



MINNESOTA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM



Nominee Paul Heers Jr. Birth date 1/8/1952

Address 19917 890th Ave City/State Oakland MN Zip 56007

Softball Community where major accomplishments were achieved Owatonna

Is that softball community's program currently affiliated with the MSF, the MN Softball Hall of Fame Administrator/Custodian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Home Phone (507) 437-2597 Cell Phone (507) 219-1362

Email Address vheers@gmail.com

Check the Nomination Category:

☒ Superior Performance

☐ Meritorious Service

☐ Pioneers of Yesterday

Check all that apply:

☒ Player

☐ Manager/Coach

☐ Promoter

☐ Administrator

☐ Umpire

☐ Sponsor

Check all that apply:

☒ Fastpitch

☐ Modified Pitch

☐ Slowpitch

Nominated by LEON DONAGHUE Date of Nomination 4/1/23
(If a relative, must have a seconding nomination by non-relative)

Address 13820 Sunnyslope DR City/State MAPLE GROVE MN Zip 55311

Home Phone (763) 420 6424 Cell Phone (612) 222 4937

Email Address ldonag@comcast.net

Seconding Nomination Name ALAN Killian

- CONTINUED ON REVERSE/NEXT PAGE -

Nominee's Personal Stats

Paul played fastpitch from 1966-2016 starting w/4-H where he led his team to 5 Freeborn Co. Championships. In the years 1975-83, Paul pitched nearly 100 games per year, batted clean-up and hit 35 home runs per year. Paul was a prolific pitcher and power hitter for many years playing thru 2016.

Nominee's Personal Accomplishments

(playing for Nelson Decorating Owatonna) In 1984, Paul pitched the winning game against Stewart Taylor for the Class A State championship. The Duluth team's manager said Paul was the best pitcher they faced all year.

2008 - selected All World NAFA East 55+ 50 years pitcher, competitive fastpitch & power hitter

Nominee's Team Accomplishments

1977 Green Terrace, Winona ASA 'A' State Champ (Austin) Regional Champs (Minot) and 3rd place National Tourney in Nashville.
1979 Hudrlie Furniture, Owatonna 2nd place ASA 'A' State Tourney
1984 Nelson Decorating, Owatonna ASA 'A' State Champs
1985 Nelson Decorating, Owatonna ASA 'A' State Champs, 2nd place at Regional
1986 - 3rd place ASA 'AA' State Tournament Nelson Decorating, Owatonna

- ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY -

1993 - Won the W. St. Paul tournament (W. St. Paul Jacks Pizza) qualified for National Tournament

Attach a one or two page narrative, **as you would want their bio read at the nominee's potential induction ceremony.** Provide pertinent accomplishments of nominee in city, district, state, regional or national competition. (See reverse side for sample bio). Also, attach newspaper clippings, letters of reference or other forms of documentation. **Include statistical information in the bio.**

Send to: Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame Committee • 118 12th Ave. N. • South St. Paul, MN 55075
(651) 451-3140

DEADLINE FOR SENDING THIS NOMINATION IS JUNE 1

Re: Nomination of Paul Heers to the MN Hall of Fame

We are proud to attach this letter to the resume of Paul Heers. His accomplishments over many decades of playing fast pitch softball would indeed qualify him to enter the 2023 Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame.

Early in his career, every team he played on, he carried them with his pitching and hitting. If his team was eliminated, other teams would always pick him up for tournament play. He was considered one of the best pitchers, at any level, in the state of Minnesota.

Our best to Paul and hope he will be considered for induction into the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame.

