

Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association

NEWS RELEASE

TO BE RELEASED FEBRUARY 1974

WRITTEN BY TAIT CUMMINS

CEDAR RAPIDS: Four new members of the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association "Hall of Fame" will be formally honored at the group's annual banquet March 15 in Cedar Rapids at which time the Sixth Annual Clinic will also be staged.

The four honorees for 1974--all eminently qualified on the basis of their contributions to baseball in a wide spectrum of activities--are R.H. "Pete" Cramer, retired coach and official now living in Des Moines; Jeff Pickart of Norway; Harold "Pinky" Primrose of Cedar Rapids and C.C. "Cy" Slapnicka, long time major league scout now in retirement in Cedar Rapids.

In naming the 1974 quartet, the selection committee "touched all the bases", so to speak, since there isn't an area of baseball in which one of the four hasn't been active and outstanding at one time or another--player, coach, umpire, scout, executive or organizer. All share a common love for baseball as evidenced by their unselfish contributions to the game.

Taking them at random, the name of PINKY PRIMROSE gets top billing for a somewhat unique reason--he may be the youngest man ever to be inducted into anybody's Hall of Fame in any sport. Only 39 years of age, Primrose has packed so much unselfish service into his adult years he could be overlooked no longer.

A 1952 graduate of his home town high school at Norway, Pinky followed his older brother, Robert, to the University of Iowa where both played Hawkeye baseball. Pinky received his degree in 1956 and earned his M.A. in 1966 at the University of Iowa. His coaching career started at Lisbon where he coached three sports. He moved to Norway in 1958, coaching two sports and serving as principal in 1963-64.

Moving to Cedar Rapids Washington in 1964, Primrose soon concentrated his coaching on baseball, which has been his sports assignment since. He won a state championship in 1966 and over 18 years of coaching his chart shows 438 wins and 159 losses, plus tournament titles at all levels.

Currently executive secretary of the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association of which he was a founder and past president, Primrose is President of the Cedar Rapids Astros in the Midwest Professional League, past President of the Cedar Rapids Kids League and serves the Cedar Rapids Officials Association as executive secretary. He's past president of the group, officiating football, basketball, and baseball.

And if Pinky Primrose is the youngest man ever to enter a Hall of Fame venerable CY SLAPNICKA--in his eighties--may be one of the oldest. A minor league professional baseball pitcher when he turned to scouting Slapnicka rates with the top half-dozen men who ever engaged in that highly competitive and risky profession.

Starting from Bob Feller, one of his finds, Slapnicka's discoveries could win a thousand pennants were they all to play together. In Iowa alone, his top stars included Feller, Emil "Dutch" Levsen (last pitcher to pitch and win two complete games in one day), Earl Whitehill, Bill Zuber, Hal Trosky and others.

For years, the Cleveland Indians roster was dotted with Slapnicka's boys-- Earl Averill, Kenny Keltner, Herb Score and so many others, their records would fill a book. Slapnicka seldom missed a prospect, which is more than can be said for his bosses. His major regret was the decision of Indian executives to turn down Slapnicka's recommendation to sign a strapping young first baseman in New York City. His name? Lou Gehrig.

Rarely does a man come along who deservedly could be called "Mr. Baseball" but that perfectly describes JEFF PICKART of Norway, another inductee into the Hall of Fame. Baseball has been Jeff Pickart's life, starting with his playing days at Norway in 1922 and thereafter until 1931 when the depression halted baseball in Norway. He had played and managed six years at that time.

From 1939 until 1970, Pickart managed the redhot Norway teams, handling 210 players in that period, many of them major and minor league stars. During that time, Jeff engineered a grandstand drive in 1942 and procured lights in 1968. Norway has become the showplace of Eastern Iowa community baseball and under Pickart's guidance the team won Iowa Valley league titles, plus tournaments year after year.

Finally, PETE CRAMER'S lifetime in baseball as longtime coach at Liberty Center, Norwalk and Mattensdale plus summers spent umpiring in five different minor leagues brings to him the long-overdue honor of Hall of Fame membership. His coaching was climaxed by what all agree was the greatest thing that ever happened in the history of Martensdale: The fall State baseball championship of 1941. At Liberty Center, he won the Warren County title; repeating at Norwalk in the same County. His services at Martensdale started in 1939 and extended through 1947 with sectional or district trophies every year.

