

AWARDS

We hope you enjoy the presentations and ask you show your appreciation to all those who have worked so hard on behalf of our sport.

COACHES

...are the backbone of our Sport. They come from all walks of life, some are Dads, some are Moms, Grandparents and sometimes big brothers or sisters. They may be farmers, businessmen, doctors, and lawyers. They are the volunteers who give their time, expertise and love of the game to the young athletes on the diamonds.

To an athlete, a coach is more than a trainer. He or she is a friend and mentor, a companion through long hours of training, a partner who shares in the joys of victory and the pain of defeat. What does it take to be a coach? Training, expertise, perseverance, hard work: the same demands that are asked of the athletes. A coach is not only responsible for psychological preparation. They are special people – dedicated to helping athletes to develop their full potential, to improve their skills and to achieve accomplishments of which they can be proud.

We in Baseball Alberta are proud to recognize a few of our Coaches this evening who have fulfilled this commitment to the players and to their community.

TED RUDD MINOR COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Would Phyllis Pannebaker, Past President and the Scholarship and Awards Chairman; Please come forward to give our first award

The Ted Rudd Minor Coach of the Year Award is presented annually to a minor coach who directed his team with sportsmanship.

For 2004 we are proud to have co-recipients of the Ted Rudd Coach of the Year Award. This year's award winners are Kirk Reiniger and Dan Lajoie.

KIRK REINIGER

Kirk has played baseball all his life and thus has an extensive knowledge of the game. He has coached Mosquito all the way up to Bantam. His real strength has been to mold a team from the Mosquito level to National Champions in the Bantam level.

Kirk joined the Baseball Calgary program 3 years ago and each of those three years has taken a Baseball Calgary team to the Nationals, an amazing feat in itself. This past year Kirk coached his team to a Provincial Championship gold medal then went on to an unbelievable record of 6 – 0 to capture the Baseball Canada National Championship at the Bantam level in Windsor, Ontario.

He teaches his team to respect the umpires and officials, teaches them life skills, how to set goals, how to be a team player, how to accept and learn from loss, and how to be a gracious winner. He is always willing to teach if the kids are eager to learn

Congratulations Kirk, you are indeed a worthy recipient of the Ted Rudd Coach of the Year Award.

DAN LAJOIE

**Dan has coached for many years and has a strong passion for the game.
*NEED BOB TO SEND ME BIO INFO***

AURORA MAJOR COACH AWARD

Would Director Doug Bassett please come forward to present this Award

The Aurora Major Coach Award is presented annually to a major category coach who directed his team with sportsmanship.

The winner of this award is a very deserving one, Doug McLennan. We regret that Doug is unable to attend due to previous commitment; however this award will be accepted on behalf by Greg Reiniger of the Tigers Baseball Association.

Doug coached the powerhouse St. Albert Junior Tigers. The Tigers were undefeated in league play and swept through the Provincials. They then went onto Trois Rivieres, Quebec to win a Bronze medal at the Baseball Canada National Championships. One bad inning unfortunately landed them in the Bronze medal game.

Winning is not the most important thing to Doug, most important to Doug was to provide the means for players to continue to develop their skills, abilities and attitudes as individuals and in a team environment. Also important was the commitment and respect shown to the game of baseball.

UMPIRES

The Baseball Alberta umpires are a very special part of our game. They are the persons who without their ability to "call the game" and sometimes "take the flak" baseball would not be able to carry on. As with coaches, many of our young athletes graduate from playing the game to officiating the game. This is not always easy as it is hard to be the person who is expected to be perfect and always be calm and in charge of the game.

I think the following verse, which some of you may have heard before, exemplifies the importance of our officials.

