

NEWS RELEASE

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IOWA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

CEDAR RAPIDS — Seven new names will be added to the Hall of Fame of the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association in 1972. Executive Secretary Harold Primrose of Cedar Rapids, in announcing the names of the seven new members, said they would be presented certificates emblematic of the honor at the banquet March 10 featuring the fourth annual Coaches Clinic staged by the Association.

Nominees for the Association's Hall of Fame come from coaches all over the state and the final selections are made by a nominating committee of the Association. All have been active in baseball and all have been standout performers as players, coaches, officials and in some cases a combination of several fields of baseball endeavour over a period of years.

Standout player on the list is **Hal Trosky**, one of the All-Time Great Major League Sluggers (.321 lifetime batting average with Cleveland and the White Sox over an 11-years span). Trosky's recommendations also included a single season in which he had 162 runs batted in, coupled with 42 home runs and a batting average of .345. Trosky is a member of the Major League "200-Home-Run Club" and was voted Cleveland's most popular player in 1939. A native of Norway, he started as a pitcher but was converted to first base to keep his bat in the line up every day.

Also on the list is the man whose baseball career is longer than any other Iowan who ever lived. That would be **Dr. Harry "Doc" Zimmer**, of Dysart, who played 41 years as a semi-pro and then turned to umpiring to run his string of baseball seasons out to an unbelievable 69 years. A pitcher, Dr. Zimmer pitched for the Iowa Hawkeyes while in dental school and then pitched semi-pro ball (as many as 45 games a season) until he turned to umpiring in 1953. He umpired only a few games in 1971 at age 81, due to high blood pressure. But he hopes to again be active in the game he started playing at age 11 on the Dysart town team in 1902.

Another umpire being honored by induction into the Association's Hall of Fame is **Joe Bailey** of Cedar Rapids, who like Dr. Zimmer, played many years of semi-pro baseball as second baseman-manager of the strong Light Company Team in Cedar Rapids before turning to umpiring. Much of Bailey's service to the game was helping young players during his active career including both Junior Legion and summer baseball programs. The Bailey's live now in Lakeland, Florida, but Joe plans to be back to receive the honor in person.

Posthumously, Muscatine's Great Coach — **L. A. (Lefty) Schnack** — will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the March 10th Banquet. A great athlete at Wilton High School, at Central College with the all-time great sports teams there, and as a touring pro cager with the "Terrible Swedes", Schnack nevertheless hit his peak as a coach. He went from football to basketball at Muscatine and then took baseball when the sport was installed at the high school in 1951. Three straight summer championships helped Schnack's Muscatine nines run up 40 straight wins. One of his pitchers, Ron Reifert, had a 36-1 career mark as a Little Muskie. Overall in baseball, Schnack showed 171 wins, 64 losses and two ties. Over one eight-year span his team won 120 and lost only 19 games. He died April 16, 1971 of a heart attack while working at his job as Muscatine High Athletic Director.

Another retired coach on the list of inductees is **Bud Suter**, now with the Iowa Hawkeye Athletic Department. A Drake graduate, Suter's Mason City coaching career was relatively short but loaded with high spots. His best season was 1943 at 22 and 1, but the 1946 season of 24 and 4 produced a state championship. Suter's Mohawk's won Big Six Conference Titles in 1942, '43, and '44 before sharing with West Waterloo in 1945. His Junior Legion teams won state titles in 1941 and 1944. Suter launched a career as broadcaster in 1946, but left records so impressive he was a standout choice for Hall of Fame honors.

A great name in Simpson College athletics — that of Coach **R. G. "Hap" Miller** — also goes into the Hall of Fame. Space doesn't begin to permit a full run down on the baseball coaching career of this remarkable man. Let it be said, however that in 25 years of coaching, Hap Miller's teams won 282 games and lost only 87. He had only one losing season and against Iowa Conference teams while he coached at Simpson, the record in 11 seasons was 89 wins and only 16 losses. His 1958 Simpson team finished third in the nation at the NAIA national tourney — highest finish ever for an Iowa Conference team. And to show the versatility of this man, he was a charter member of the Iowa High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Coach Miller now lives in retirement near Rockwell City.

Seventh man on the list is **Roy F. Jessen**, who climaxed his baseball coaching career with eight stand-out years at Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson with eight state tournament appearances, and a career record of 215 victories and 77 losses. Twice his Thomas Jefferson teams were runners-up for the state titles and three times the TJ boys took the state's highest baseball honor. Coach Jessen's best year was his final year at Thomas Jefferson when his team won 25 and lost 3 and won the state summer championship in 1959. He lives now in Milford.

Others named previously to the Association's Hall of Fame are the late Otto Vogel, Ken Blackman, Emil Klumpar, Hamlet Peterson, Mon Whitford, Fred Larsen, Harold Schmickley, Vince Meyer, Elmer Starr, Cap Timm, George Thomson, Estel Thomson, Chick Sutherland, Dick Davis and Ray Manship.