the tourney was to give extra time to complete the fund raising effort.

The ground-breaking ceremonies were held at the 1963 tournament. Mayor Gorden Paulson of Harvey and George Gardner of Grand Forks, president of NDASA, and State Commissioner Duane Schafer turned the soil on the site of the building project to initiate its beginning.



Building Fund Drive June, 1962. Hirschorn and Theige.

Other state officers in 1963 were Dorlan Lybeck of Fargo, vice president; Don Holt of Bismarck, Secretary-treasurer, and Marvin Theige of Harvey, coordinator of Hall of Fame activities.

Architectural plans were finished in 1963 and were centered around a building character theme which was conducive and complimentary to a softball motif. Through the efforts of members of the Harvey Park Board this preliminary building plan was submitted to the building committee of the NDASA and negotiations were finalized to construct a dual-purpose building to house both the Hall of Fame and a park board facility.

The North Dakota Amateur Softball Association provided a grant in funds in the amount of \$3,058 to cover the cost of the Hall of Fame portion of the building and the Harvey Park Board bore the building costs of the park board facility, with the retention of title to the complete building. A lease agreement was negotiated between the NDASA and the Harvey Park Board

concerning the occupancy of the Hall of Fame for such specific purpose.

The building was constructed late in the summer of 1964 to be ready for occupancy and dedication in 1965 in conjunction with the 1965 Tournament on June 27.

Gov. William L. Guy will dedicate the building in ceremonies at Harvey June 26 and 27. The building was built with funds raised by the NDASA and the city of Harvey.

HARVEY CIVIC OFFICERS



Dolores Myklethun



Bill Ryan



Robert Keller



Bushy Hirschorn



R. L. Barstad



Al Holwegner



Robert Berg



Marvin Theige



Steve Keller



L. C. Loerch



Frank Zidon

Building Theme

Character theme of the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame building features:

The center facade of the front of the building symbolizes the softball diamond and playing field.

Located at the pinnacle, and incorporated into the window design, is the identifying insignia of the North Dakota and National softball organizations (NDASA).

The overhang of the upper roof line symbolizes the outfield barriers. The lower roof line overhang symbolizes the wings along the first and third base paths.

The two entrances to the front of the building symbolize the team dugouts. Thru these portals have passed the distinguished men and women of North Dakota Softball who are to be honored here. The inscription containing the two words, HALL and FAME, appear above these portals.

The word "of" appears in the center



Building Construction Sept. 1, 1964.

of the playing field, denoting the distinguished men and women of the game emerge from a central focus of distinction to receive the honors of the Hall of Fame.

All the lettering on the face of the building is done in silver, which denotes the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame was instituted in the 25th and silver anniversary year (1957) of the National and North Dakota ASA.

The inscription on home plate indicates that on July 7, 1957; Harvey, North Dakota was designated and by dedication became Home Base of the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame.

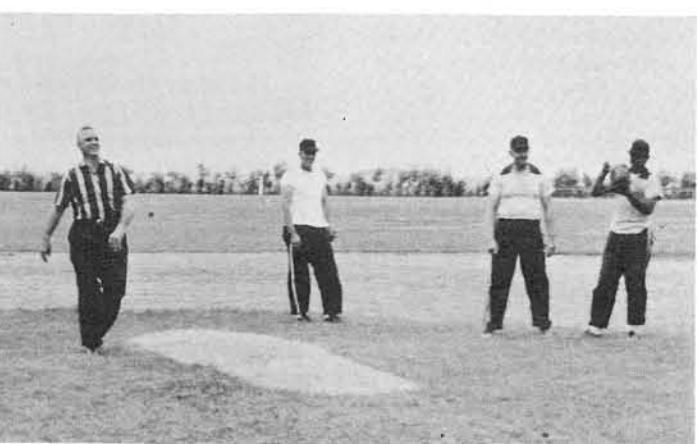


Ground Breaking Ceremony, Harvey, June 30, 1962 with Comm. Schafer, Pres. Gardner, Mayor Paulson, Chairman Theige.

Hall of Fame Highlights



Sen. Warner, master of ceremonies, and Gov. Davis, dedication speaker.



Southpaw Gov. Davis opens 1957 Tournament. Fargo KC players Schwinden, Ferrie, and Ehle.



1964 Hall of Famers with awards June 28, 1964. L to r: "Rubber" Nelson, Barbara Rom, Adam Brown.



Gov. Davis accepts Hall of Fame Award from Thompson.



Dedication 1957—Pres. N. Holm, Gov. Davis, dedication speaker, Vice-Pres. Kondos, Commissioner Thompson.

