



MINNESOTA SOFTBALL HALL OF FAME

NOMINATION FORM

2024



Nominee Butch Nordby Birth date 3-16-1934

Address 6960 137th St NW City/State Ramsey, MN Zip 55303

Softball Community where major accomplishments were achieved Odin/St. James

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

Home Phone () Cell Phone (612) 226-8086

Email Address _____

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 Mark S. Nordby Date of Nomination 10-20-2023
(If a relative, must have a seconding nomination by non-relative)

Address 1320 S Main St City/State Zumbrota, MN Zip 55992

Home Phone () Cell Phone (952) 994-7453

Email Address bluebaypromos@gmail.com

Seconding Nomination Name Darrell Boring (is in the HOF)

- CONTINUED ON REVERSE/NEXT PAGE -

Nominee's Personal Stats .319 Lifetime average, 125 homeruns
played 'til Age 50.

Nominee's Personal Accomplishments 90% - games won as a player.
80% - games won as a manager. Was always
being drafted for invitational ~~to~~ & state
tournaments. Didn't start pitching till age
31 to keep the very young Odin team together.
Was called around 200 times to be drafted.

Nominee's Team Accomplishments 90% - games won as a player.
80% - games won as a manager. Many
state tournament appearances. Many
invitational wins.

- ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET IF NECESSARY -

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

2024 Nom

"Milestones in my Fast Pitch Softball Career"

By Merle "Butch" Nordby

At St. James High School I started as a sophomore in baseball. After school I would get calls from the towns who had baseball. I decided to try fast pitch softball for Odin which I only lived a half mile from.

I fell in love with the game...

I was eighteen years old when I played my first game. I fell in the love with the game. I became a catcher and we went to the state my first year in 1952, at Virginia, MN.

Army days

In 1953 I went in the army and ended up stationed in San Fransisco. There, we had a great team, and I caught a hard throwing Hispanic pitcher, and we won the league.

The 50s and 60s Odin

I returned to play for Odin in 1956 and in 1957 was asked to become manager. I was also elected president of the league of sixteen teams. In 1958 we were undefeated in league play (25 straight), but lost in the playoffs to go to the state. We had another great year in 1960, and we won the league and the playoffs. We played the state in Bloomington and took 5th place in class AA.

I had never pitched before...

In 1961 our starting pitcher developed a bad shoulder and had to quit softball. We had no other pitcher so I gave it a whirl. I had never pitched and was thirty-one years old! A lot of the other players also quit that year so I had to pick up some young teenagers to fill in. I was also asked to play for several good teams but elected to keep softball going in Odin. I'm not sure but I think Odin had the longest tenure in fast pitch, starting in 1948, and I don't know the year they finished. I pitched for Odin for a few years, while I was doing that, I was teaching some younger guys to throw and we developed quite a few great pitchers, including Bill Vogt, Bruce Heine, Louie Heller, Stan Meyer, and several others. I started working in St. James in 1969, so I turned the team over to Lloyd Carlson who did a great job!

The 70's and 80's St. James Victories

In 1970, I was asked to play for the St. James VFW and to manage them. We went to the state in '70 and '71 and we took 3rd in '71. I played until I was fifty years old. I was president of the league for 15 years and we won 10 state titles by 6 different teams in those 15 years.

My Personal Numbers as near as I can remember

1. Batting ave. 330 (over 400 one year)
2. Home runs – 125
3. Played in any position
4. Played one year without an error

Good Memories..

I want to go back to my days with Odin, which was 15 seasons. Odin is a town of 150 and there were games we had over 1,000 fans! These were great memories!

In 1988, I was asked to manage the Minnesota team in the 40 and over nationals. We played in Lincoln, Nebraska. We didn't do well in '88 but in '89 we took fourth and our pitcher, Dale Root was elected MVP of the tourney.

When we played tournaments in those days, we would take our whole families and have picnics together.

This pretty much wraps up my career in Fast Pitch Softball. I'm sad there are not many teams left.

played until Age 50.