



Hall of Fame 2020

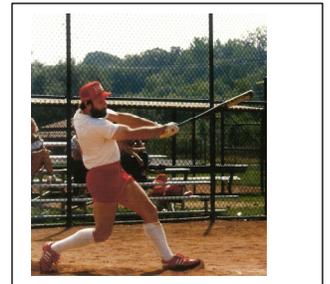
George Birch, Meritorious Service (Roseville)

George Birch has done it all both on and off the softball field playing on some of the top softball teams in the metro Detroit area to being a softball administrator. In 1979, George began working in Royal Oak supervising their softball leagues before he became a member of the ASA/USA Softball board and eventually the local Player Representative. Former commissioner Bill Svochak tasked Birch with establishing the Metro Detroit Hall of Fame in 1982. As a strong promoter of the game of softball, he is also the current legal counsel for USA Softball of Metro Detroit.



Gary Caracciolo, Slow Pitch Player (Warren)

Gary Caracciolo started playing softball in 1970 on a Ford Local 400 UAW team. His career then blossomed playing on such teams as Burke's Sports Haven and the famed Budweiser 35 and over team where he was a member of three national championship squads (1985, 1986, 1987) including named MVP in 1987 and on the All-American team that year. Gary then was a member of the 35 and over Nothdurft teams that won national titles in 1988, 1989, and 1993 (40 and over). He also played on many other teams that competed for national titles.



Marc Drouillard, Umpire (Fraser)

Marc began his illustrious softball career as an umpire in 1989. Marc also was a member of the metro Detroit umpire staff from 1998-2015. He continues to be a dedicated assignor for many local leagues since 2006. Marc has worked numerous national championships for USA Softball as well as working many major NCAA conference leagues and tournaments. Two of Marc's major achievements are being a member of the National Indicator Fraternity for USA Softball (1999) and an ASA Gold Level members participant.



Bill Geatches, Umpire (Shelby Township)

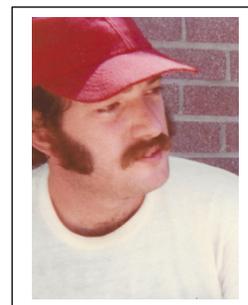
Bill was involved with USA Softball as a well-respected umpire for nearly 30 years. He was a member of the metro Detroit staff and assisted at many of the umpire training camps and seminars. Bill commands respect with his calm demeanor and upbeat attitude. He was a strong promoter for USA Softball and the umpire program. Bill has worked ten national tournaments



and received outstanding evaluation each time. Bill is a Gold level member of the USA Softball Medals program, a member of the National Indicator Fraternity, and an Elite slow pitch umpire.

Dave Pallister, Umpire (Posthumously, Milford)

Mike Scharf has been involved with USA Softball of Metro Detroit since 1982. Mike served as the USA Softball of Metro Detroit UIC in 2016; and remains a member of the current umpire staff. He has worked 10 national tournaments and attended three National Umpire Schools. Some of Mike's honors include being a Gold Level Member of the Medals Program, a National Indicator Fraternity Member, and an Elite Slow Pitch Umpire. His contributions to the umpire program in the metro Detroit area continues to provide valuable leadership and guidance to umpires!



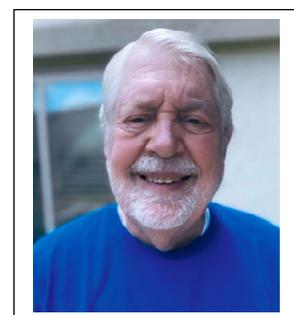
Mark Syzdek, Manager (Posthumously, Shelby Township)

Mark Syzdek has been involved with the game of softball for more than 50 years as a player, including many of those years (27) as a manager, and more than 35 years as an umpire. He started playing in 1968 in the famed Detroit Lutomski league. He has compiled a record 30 championship and 16 runner-up finishes as a player/manager in 64 softball association senior tournaments. This included an impressive four national championships, and two runner-up finishes in USA Softball tournaments. A life dedicated to softball! Unfortunately, Mark passed away unexpectedly on June 17, 2021.



Craig Thomson, Umpire (Clinton Township)

Craig Thomson began his umpiring career while in college; ironically after he was ejected from a game for arguing with an umpire. He worked in many local communities and eventually worked with many top umpires in the area before becoming a member of the metro Detroit umpire staff. Former Hall of Famers played a pivotal role in Craig's growth – Don Stuckey and George Gillies. A highlight of his career was being presented with the national ASA Indicator Award in 1992.



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