Hall of Fame Honor Roll



1957

P. E. Mickelson — North Dakota's first commissioner of softball (1937-38) . . . aggressive promoter and sponsor in the Fargo-Moorhead area . . . Mickelson Field in Fargo was named in his honor . . . Born Aug. 18, 1893; died July 7, 1952 . . . His death occurred on the same date he was enshrined in the North Dakota Softball Hall of Fame in 1957.



Felix Farrar — NDASA Commissioner 1948-1952 . . . Farrar's Fargo team won the 1947 Northern Regional and went to the world tournament at Austin, Tex. . . . Born April 14, 1910; died Oct. 15, 1953 . . . Sponsored, managed teams for many years, including several state championship teams.

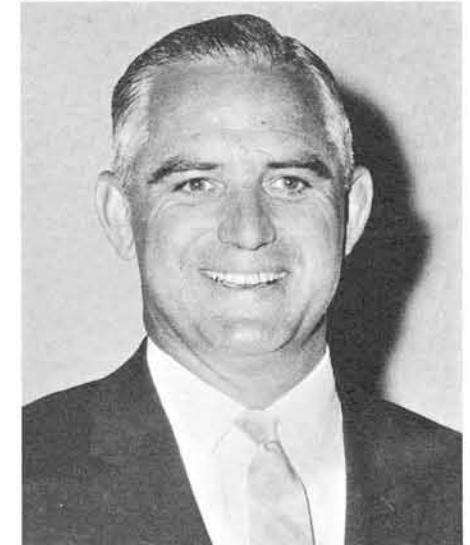


Abe Friedman — Catcher in the Fargo-Moorhead area for 32 years . . . Played in 25 state tournaments and four national tournaments . . . played on 15 North Dakota state championship teams.

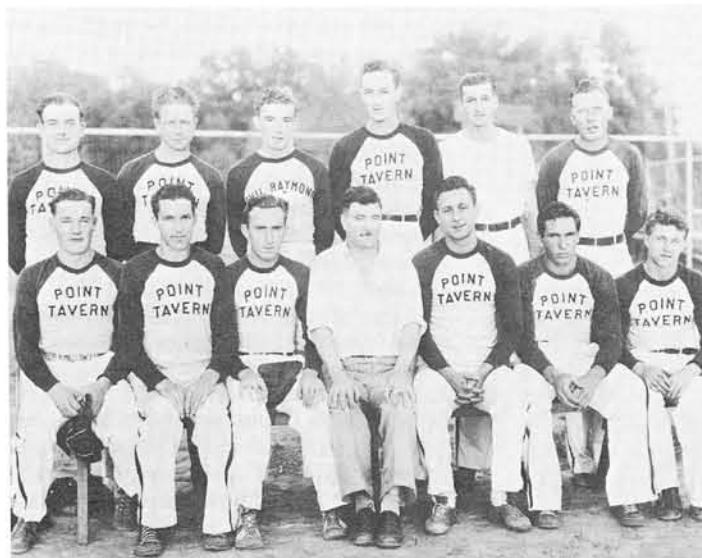
Al Kundert — NDASA Commissioner 1953-55 while living at Fargo . . . Now resides at Minot.



Robert Byrne — Secured rule books in 1928 and started softball in Bismarck . . . held the position of State Commissioner from 1939-44 . . . known as father of softball in Bismarck . . . served as president of Bismarck City League many years . . . also served as manager of Missouri Slope Tournament . . . pitched on several Bismarck teams during the 1930s.



John E. Davis — Governor of state at time he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, July 7, 1957. Gov. Davis was the dedication speaker that day . . . a left-handed pitcher with University of North Dakota and McClusky softball teams.



POINT TAVERN—NDASA State Champions 1936. Front, 1 to r: Jess Dowd, Walt Jondahl, Bill Hartley, Sponsor Phil Raymond, Bernie White, Wendy Burckhart, and Adam Julison. Back, 1 to r: Ray Ruddy, Stan Berquam, Babe Murphy, Chuck Webster, Cameron Gray, and Gordon Grina.



COCA-COLA—NDASA State Champions 1937. Front, 1 to r: Ray Dearey, Darrell Jackson, Chubby Rubin, Sparkey Johnston, and Gordy Preston. Back, 1 to r: Mgr. Ralph Brown, Ken Peterson, Stan Berquam, Adam Schuck, and Abby Bach.



Hall of Famer Steve Julison starts pitching in 1933 at the age of 15.



HAMM'S—NDASA State Champions 1957. Front, 1 to r: Jack McCann, Bob Westbee, Jack Brandt, Jim McMenamy, and Wendy Feist. Back, 1 to r: Stan Paschke, Ron Jeffrey, Gene Julison, Pete Bachmeier, and Percy Lilleboe.