"Portraits"

"Of all the thankless jobs on earth...wherever duty calls....the worst is his who must decide...Between the strikes and balls. Who always has to say at once...if it foul or fair. When some determined player hits the horsehide in the air. The mans whose eyes must rove the field – and cover every base....And figure if the in infield – or – the runner won the race. He is the baseball umpire who must be prepared to talk when there is any argument about a run or walk...But whatever crowds stand up and cheer – or impolitely shout....He is the one the baseball world.....Can never do without."

Baseball Alberta is very proud to recognize some very special umpires for 2004.

MURRAY SERVICE UMPIRE AWARD

And I'd like to ask Murray service and Jon Oko to come forward to present the **Murray Service Umpire Award**.

This award is presented annually to an umpire for outstanding contribution to baseball umpiring in Alberta.

The winner of the 2004 Murray Service Umpire Award is Josh Clark

Unfortunately due to prior commitments, Josh was unable to attend, but Stephen Delude will be accepting the award on his behalf.

After playing baseball for a number of years, at the age of 14 , Josh decided to try his hand at umpiring. Realizing that he was never going to make it to the big leagues as a pitcher with a 50 mph fast ball and a curve ball that only seemed to break a tie in late innings, at age 19 Josh decided to focus solely on umpiring – a decision that has been extremely beneficial for Josh, the umpiring program and the game of baseball.

Josh was instrumental in the establishment of the Calgary and Area Baseball Umpires Association (CABUA), and served two years as treasurer before assuming his current role as vice president.

Some of the major accomplishments Josh has achieved include: Level 5B Baseball Canada accreditation; 4 national Championships; Numerous Provincial Championships; Umpire in the Western Major Baseball League 2003-2004; Umpire in the Canadian Baseball League in 2003.

Josh is a very worthy recipient of the Murray Service Umpire Award.

THE BASEBALL ALBERTA UMPIRE HALL OF FAME AWARD

And I would like to ask Jon Oko to come forward to give this award.

The Umpire Hall of Fame Award is presented annually to an individual(s) who fulfills the following criteria: has demonstrated loyalty and dedication to the umpiring program in Alberta; has assisted in the development and education of fellow umpires; has demonstrated leadership in his/her umpiring community; has provided encouragement, support and opportunity thereby fostering growth in fellow umpires and in the Baseball Alberta Umpire program

Baseball Alberta is proud to induct Jim Edwards into the Umpire Hall of Fame.

Jim started playing organized ball 45 years ago in Craik, Saskatchewan and never missed a year. Jim began to umpire in 1979, and soon was working all major tournaments between Regina and Saskatoon plus many league games ranging from Mosquito to Senior Mens Baseball and Senior Ladies Fastball. 1992 proved to be a successful year for Jim as he passed his Level 4 exam and became the Zone 8 Supervisor. Jim spent 10 years on the Baseball Alberta Board of Directors and was

also a founding member of the present day umpires committee. Jim Edwards has been involved with umpiring in Alberta since he moved to Peace River in 1990. Up until this past season, when Jim retired from the on-field aspect of the game, Jim has been involved extensively in the volunteer aspect of the program. The Hall of Fame Award was founded with people like Jim in mind, and the Umpires Committee, on behalf of all umpires across this province, present Jim with this award in appreciation of the time and effort that was afforded on our behalf.

BASEBALL ALBERTA JUNIOR UMPIRE OF THE YEAR

Would John Bresler please come forward to present the Junior Umpire of the Year Award.

The Junior Umpire of the Year Award is a very new award, first awarded last year.

This award is presented annually to a promising young umpire whose age does not exceed 25 years, who has attained a minimum Level 2 NUCP certification, has displayed dedication, a willingness to learn and improve their skills as a baseball official throughout the course of the year.

The 2004 Junior Umpire of the Year is Shane Hoetmer

Shane is an exceptional umpire who is extremely dedicated to the Umpiring program in Alberta. Shane has been umpiring for several years and has demonstrated tremendous improvement each and every season he has officiated.

