

Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 1974

VOL. 6 NO. 5

CLINIC MARCH 15-16: One month until the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association Sixth Annual Clinic! We hope you have made your plans to attend and bring the team along, the assistant coach and the coach "down the road" with you. Enclosed you will find a brochure about the speakers, topics, times, etc.. Show it to your principal and superintendent and make sure you get the day off to attend a weekend of baseball.

BANQUET TICKETS: Enclosed you will find a card to return so we can make a reservation for you for the Friday banquet and noon lunch on Saturday. Fill it out and mail it back with your check covering your meals. If you plan to eat both Friday and Saturday meals, your check should be for \$6.00. If you plan to eat for only the banquet, it would be \$4.00 and if plans are for only the Saturday lunch it should be \$2.50. To make a reservation for meals, you must enclose your check. Some cards have already been returned indicating the coach plans to attend the meals, but enclosing no fee. No reservation can be made without enclosing your check. Please make meal reservations no later than March 11.

Remember, if you are not a member of the coaches association by March 1, 1974 the clinic will cost you \$10.00 plus the meals. Make your check payable to the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association. We will only order as many meals and noon lunches as we have paid reservations.

GORDIE GILLESPIE BANQUET SPEAKER: The Athletic Director and Baseball Coach of Lewis University, , Gordie Gillespie will be our banquet speaker. Gordie is one of the better speakers around the country. His topic will be "Closing the Generation Gap". I'm sure you will enjoy his talk very much.

HALL OF FAME: Enclosed you will find the press release of the 1974 Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. A brief history follows each man's name. Not only will we honor Hall of Fame, but coaches who have served over 15 years, College Coaches of Year, High School District Coaches of Year and High School Coach of Year. We hope you all are planning to attend and bring someone along.

200 WIN CLUB: Enclosed you will find the coaches who have won over 200 games. These coaches will receive a certificate for this accomplishment. We will have four different clubs. The 200 win, 300 win, a 400 win, and a 500 and over win club.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS: Cedar Rapids Sporting Goods and Eby's Sporting Goods will appreciate your visit to their booths during the clinic. You will see their ad on the back of the program. They are helping offset the cost of the clinic by their ads. Remember to thank them for this support.

RESERVATIONS: It is recommended that you get your reservations in early if you plan to stay overnight. I have talked to the Holiday Inn and they gave us special rates once again. These are the places to call:

Holiday Inn, Williams Blvd. S.W. 319-365-9441
Howard Johnsons, Highway 30 West, 319-363-8101
Town House Motor Inn, First Ave. East, 319-362-3131
Roosevelt Hotel, Downtown, Cedar Rapids, 319-364-4111
Montrose Hotel, Downtown, Cedar Rapids, 319-364-9111
Ramada Inn, 5560 6th St. S.W., 319-366-7721
Village Inn, 100 F Ave. N.W., 319-366-5323

Make your reservations early.

NIGHT CAP: After the Friday banquet all coaches will meet at the Elks Club in downtown Cedar Rapids, for an evening "night cap". Plan on this "off the cuff" get together. This is all baseball talk. Many "big stories" are told here. Over the years this has been one of the high lights of the clinic. Many friendships are renewed at this get together.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at Cedar Rapids Washington, March 14, 1974, starting at 7:30 P.M., Little Theater. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings. All Old Directors and Newly elected Directors are to attend these meetings. Committee meetings will be held Friday morning March 15. If you are on a committee you should attend these sessions. We need 100 % attendance if our organization is to move forward in the years to come.

BROCHURE: The typesetting of the brochure you have in this letter has been donated to us by Marv Howsare of Art Gray's Typographic Service. Marv is an umpire in the Cedar Rapids Area and this is his donation to the baseball coaches association. If you see Marv around the clinic, give him a big thank you. The printing of the brochure and the layout has been donated to us by the Cedar Rapids Community Schools.

MAP TO WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ENCLOSED: Enclosed you will find a map of Cedar Rapids and the directions to Washington High School. All roads will lead you to the best clinic in the Mid West on March 15-16. Just follow the directions on the map.

CLINIC GROWTH: You might be interested in the growth of the Clinic over the years. Here are some figures that will show the growth of the Clinic: 1969--160 1970--195 1971--264 1972--420 1973--430

GOAL FOR 1974 450--500

We need your support and interest to achieve our goal of 450 to 500 for this year's Clinic. Remember your students are invited to come. This Clinic is open to the public also. It will cost your students \$3.00 for the entire clinic or \$2.00 per session. It will cost all others \$10.00 unless they are a member of the Association.

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

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

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" Levensen (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 Vally 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 Norealk 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.