JUDY'S—North Valley and City League Champs 1955. Front, 1 to r: Bill Storbakken, Derby Emerson, Russ Burfening, Lou Bogan, and Ron Lackie (Bat Boy). Back, 1 to r: Ron Geatz, Dick Koppenhaver, Gene Julison, Jack Brustad, R. McMenamy, Duke McMenamy, and L. Arason.

The North Valley and Riverside invitational tournaments were originated in 1946. Jake Parish became the leading rival of Berquam. Other players figuring in the post-war comeback were Walt Foy, Bernie White, Wendy Feist, Tuffy Zeman, Bob Hunt, Lou Bogan, Bill Storbakken, Elmer La-Blanc, Tom Devine, Red Berg, Jim Strausbaugh, Hansel Rye, Ken Smart, Bill Oster and Gene Julison.

Gran Forks Hamm's captured the 1957 state title to end a long drought. Three years later Town and Country won the state crown. Adam Julison joined brother Steve in the Hall of Fame in 1957. Adam played from 1929-53, posting a lifetime batting average of .270. He played on five state title teams.

Grain Belt captured the 1962 state crown and this team, later known as Matt's Tavern, won several invitation titles in the 1960s. It was in 1962 that George Gardner became president of the NDASA.

Hickson beat East Grand Forks, 6-1, in the highly successful Riverside tournament in 1963. Bismarck Tavern beat Kallod Carpet in an all-Fargo North Valley tourney final.

But Grand Forks took over in the 1963 state event with Duke's Tavern beating Seven-Up, 10-1, in the final behind the pitching of 21-year-old Don Olson.

Three city all-star games were televised through the courtesy of the Grand Forks Beer Wholesalers Association.

Frazee, Minn., and Fargo Kallod Carpet won the 1964 tourneys at Grand Forks.

The 40-year history of softball has furnished a lot of excitement for thousands of players and fans.

Post-war sponsors included Cox Bakery, International Harvester, Grossman Cleaning, Royal Bohemian, Red River Nash, Duffy's, Forx Motor, Wilson's Clothing, Glass and Paint, Judy's, Grain Belt, Schue's, Coke's, United Commercial Travelers, Bronze Boot, Art Mart, Keg's Drive-In, Air Base, Rydell Chevrolet, B-L Cleaners, Vilandre Fuel, Farmers Co-op., Colborn School Supply, Cities Service, Boeing, Bike Shop, Duke's, Seven-Up, Adam's Place, Bobbie's, Hamm's, Ellingson Insurance, Matt's, Herald, Home of Economy, McDonald's Clothing, Lockwood Graders, Brownie Cleaners, McKinnon's Distributors and Woodward Motor-Machine.

Pitchers who have moved into prominence lately are Don Olson, John Roche, Terry Harrington, Dick Fetch, Jack McCann, Ray Gordon, Jack Herlihy, Doug Rerick and Eddie Julison.

Interest in the game has ranged from the fans to the players to park commissioner Harry Randall and supervisor Homer Abbott. Oscar Ellingson's dedication to the game was recognized with his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1961.

There have been a lot of brother acts in softball, but none to equal the Kuntz family in the 1950s, members of the Royal Bohemian team. They are



TOWN AND COUNTRY—NDASA State Champions 1960. Front, 1 to r: Ron Nelson (Bat Boy), Richard Wilhelm, Jack McCann, Winfield Jensen, Louis Liszt, and Duke McMenamy, Mgr. Back, 1 to r: Jack Gaddie, John Knauf, Edward Van-Duyn, Bill Skrei, Raymond Peterson, and Rip Bachmeier.



GRAIN BELT—NDASA State Champions 1962. Front, 1 to r: Sponsor Ernie Boucher, Mgr.; Jerry O'Keefe, Mark Ackerman (Bat Boy), Terry O'Keefe, Jerry Ackerman, John Knauf, Jr. (Bat Boy), John Knauf, Bill Skrei, and Jack McCann. Back, 1 to r: Jim Schalow, Jack Gaddie, Jack Brustad, Pete Bachmeier, Rip Bachmeier, Vic Bachmeier, Gary Pladsen, and Marlyn Bjorge, Mgr.



Adam Julison receives 1960 Hall of Fame Award.

Ron, Jim, Ray, Eddie, John, Joe and Wendy.