In the past season, Shane worked every level of ball from Mosquito House league to Midget AAA. Shane never begrudges working at the lower levels of baseball and always demonstrates incredible enthusiasm and passion for the game. Furthermore, Shane has traveled all over Zone 5 (and beyond) for the past several seasons. His willingness to drive for an hour and a half to work Mosquito playoff games on short notice, makes him a valuable asset to Zone 5 and to our provincial program.

Lastly, Shane is a great role model for the younger umpires in his area. This is partly because of his great ability, but also largely a result of his great attitude and character.

PLAYERS

....and of course, OUR MOST VALUABLE PERSONS, our players. From the beginning 5 year olds learning the game and playing with their parents on the diamonds in the Kids 1st League, T-Ball, Rookie and on up through Midget, Junior senior and Twilite;

From our grassroots players who want to play for the fun and love of the game, to our budding Provincial/National Team and Major League prospects:

These are the persons we come to the ballparks to watch and cheer for/and sometimes cry for, and who put so much of themselves in the game we all love.

Many of these players have become very special persons in their own right, off the ball diamond, both scholastically, and as leaders and contributors in their communities, and it is those qualities we wish to recognize tonight.

GORDIE WILSON MEMORIAL AWARD

Would Director Rob Graves please come forward to give this award

The Gordie Wilson Memorial Award is presented to a Bantam age player who has demonstrated leadership and athletic abilities in the sport of Baseball, to financially assist the individual to attend a baseball development training camp.

The nominee and winner of the 2004 Gordie Wilson Memorial Award is David Reiniger – from Calgary, Alberta.

David was an integral part of the Pee Wee and Bantam AAA Provincial Gold Medal teams from 2002 to 2004. David batted .467 for the 2004 Calgary Cubs at the Bantam AAA Baseball Canada National Championships. He was the starting shortstop for the Zone 3 Alberta Summer Games Gold medalists. David was also selected to the 2004 15 Year Old Prospects Team.

David has and is continuing to attend several camps during the off-season, traveling to British Columbia and as far as Phoenix, Arizona.

David is working hard at school and baseball to accomplish his goal of receiving a college baseball scholarship in the states.

For someone who loves baseball so much and has the drive to move to the next level this award is a perfect fit for David.

The following three awards will be awarded personally

Dave Reiniger Memorial Scholarship (discuss with Greg & Kirk how they want this handled)

I would like to call on Greg and Kirk Reiniger to give this scholarship in memory of their father Dave Reiniger.

This scholarship is presented annually for post secondary studies to an athlete who has demonstrated strong athletic ability as a baseball player with Baseball Alberta.

The winner of the 2004 Dave Reiniger Memorial scholarship is Pamela Fox

BOB WHITE MEMORAIL SCHOLARSHIP

I would like at this time to ask Director Mike Gendron to come forward to give this award.

This scholarship is presented for post secondary studies to an athlete who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, good sportsmanship, community service and strong athletic ability as a baseball player.

The 2004 recipient of the Bob white Memorial Scholarship is Warren Thompson from Fort Saskatchewan.

Unfortunately Warren was unable to make the trip from Lethbridge where he is currently going to school and playing baseball. Would Pat Gartner please come up and accept this award on his behalf.

As mentioned Warren is attending the University of Lethbridge where he was a member of the Prairie Baseball Academy All-Academic Team for the 2003-2004 season. Warren was a member of the 2002 Team Alberta. He has participated in baseball from T-Ball all the way up to Junior in Fort Saskatchewan. Not only has he strived as a player he was also a Level 2 umpire in 2001-2002 and in 2004.

BASEBALL ALBERTA DORIS TAYLOR SCHOLARSHIP

Would Vice President South Harold Northcott step forward to present this scholarship.

This scholarship is presented for post secondary studies to an athlete who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, community service and strong athletic ability as a baseball player with Baseball Alberta.

The winner of the 2004 Doris Taylor Scholarship is Marcus Down. Accepting the Scholarship on Marcus' behalf is his father Jon.

