



BABES OF 1916

NEWSLETTER—ISSUE # 5

Jerry Kowalski

Editor

March 18, 2022

BIRTHDAYS:

Lee Koosed 73 (3/21/49)

Tony Vaccarello 73 (3/25)

Don Schmidt 91 (3/28/31)

Ed Bernstein 69 (4/1/53)

Jim Gradert 90 (4/2/32)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

New player evaluation sessions will be held on **March 22** (Tues) & **March 24** (Th) at CAPS fieldhouse at **10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.** (Managers and Asst. Managers will be extended an invitation to attend.)

New membership drive: **Ends March 31.**

Teams 'draft' selection: **April 4th.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Please plan on attending our 2022 General Membership meeting on **April 9th (Sat.) from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** at the Solon Senior Community Center. This huge event will include guest speakers, great friends and lunch (hot dogs) and tons of information about the upcoming softball season and featured events. Hope to see everyone there.

UMPIRE TRAINING:

An umpire meeting (Zoom) will be scheduled the week of 3/21. An in-person session will be held at Solon gym on **April 13th** at 11:00 a.m. If interested, contact Dick Doughman.

BASEBALL QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time".
(Jim Bouton, author of the book "Ball Four")

MEET THE MANAGER:

DAVE MARCUS

Background: I have managed (and coached) in the past and enjoyed it at all levels including my kids, intramurals and kids traveling teams.



Goals: To meet new players and to have a successful, competitive season. I always try to help my teammates to be better players.

My Expectations: To fully participate by being respectful of other players, teammates, opponents and umpires. I am supportive when players don't make plays. I expect my players to show sportsmanship, play hard and have fun.

Player Expectations: I treat each of my players equally, play as many players as possible and help with skills to improve individual talents. I try to lead by example by promoting fair play and sportsmanship.

Management Style: I believe in a team approach to management (not dictatorial).

BABES OPENING DAY:

Opening Day for Babes softball games to start will be **May 3rd** (Tuesday). Team schedules will be distributed to all players beforehand. Festivities are in the planning stage to make our Opening Day a memorable one for all.

FUN FACT:

In the year of the Babes inception (1983), there was a total of 8 "Playing Rules". The pitching distance was 43 feet and the distance to the bases was 60 feet. Baserunners were encouraged to know the number of outs and what bases were occupied.

"IN THE BATTER'S BOX":

Dave "Hot Rod" Pifer

Background: I joined the Babes in 2016 to get exercise, make new friends and have fun.



Goals for 2022: To catch every fly ball that comes my way. And on offense, not to strike out !

Profession: I was a small business owner (in Mantua). We repaired jet engine blades and industrial gas turbines.

Passions: I have always been a "car guy" ('55 Chevy, '67 Chevelle, '72 Pantera) and around the age of 10, I developed an interest in photography, coin collecting and a minor interest in firearms (so, don't mess with me). My real passion is golf. With my friends, we travel to Lake Marion (SC) to plays rounds of golf, hang out and drink beer.

Memorable Experience: I was lucky enough to witness the great "Jonesy" Jones executing an unassisted triple play. I will never see anything like that again !

Wishes: I'd like to learn to hit left-handed. I always wanted to play catch with Babe Ruth and then afterwards go out and drink beers.

True Story: Most people don't know that I actually had a drag race (twice) with Jack Lambert (Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker) at 2:30 a.m. on Main Street in downtown Mantua with some 30 people looking on. Jack won the first race and I won the second. It was crazy fun! (As a result, Dave actually served as the consultant to James Dean on the movie "Rebel without a Cause" for the infamous drag race scene.)

(Editor's Note:) Dave is far too humble. Dave won the 2001 Portage County Senior Amateur Open (golf tournament) and consistently shoots in the low 70's. Dave's current golf handicap is a 3. Impressive !.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

There is an often used quote, "No man succeeds in life without a good woman behind him". That phrase applies to all the wives and significant others who come out to each softball game to cheer on their husband. Especially, Mary Ann Schmidt, who can be seen at every game supporting her husband (Don). When I see the two of them together, I always believe that there is hope for the institution of marriage. They both inspire us all.