A native of Reinbeck, Cramer's umpiring career at the high school level included seven state tournaments, three sub-states, seven district and fifteen sectionals. Just as a footnote, he scouted for Kansas City in 1958.

Addition of four new members brings the Hall of Fame membership to thirty-three. Other names are Joe Bailey, Everett Barr, Jay Beckman, Ken Blackman, Dick Davis, Alex Evans, Bill Holmstrom, Roy Jepsen, Emil Klumpar, Fred "Zebe" Larson, Orval Madden, Ray Manship, Vince Meyer, Merle "Midge" McKeever, R.G. "Hap" Miller, Hamlet Peterson, Harold Schmickley, L.A. "Lefty" Schnack, Elmer Starr, Bud Suter, Chick Sutherland, Estel Thomson, George Thomson, Cap Timm, Hal Trosky, Frank Tvrdik, Otto Vogel, "Mon" Whitford, and Dr. Harry Zimmer.

All are living except Peterson, Schnack, Whitford, Vogel and Zimmer.

ALL DISTRICT CERTIFICATES: Coaches who had a boy make the All District Team in 1973 may pick up your player's certificate at the Clinic. All you have to do is ask for it at the registration window. The certificates are a great reminder to the player of his high school playing day's. Make every effort to get it to him.

ANNUAL MEETING: The officers will be voted on at the annual general meeting of all membership in attendance to be held Friday morning, March 15, 1974 at 10:30 A.M., in the Little Theater. The nomination committee will present a slate of officers for the members to elect. The new officers will take office at this meeting.

CLINIC PRE-REGISTRATION: In order to speed up the clinic registration it would be very much appreciated if you would pre-register by sending in the Clinic Pre-Registration card. This should be sent to:

Harold Primrose
4211 High Ridge Rd. S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403

A reminder about the meals: We will only order as many meals as we have paid reservations. To make a reservation for meals, you must enclose your check. Fill out the card and return it with your check.

500 AND OVER WIN CLUB

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Vince Meyers, Bancroft | 1,000 plus wins |
| Merle "Midge" MaKeever, Davenport (Retired) | 570 wins |
| George Thomson, Cedar Rapids Roosevelt | 508 wins |