Marcus is currently enrolled in the Bachelor Science Degree Program in Kinesiology at the University of Lethbridge where he also is enrolled at the Prairie Baseball Academy. Marcus has achieved honors standing each year in school.

He has played in Devon from 1991 to 2004 and was an integral part of the 2004 Midget AA Provincial and Westerns Gold Medal Devon Diamondbacks.

And last, but certainly not least, the persons who without their help, we could not run an association.

THE VOLUNTEER

Where would any organization be without them? The Moms and Dads, Grandparents, and many other persons who just want to help, enjoy kids and love the game of Baseball. These are the people who drive the cars, organize clubs, register players, collect fees, sit on Boards, work the Bingo's, work the Casino's (Speaking of Casino's Baseball Alberta is still looking for volunteers to help out on December 8th and 9th). Volunteers do all the many tasks that make not only the individual clubs and leagues operate, but who drive and fly and take much time off work to become Directors of the Board and Committee Chairpersons for the parent organization of Baseball Alberta.

There are so many great volunteers that should be recognized each year. Each one of you is special, and I would like at this time to ask you all, to rise and give a hand to yourselves, and all the other volunteers who are so important to our organization.

We have special volunteers and hard workers with us this evening and we are very pleased to be able to recognize them.

BASEBALL ALBERTA WALLY FOOTZ BUILDERS AWARD

Would Director Wayne Nelson come forward to present this award.

This award is presented annually by Baseball Alberta for outstanding efforts in structure, promotion and development of amateur baseball in Alberta.
The recipient of the 2004 Wally Footz Builders Award is Bob Miller

Bob is avidly active with Taber Minor baseball Association for the past 8 years. He petitioned non-profit organizations, town council, many companies and organized fundraisers to build and develop the ballparks they have now. Many people believe he is the architecture of the new state of the art baseball facility in Taber. If he feels something needs to be done he dives right in and finished it. A perfect example is the new grass infields, he spent countless late nights sodding, watering and maintaining the fields. Bob is presently involved in a major overhaul of the Jets stadium in Vauxhall.

Bob has been coaching boys in the Taber area for many years now. As parent it is always amazing how he can take a dozen boys and mold them into a ball team, teach them the TEAM concept, hard work, determination and love for the sport of baseball and help them realize their dreams and goals.

Bob has coached the same group of kids from Mosquito all the way up to bantam where this past year they were Bantam AA Provincial and Westerns Champions. Baseball is year around for Bob as he arranges baseball clinics for the boys in the middle of the hockey season.

It is with great honor to present this award to Bob Miller.

BASEBALL ALBERTA LIFE MEMBER

Would 2003 inductee George Laskey please come forward to present this award.

Baseball Alberta's 2004 Life Member inductee is Terry Murphy.

Terry has been involved with Baseball Alberta as far back as 1961 where he played with the Leduc Lions, where he won the Juvenile Provincial Championship in Milk River. Terry was Baseball Alberta's Technical Director from 1985 to 1988. He has been the Director of NCCP Programming in Alberta for more then 15 years. Terry has coached at many different levels including grassroots, US High School and College all the way up to Head Coach of the 1989 Canada Cup team. Terry continued to coach at a very high level including Canada Games in 1997 and 2001 and 2004 Canada Cup General Manager.

Currently Terry is a retired teacher of 33 years, is a Level 3 Master Course Conductor, is on the AABC Technical Board, is Baseball Alberta's CFAB rep for the past three years and is working closely with the 2005 World Masters Games. Terry is a great asset to Baseball Alberta with his many years of knowledge and expertise and willingness to volunteer whenever needed.

PRESIDENTS AWARD

At this time I would like to ask President Carl Linden to present the Presidents Award.

The Presidents Award is presented annually to a Board member selected by the President for outstanding service to Baseball Alberta.