MY TOP 10 LIST OF BASEBALL MOVIES:

6: "Damn Yankees" - (1958)

Stars: Tab Hunter, Gwen Verdon, Ray Walston

Plot: A Washington Senators fan makes a pact with the devil to help his baseball team win the league pennant.



Note: Wouldn't each of us seriously consider making a pact with the devil to be a Major League Baseball player ?

Next Newsletter: Pick Number 5.



... And then, one day while rounding second base in a city league softball game, Daniel is suddenly stricken with middle age.

Babes Bowling—Update:

Bowling season ends March 30th.

Our **post-season banquet** has been scheduled for **April 6th (Wed)** at Roseland Lanes at **Noon**. Lunch will be served and Awards and End of Year money payouts will be distributed at the banquet.

Team Standings													
Place	Lane	#	Team Name	Points		Team		Pins+ HDCP	Scratch Pins	High Scratch		High HDCP	
				Won	Lost	Avg	HDCP			10	30	10	30
1	23	7	LUCKY FOUR	43	20	553	221	59744	42506	664	1790	893	2459
2	26	4	PIN BOYS	43	20	594	183	54380	41285	714	1939	902	2494
3	29	3	STEAMROLLERS	41	22	722	67	63231	55977	895	2432	982	2648
4	25	2	TEN PINS	41	22	506	262	60563	39431	623	1712	893	2507
5	32	10	GUTTERLY AWESOME	32	31	651	133	61330	50134	727	2034	865	2529
6	27	8	BROOKLYN STRIKES	31	32	595	182	60838	45520	672	1869	862	2440
7	28	1	LUCKY STRIKES	27	36	508	262	54071	32876	567	1631	870	2530
8	30	9	CHICKEN WINGS	22	41	550	223	60349	42043	631	1769	860	2459
9	24	5	PIN SPOTTERS	18	45	540	232	59905	41320	627	1793	902	2587
10	31	6	ROLLING PINS	15	48	476	290	59389	36439	545	1496	838	2390

Babes Bowling—Average Leaders: (3/9)

D. Young—197; S. Marmash—189;
 D. Kovich 178; T. Smith - 174;
 T' Postolka—174; J. Albrigo—171



Brain Teaser—Question:

If you are familiar with the figures on Mt. Rushmore, you know that Presidents Washington, Jefferson, T. Roosevelt and Abe Lincoln are prominently featured.

However, if you were to create a Mt. Rushmore of Cleveland Indians players, who would those 4 players be ?

Brain Teaser—Answer (My Team):

My picks: Bob Feller, Lou Boudreau, Larry Doby and "Sudden" Sam McDowell (because I always liked him).
 Special Mention: Rocky Colavito, Gaylord Perry, Jim Thome, Omar Vizquel, Tris Speaker, Kenny Lofton and, of course, Albert Belle).

BABES FUN SURVEY: (RESULTS)

Run-off: I have listed the "Top 3" vote-getters in each category. Now please vote for just 1 person (in each category) to determine the "Winner":

1. "Most Talkative" player ?

Tony Leonardi, Franco Sperrazzo or Arvel Waddell ? (Special Mention: Bob Herman)

2. "Best (Babes) Manager" ?

Gil Novak, Dave Kulka or Dan Kershner? (Special Mention: T. Habat, B. Herman)

(3. "Fastest Runner" in the league ?

Kevin Payne, Jim Kolenc or Wayne Erickson) ? (Special Mention: Franco)

4. "Toughest Pitcher" in the league?

Arvel, Phil Bordonaro or Larry Huston? (Special Mention: Rocco Stallano)

5. "Funniest Guy" in the league ?

Arvel, "Stig" Castiglione or Jerry "Bugman" Faivre?

(Special Mention: "Jonesy" & "Vacc")

The "Winner" in each category will receive their respective award at this year's All-Star Game.

Email your Survey "Winner" picks to:

jerry_kowalski9@yahoo.com

GET READY FOR:

Indoor batting practice (free) sessions begin April 6th (Weds.) from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Solon Community Center gym. A batting machine will be set-up for all weekly sessions. This is a great opportunity to get to know players, both new and old (which are most of us). See you all there !