400 AND OVER WIN CLUB

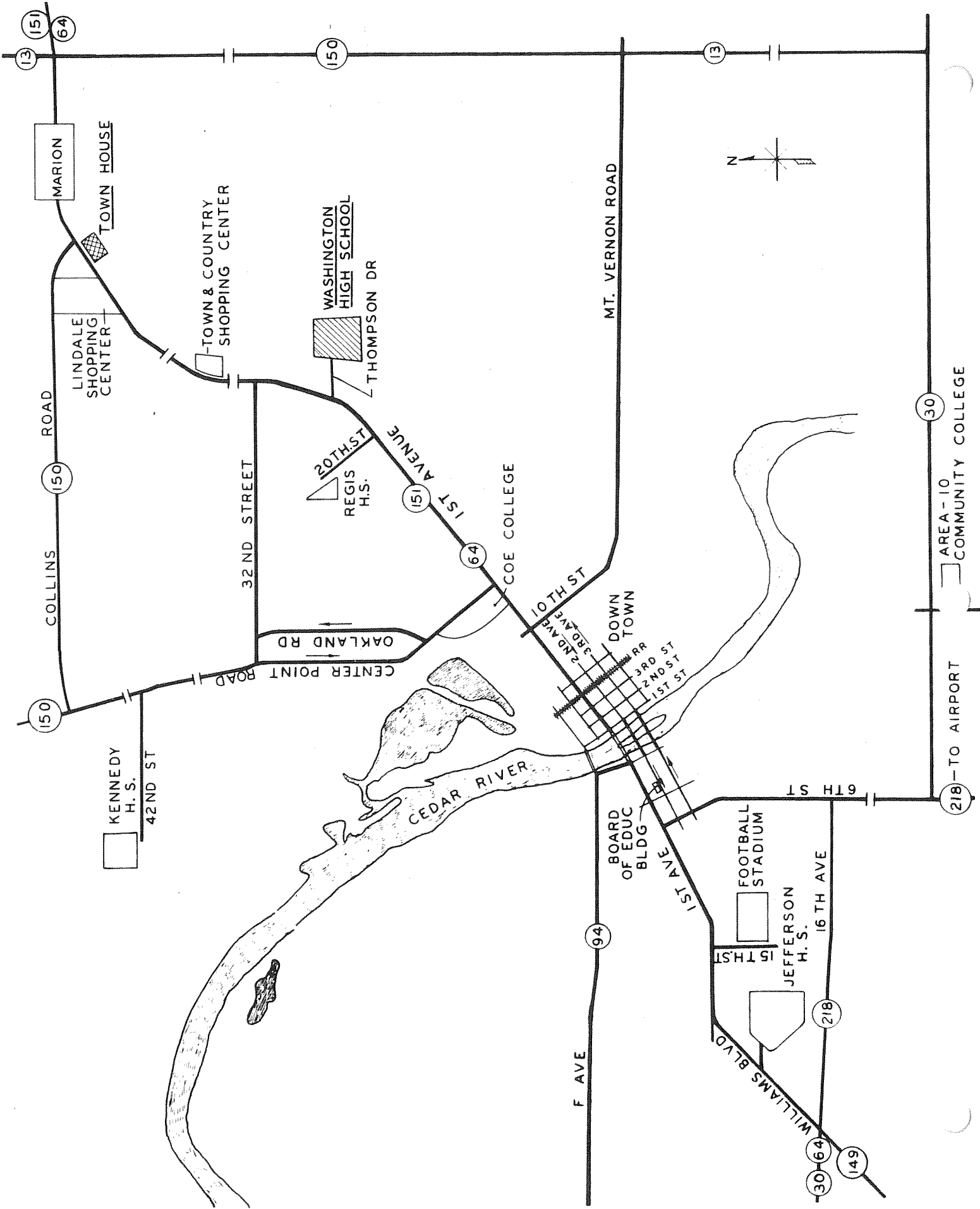
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| Fred "Zebe" Larson, Waterloo West (Retired) | 468 wins |
| Harold "Pinky" Primrose, Cedar Rapids Washington | 438 wins |

300 AND OVER WIN CLUB

| | |
|---|----------|
| Bernie Hutchison, Red Oak | 370 wins |
| Pat Daugherty, Indian Hills Community College | 359 wins |
| Buck Cheadle, Pekin Packwood | 330 wins |
| Jarold Lister, North Tama | 315 wins |
| Vern Bredeson, Cedar Rapids Jefferson | 310 wins |
| Ed McNeil, Fort Dodge | 300 wins |
| Dick Wagner, Burlington | 300 wins |

200 AND OVER WIN CLUB

| | |
|---|----------|
| Daniel (Bill) Moore, Council Bluffs | 285 wins |
| James Denner, Waverly-Shell Rock | 278 wins |
| Al Sutton, Emmetsburg | 276 wins |
| Bill Lehr, Clinton | 271 wins |
| Bill Freese, Davenport Central | 263 wins |
| Dale Alderson, Meridan-Cleghorn (Retired) | 242 wins |
| Jim Opoein, Ruthven | 226 wins |
| Jim Jagim, Valley West Des Moines | 225 wins |
| G. Kent Folsom, Dysart | 221 wins |
| Earnest Oppermann, Wartburg College | 216 wins |
| Vic Belger, Newell-Providence | 212 wins |
| Bob Vrbicek, Cedar Rapids Taft | 212 wins |



KENNEDY
H.S.
42ND ST

COLLINS ROAD

151
64
13

MARION

LINDALE
SHOPPING
CENTER

TOWN HOUSE

TOWN & COUNTRY
SHOPPING CENTER

32ND STREET

20TH ST

WASHINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL

THOMPSON DR

REGIS
H.S.

1ST AVENUE

151

10TH ST

9TH ST

COE COLLEGE

F AVE

94

BOARD
OF EDUC
BLDG

DOWN
TOWN

MT. VERNON ROAD

2ND AVE
3RD AVE
RR

3RD ST
2ND ST
1ST ST

FOOTBALL
STADIUM

JEFFERSON
H.S.

15TH ST

16TH AVE

6TH ST

218

149

30

64



218 - TO AIRPORT

AREA - 10
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

30