Some of the other brother acts are Joe and Abby Bach, Howard and Red Jackson, Adam, John and Paul Foltz; Andy, Joe and Wendy Feist; Judy, Ray and Jack Ruddy; Ole and Cobby Schol; Fritz and Pinky Falgren; Gene, Stan and Sid Berquam; Stan, Gordy and Glen Bye; Jim and Bob Allen; Adam and Pete Schuck; Art and Obe Thoraldson; Elmer and Lefty LeBlanc; Don and Duane Hiney; Johnny, Herm, Rock and Richie O'Connell; Larry and Chuck Morwood; Dutch, Ray and Joe Rerick; Lawrence and Ray Kortness; George, Adam and Steve Julison; Walt, Harry and Clarence Foy; Merle, Gordy and Lloyd Rood; Mally and Ozzie Olsen; Sam, Chet and Porter Truax; Neil and Bud Moylan; Perry, Jack and Duane Dornheim; Duke, Bob and Jim McMenamy; Bill, Frank and Don Miller, John, Bill and Jerry O'Keefe; Ray and Its Gordon; Vern and Kenny Janes; John and Jim Knauf; Gary and Bob Pladsen; Pete, Rip and Vic Bachmeier; and Dan and Dale Neppel.

Edgeley History



Earl Frydenlund

An Edgeley team (Duffy's Tavern) entered the Jamestown Softball League for the first time in 1953. Sponsored by Duffy's Tavern until 1955, the team has been backed since by the Edgeley Merchants.

Edgeley has won several championships while competing in the league with Jamestown and Valley City teams and several district championships to qualify for state tournament play. Edgeley has competed in many invitation tournaments throughout North Dakota.

Primary sparkplug for this team has been Earl Frydenlund, who has pitched since 1953. In 1956 the Edgeley team lost the first game in district tournament play and then came back with six straight victories to gain the championship with Frydenlund pitching all seven games. In 1959 he won the league's Ralph Bevens Most Valuable Player Award. Each has also served in official capacities in the Jamestown Softball Association.

Edgeley has had players picked throughout the years on the league all star teams, with the Hamm brothers being noted for their slugging abilities.

EDGELEY PATRON SPONSORS

- ★ EDGELEY SOFTBALL TEAM
- ★ OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY



MINOT ELKS—NDASA State Champs 1946. Front, 1 to r: Triplet, DuDash, Tripanier, Van Orney, Thompson, Cranston, Barber. Back, 1 to r: Turner, Saladis, Haider, White, Grant, Olson, Walker, Burns, Kolbo.

Minot Men's History

Minot was active in the NDASA until the mid 1950s, capturing two state titles.

The Minot Elks defeating Brady's Bar, 9-1, in an all-Minot final in the 1946 event at Bismarck. The Brady's team had eliminated Stan Berquam and the defending Farrar's team in the semi-finals. Leonard (Blackie) Haider, who is a member of the Hall of Fame, pitched a two-hitter in the final win over Brady's. Haider gave up only 8 hits during the tournament.

Lahart-Moe team copped the title in 1961 and finished fourth in 1962. Lahart-Moe team managed by Dime Pouliot and rode to the title on the strong right arm of Harry Burnhardt. Burnhardt was stationed at the Minot Air Force Base and was one of the outstanding pitchers in North Dakota in the early 1960s. Lahart-Moe went into the final unbeaten in the double elimination event and was defeated by Dar Gorder and the Hektner Insurance team from Fargo in the first game. Burnhardt was too strong for Hektner in the final game.

The Lahart-Moe team was formerly



LAHART & MOE MOTORS—NDASA State Champs 1961. Front, 1 to r: Don Ziegler, Al Parteda, Dime Pouliot, Charles Harrison, Jim Quick, Stu Summers. Back, 1 to r: Mr. Lahart, Tom Haggerty, Ken Schiele, Elmer Barker, Fred Visina, Jim Bickling, Mr. Moe. (Not pictured, Harry Burnhardt, pitcher).

Wahpeton Fast Pitch History

Softball has been played in Wahpeton since the late 1930s, as a recreational outlet.

From 1938-1941, the league was made up of four teams. A representative team from the league, motored to Milnor twice to play under the lights. Milnor was the only community at that time which had a lighted field.

A tournament was held July 4, 1940, at Lisbon. Wahpeton defeated the Milnor entry in the final game. The Wahpeton team was runnerup in a tournament at Valley City, also in 1940.

Sailors based at Wahpeton Science in 1942 and 1943 helped boost the softball program considerably. The sailors split with a Fargo team before losing the deciding game of a series. Stan Berquam pitched for Fargo.

Scotty Soltys was one of several leading pitchers for the service team.

Leading players in the 1930s and 1940s include Doc Pfister, Judge Ponath, Rev. Johnstone, Mike Thorfinson, Garland Stein, Joe Canham, Reed Needham, Vern Frankfort, Casey Kline, Alex Wagner and Leo Simmer.

