



## MINNESOTA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM



Nominee Kirk Parsons Birth date 10/18/53  
Address 13855 534th Ave City/State Vernon Center, MN Zip 56090  
Softball Community where major accomplishments were achieved Vernon Center/Lake Crystal area  
Is that softball community's program currently affiliated with the MSF, the MN Softball Hall of Fame  
Administrator/Custodian? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
Home Phone ( 507 ) 549-3266 Cell Phone ( 507 ) 340-8869  
Email Address kirkparsons13@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 Lisa Neaton Date of Nomination 5/17/24  
(If a relative, must have a seconding nomination by non-relative)  
Address 2165 Sally Avenue City/State Watertown, MN Zip 55388  
Home Phone ( ) Cell Phone ( 507 ) 340-0022  
Email Address lisaparsons13@gmail.com  
Seconding Nomination Name Mike Martinka

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It would be very difficult to find participants in a men's fastpitch tournament or game in Minnesota that did not know or at least hear of Kirk Parsons, or if that name did not ring a bell, "Pusarm" would. The fact that he started his adventure in 1972, was a member of at least 15 local teams in south-central Minnesota, participated in the championship games at 15 State Tournaments (ISC, NAFA, ASA, and Fall), and was known for a wide variety of "interesting" pitches certainly helps.

Kirk started his career in 1972 with a bunch of 18 – 20-year-olds in Vernon Center deciding to pick up the sport as it correlated with their farming duties. He had the honor of being mentored by Dan Sowers and Wayne Hohnstein, and from those two his pitching really took off. In 1982, he won his first title with Odin at the Minnesota State Class A Tournament.

Throughout the 90's Kirk's teams took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in 3 Fall State's (Vernon Center Outlaws and The Ranch, Fairmont), 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Minnesota State Masters (Vernon Center Junkers), and was Fall State Champions in 1997 with Vernon Center Outlaws. One of the highlights of his career was pitching and winning the Minnesota State ISC Tournament in 1999 where the Vernon Center Junkers beat the nationally known Happy Chef team and LeRoy Johlstad.

Kirk's success continued in the 2000's where he and his team Key City Thunder won the Fall State Championships in 2002 – 2004 and 2006. In 2005 with Lake Crystal LeMay's he took 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Minnesota State NAFA Tournament. In 2007 Vernon Center Junkers took 4<sup>th</sup> place at the Class A NAFA Nationals where Kirk was selected to the All-Tournament Team. He also pitched for LeMay's at the MN State ASA Class B Tournament in 2008 where they took 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Finally, Cardinal Construction team took 1<sup>st</sup> place at the 2008 NAFA Nationals and Kirk was selected as the tournament MVP.

One of Kirk's greatest memories as a pitcher was in 1982 when his team played the California Cuties in Vernon Center. That year the Cuties' record coming into the game was 112-16, and little Vernon Center Stauffer Seeds gave them their 17<sup>th</sup> loss. Kirk attributes his wide variety of pitches to help in this win. P.S. – if you never have seen his flop curve ball, it is something.

While Kirk had a very impressive resume with his wins in high profile tournaments, he was also instrumental in paving the way for boy's youth softball. In the mid 80's, he worked with his then mentors Dan and Wayne to create the Vernon Center Youth Boys Fastpitch Association, which eventually combined with Lake Crystal. This combined association has four ASA National Tournament wins in the 18u category and multiple in the 23u category.

Currently Kirk is busy watching his 5 granddaughters all take on the love of the softball and 3 grandsons who have played or are still playing baseball. Four of the 5 granddaughters are pitchers and you can often see Kirk behind the plate watching the pitches and giving advice. Additionally, three of Kirk's kids are currently or have coached youth softball. One of his son's is currently a varsity head coach at a high school and one of his daughters is the co-director of a summer softball association. As you can see, Kirk has had an impact way beyond his years as a player.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Accomplishment</b>	<b>Team</b>
1982	<b>MN State Class A Champions</b>	Odin
1995	<b>MN Fall State 2nd Place</b>	The Ranch - Fairmont
1996	<b>MN Fall State 2nd Place</b>	Vernon Center Outlaws
1997	<b>MN Fall State Champions</b>	Vernon Center Outlaws
1998	<b>MN State Masters 2nd Place</b>	Vernon Center Junkers
1999	<b>MN Fall State 2nd Place</b>	Vernon Center Junkers
1999	<b>ISC MN State Champions</b>	Vernon Center Junkers
2000	<b>MN Fall State 2nd Place</b>	Key City Thunder - Mankato area
2001	<b>MN Fall State 2nd Place</b>	Key City Thunder - Mankato area
2002	<b>MN Fall State Champions</b>	Key City Thunder - Mankato area
2003	<b>MN Fall State Champions</b>	Key City Thunder - Mankato area
2004	<b>MN Fall State Champions</b>	Key City Thunder - Mankato area
2005	<b>MN State NAFA 2nd Place</b>	Lake Crystal LeMay's
2006	<b>MN Fall State Champions</b>	Lake Crystal LeMay's
2007	<b>NAFA Class A Nationals 5th Place - Kirk</b> was voted to be on All Tournament Team	Vernon Center Junkers
2008	<b>MN State Class B ASA 2nd Place</b>	Lake Crystal LeMay's
2008	<b>NAFA Nationals Masters Champions-</b> Kirk was named Tourney MVP	Cardinal Construction - St. Cloud