



Safe at Home

With Shelbey

THE UPDATES

Editors Notes

With no Canadians, Westerns or provincials to write about for the “final” 2020 newsletter, I reached out to our association to get some personal stories. From how the year went to shining a light on some hardships many of us have went through or going through, this edition is about members of our association and their lives.

While there will not be monthly newsletters during the off season, keep your eyes open for special updates and editions. Follow us on Facebook and never miss out!

It's that time of year where we start planning for the next season. With the deadline for 2021 Western Canadians, Canadians, and the Sask. Summer Games appointment applications right around the corner, we want to thank everyone for applying.

While no one is sure what next year will look like, we all know with your continued support and dedication that it's going to be a blast!

Who's on First?

Let's get to know each other

The first member I am excited to introduce is Doug Shultz.

Doug is from the Saskatoon area, and has been with Softball Saskatchewan program since 1967. Both on and off the field Doug has been a role model for many people; with numerous championships and tournaments under his belt Doug has helped mentored many officials over the years. Now retired from on-field work, Doug continues to give back to the Saskatoon Softball Association working as the local umpire assigner/scheduler. With about 30 years under his belt, Doug assigned over 396 games for the 2020 season.

“There was a lot of one-man games.” Doug stated, “this year we [started with] 35 umpires and by the end we had 20... I just hope with next year we have a lot of our umpires come back.”

Looking back on his experiences Doug said the biggest thing when getting involved with the sport is you have to love the game, “You have to enjoy the game, sure, you have to know the rules, but that's only half of it.” While Doug enjoys his involvement and role, he's unsure of what next year will bring.



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-Frankie Billingsley



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Who's on First? Pt. 2

The second member to introduce is Steven Klus.

Steven is from Melville, and has been with Softball Saskatchewan for the last 6 years. At 18 years old, Steven has done many levels of fastball ranging from local minor leagues to adult tournaments and a handful of provincials. This year Steven was mostly doing the local men's league and is no stranger to travelling for some games, "There's a team based in Neudorf, which is just over a half hour away, and then Balcarres had a team as well. I was fortunate enough to do games out of both centers this year."



Comparing this year to previous years Steven said the big thing was just to always be mindful of what was going on. "This year made me realize just how much I miss being on the diamond. I really enjoyed being out on the diamond, talking to the players and being outside, it's the little [things] that you really miss." Looking back, Steven stated the best thing about fastball is the community, "It's really cool how connected everyone is... Everyone is super friendly and everyone knows everyone and its just really cool."

During this year, Steven graduated high school and while it wasn't the final year he was expecting, he's excited for his next chapter. Taking general arts and science from the University of Saskatchewan, Steven hopes to get into the Pharmacy Program, and looks forward to continue umpiring in years to come.

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Who's on First? pt. 3

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Our third member to introduce is Lyle Balogh.

Lyle is from Langbank, and has been umpiring since 1978. He started out when the local association asked if he would be willing to lend a hand and officiate a couple games, and well, the rest is history. With many championships, tournaments and provincials under his belt Lyle has been able to experience many different aspects of fastball, "I really enjoyed playing, but eventually I got to the point where I started to mentor and that is really important to me. I got into mentoring and I have been able to be the DUIC at a couple of championships and UIC at some provincials, it was really good, lots of fun."



When talking to Lyle, his upbeat attitude to dealing with this whirlwind of a year was impressive, "I always hope I'm in a positive attitude, life goes on and god willing [we'll] be able to continue." He stated. While this year has been hard on everyone, it's especially difficult when your immune system is compromised. For those that haven't had the pleasure of working with or knowing Lyle, about three years ago he was diagnosed with esophagus cancer. "I'm happy to be back on the diamond and since the operation I definitely enjoy being back and seeing everyone and doing some games. That's been a treat, I didn't know if I was going to be able to return or not."

Next year, Lyle hopes to continue umpiring, and said his best piece of advice is this: "Always be positive. You're the only one who can stop you from doing anything. Enjoy your time and take every bit of criticism as constructive. Have fun and always be learning."

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Who's on First? Pt. 4

The fourth and final member to introduce is Dave Moore.

Umpiring for over 50 years, Dave has been a powerhouse of knowledge, support and leadership for many in Saskatchewan. With over 6000 games, 400 clinics and a crazy number of championships, Dave is one of the few level 5 officials we have. Even though Dave has been teaching clinics for many years, it wasn't until this last year that he took the Instructor/evaluator clinic.

"You never stop learning," Dave had said in a previous interview, proving that statement is a story Dave shared with me,



"In a tournament at Spiritwood, Sk. I was working bases with my partner. B. Rae. There were no runners on, so I was positioned beyond 1st base in foul territory. As the pitcher was preparing to pitch, the 1st baseman began side-stepping towards 2nd base, away from the base-line. B. Rae saw this movement, jumped out from behind the plate while calling time and proceeded to call "runner is out for lead-off"! We had quite a laugh for many years about him calling 'the first baseman out for lead-off.'"

While Dave has many more stories, the end result is the same, you NEVER stop learning. Looking forward Dave plans to continue his involvement throughout the spring and summer, and hopes to be able to pass down his knowledge again at a Canadian or Western.

Once again, thank you to all our members for your support and dedication through this uncertain year. We hope to see you next season on the diamonds.

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