Activity was almost at a standstill from 1944-1953.

During the period of softball revival, many baseball enthusiasts had to be convinced that softball belonged in the sports program, an instance is recalled. A group of baseball players came over to the softball field after the baseball session and were amazed to see a group playing softball. They had come over to "knock the cover off the ball" and, with this in mind, took their turns at

bat. To their amazement, and the glee of the softballers, it was one! two! three! and you're out! This incident had much to do with their acceptance and boosting of softball, shown by their active participation later.

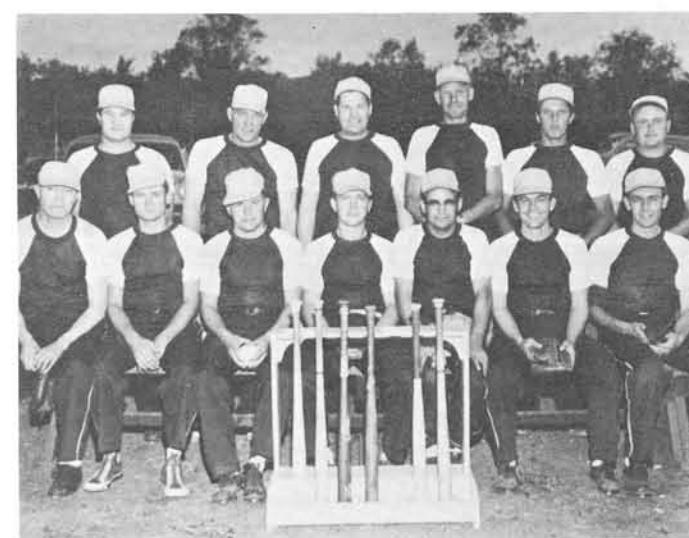
In 1954, Wahpeton had a four-team league and softball was on its way back. The following year another team was added to the league and led to forming of a six-team league in 1956.

During the 1956 season, many of the ballplayers complained about not having lights. This led to a project to raise money for lights at the Wahpeton field, known as Hughes Field in recognition of the land contributed to the Park Board by Robert Hughes.

Wahpeton held its first Head of the Red Open Tournament in 1958. Nassif Rug of Fargo won the title. Marv Thimjon, Harold Lenzmeier, Chick Lee and Bob Haller were chief organizers.

Fast-pitch softball enjoyed much success during the next two years. Two Wahpeton teams — Ken and Roy's Conoco and Wahpeton VFW — played for the Red River Valley tourney title at Fargo in 1959 with Ken and Roy's winning. For many years, these two teams were big factors in the RRV, having much to say about who won the title.

Improvements in the fields came in 1959 and 1961. An outfield fence was erected on diamond No. 1 in 1959, the year the state Class B tourney was held at Wahpeton. Shorty's Shoe Shop of Moorhead won the Head of the Red titles in 1959 and 1960. Wahpeton hosted the state Class A tourney in 1960.



V.F.W.—1959. Front, 1 to r: Syd Beane, Epper Novetzke, Art Diederick, Max Stromberg, Sport Lenzmeier, Dave Schmidt, Herb Diederick. Back, Cliff Hermes, Windell Longendorfer, Chick Lee, Web Erickson, Vernon Marohl, Dan Winters.



Cliff Warner, Chief Umpire; Bob Haller, Recording Director.

A fence went up on diamond No. 2 in 1961 along with a scoreboard and bulletin board. Donators for the improvements were Wahpeton National Bank, Citizen's First National Bank, Hau-sauer Beverages and Lampert Lumber Co.

Fast-pitch softball hit a decline in 1961 with slow-pitch moving into the picture. Wahpeton hosted the state slow pitch tourney in 1962 and 1964. Only one fast-pitch team remained in 1964, playing in area tourneys and winning the Hall of Fame title. Hektner's of Fargo won the Head of the Red title in 1964.

Robert Haller, city recreation director, has served to boost the softball program in recent years. Wendell Langendorfer, park superintendent, has offered valuable support.

There are five diamonds (one lighted at Hughes Field. Jerry Bezinek served as Wahpeton district commissioner until Harold (Sport) Lenzmeier was appointed in 1964.



WAHPETON MERCHANTS—1959. Front, 1 to r: Jerry Neperud, Unknown, Wally Roftevold, Doug Bakken, Bob Peterka, Arley Everson. Back, 1 to r: Dale McCullough, Danny Klosterman, Darrel Tomlinson, Marve Thimjon, Ed Loll, Gordon Hanson, Dale Hoffman.