Leon Donaghue
Leon Donaghue

Lee Patten
Lee Patten

Alan Killian
Alan Killian

We started playing with Paul in 2000 in class C ball and 40+ softball. He was our #1 pitcher and DH when he was not pitching. A great asset to our team, very competitive, very reliable and a super nice person. We whole heartedly second Paul's nomination to the Minnesota Hall of Fame.
Best of luck Paul

Alan Killian
Lee Patten

Paul learned to windmill in 1966 at the age of 14. The Oakland 4-H club won the Freeborn County 4-H softball championship 5 years in a row with Paul on the mound. Those farm boys organized a team in 1971 and started playing the Albert Lea fastpitch league. Paul's pitching career lasted through 2016.

In 1974 Paul played with the Austin Moose for 1 season. He didn't pitch many games but got a lot of good hits.

In the fall of 1974, Ken Stensvold, manager of Owatonna Weber's Bar team, recruited Paul promising he would throw every inning of every game. That included league doubleheaders on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2-3 weekends per month. During those early years Paul pitched close to 100 games a year and hit 50 home runs. When Kenny's team took a weekend off, Paul usually got a call to fill another roster. Kenny was Paul's manager from 1975-1985. Over the years, the sponsorship changed from Weber's Bar, Hudrlik Furniture, Nelson Decorating, Gordy's Nursery and Vern's Trucking. The team depended on Paul to pitch and bat clean-up. When the game was tied and Paul was up to bat in the later innings, Kenny would call a timeout and say to Paul, "do you want to pitch all night or hit a home run and go home?". Most times Paul delivered. Because Paul would rather hit than get walked, it was important to create situations where they had to pitch to him. Paul Heers was well known statewide and teams were afraid of his pitching and his bat.

Paul went to a pitching clinic in St Paul in the winter of 1977 where he met Dutch Albers, Johnny Vollmer and Bob Trap Sr. They invited him to play in Las Vegas in February. Paul hit a home run against Kingsman AZ. Dutch Albers said it was the longest home run he had ever seen.

That same year, Paul was recruited to pitch in the state class A tournament with Winona Green Terrace. Paul pitched and won 7 games to win the state championship. He went on to pitch 4 winning games at the Regionals in Minot, ND and pitched 4 winning games in the national tournament in Nashville. He also had many hits and home runs.

In 1979, his Owatonna team placed 2nd in the class A state, first in the Regional and went to the National Class A tournament in Stockton, CA.

The Owatonna team was a very competitive A team but getting older. In 1984 they combined with more good ball players including a 2nd pitcher and won the class A state tournament. They won again in 1985 and then got bumped up to AA. In 1986, they placed 3rd in the AA state tournament and won a couple games at the AA Regionals in Bismarck. The team placed 3rd again at the AA state tournament in 1987. The team disbanded after that season.

In 1988, Paul played in the B state tournament with Fair Lanes, Owatonna. They were an average team but Paul pitched a shutout game against Bloomington and hit a game winning homerun to carry them to the B state championship.

Paul started playing Masters tournaments in 1992 while also playing with the "young" guys.

In 1993, Paul played with Jack's Pizza from W St Paul. The team won the West St Paul tournament which qualified them for the A nationals in Las Cruces, NM. Paul hit a big home run to win a game and also pitched in the Las Cruces.

In 2000, Paul played in the class C state tournament with Bo Diddley's out of St Cloud and also went to the nationals in Hastings NE.

In 2001, Paul played with the Weber Group from W St Paul. They qualified for the C national by winning the Sioux Falls, SD tournament and also placed 2nd in the state C tournament. They went to the C nationals in Sacramento CA where Paul pitched and hit.

Paul started playing Masters in 1992. He pitched and hit with teams that won the state Masters twice. He played with several different teams over the span of 25 years. The Anytime Fitness team had many successful seasons including 2 national championships at the NAFA East over 50 and over 55 groups. Paul was selected to the NAFA East All World Team over 55 in 2008. The Masters national became a reunion at the end of the season. The competition was great but most important was comradery among lifelong friends.

Obituary | Paul Robertson Heers, Jr. of Oakland, Minnesota | Clasen-Jordan Mortuary
<https://www.clasenjordan.com/obituary/paul-heers-jr>