For 2004 we are proud to have co-recipients of the Presidents Award. This year's award winners are Mike Gendron and Jon Oko.

In 2004 Mike was the Zone 5 Director, and active Playoff Committee member. Mike stepped or maybe better described as falling into the role of Registrar for Baseball Alberta. He worked many late hours, long days in the Baseball Alberta office. Being the Registrar he had to spend countless hours on transfer and team movement issues.

As part of the Playoff Committee Mike dealt with several different issues including; resolving disputes, creation of several Round Robin schedules, soliciting associations to host Round Robin tournaments, and even found time to be a Tournament Director at a Round Robin in Westlock.

Mike has a passion and appreciation for the sport of baseball and Jenn and Dan can attest to many hours of history lessons from Mike. Never short for words, the office is thankful for the invention of the "speakerphone" and the concept of multitasking.

Mike is a valuable asset that the President can count on to assist when needed, even at a moments notice.

The office staff and president thank you for your dedication and commitment.

Jon Oko

Jon began his involvement with baseball as a player at the age of 5. He played t-Ball up to Midget in the Westlock area. At age 14, in 1995 he began to umpire. He continued to upgrade his level until he attained his Level 4 National Certification in 2000. Since 1998, he has worked several AA and AAA Provincial Championships, 4 Western Canada Championships, 2 National Championships, and in 2004 filled in as an alternate for 13 games for the PCL Edmonton Trappers.

From 1999 to 2002, Jon was instrumental in the development of the Umpire Positioning Manual, which was adopted by Baseball Canada in 2002. Jon obtained his Junior Course Conductor status in 2000 and has been instructing at clinics ever since. He became the Zone 5 Supervisor in 2002 and by the next year was Assistant Supervisor North. Also in 2003 Jon was appointed as Director of Finance and ratified by the Board in 2003. It was Jon who put the wheels in motion for a new financial

system and processes within Baseball Alberta. In October of 2003 Jon was appointed interim Provincial Supervisor of umpires by the umpire committee and later ratified. Acted as Provincial Supervisor of Umpires and Director of Finance from January to May 2004, as well as Baseball Alberta representative too AABC, due to time commitments with umpire program he resigned his from his position of Director of Finance.

With the NUCP Program being coordinated entirely by Baseball Alberta, Jon spent countless hours on the phone, arranging clinics, packing materials and making sure all ran smoothly from an operational standpoint. Under his direction the Baseball Alberta umpire registration climbed from 250 in 2003 to over 300 this past year, and the NUCP participants climbed from 300 in 2003 to over 400 participants in 2004. Jon continues to be heavily involved in many aspects of Baseball Alberta and is a dedicated and committed member.

LONG TERM SERVICE AWARD

Would Shari Reiniger please step forward to present the Baseball Alberta Long Term Service Award.

The Baseball Alberta Long Term Service Award is presented to individuals and/or groups in recognition for their long term service to the association.

This years recipient is Ted Derpack. Unfortunately due to prior obligations Ted was unable to join us tonight. Jon Oko will accept the award on his behalf.

For nearly two decades Ted has been involved with Baseball Alberta. He began as a volunteer coach and soon saw the need for more umpires, especially carded umpires. Ted attended and successfully completed his first clinic in 1984. By 1987 he attended his first Level 4 clinic. During the 1990 campaign, he assumed the role of Zone Supervisor, where he remained through the 1993 season. In convincing the Provincial Supervisor that the job was too demanding he was promptly installed as out first Assistant Provincial Supervisor, a position he held until 1998 at which time he was handed the reigns of Provincial Supervisor which he remained until 2002.

Ted was instrumental in the pioneering of our first "Level 4 super Clinic" in 1995, and was eventually rewarded for his efforts by instructing at the 1998 and 1999 versions in Alberta. During the 1995 off season, at his urgence, the present day Alberta Baseball Umpire's Committee was formed, and given full committee status at the next Baseball Alberta Annual General Meeting.