

DAILY NEWS

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MSBL/MABL National President Steve Sigler (right) presents Tony Panasuk (left) with his Hall of Fame Award on Saturday.

Denver, CO President Tony Panasuk Inducted Into The MSBL Hall of Fame *By Tom Prendergast*

On Saturday night at the annual World Series Awards Banquet, Tony Panasuk President and Founder of the Denver MSBL was officially inducted into the National MSBL/MABL Hall of Fame.

In addition to starting the Denver MSBL Tony has served as a National Board of Director and has represented the MSBL on numerous friendship games during the 1990's. Currently the Denver MSBL MABL is the country's fourth largest league.

65+ National Championship Results

San Diego Padres	13
South Dakota Rushmores	4

38+ Wood Championship Results

Kansas City Royals	7
Boston Wolfpack	3

48+ Wood Championship Results

Phoenix 50's	15
South Dakota Rushmores	7

National F&S Championship

Sacramento Cardinals	2
New England Red Sox	0

American F&S Championship

LA Athletics	12
Chicago North Cubs	1

Five More Teams Capture WS Championship Titles!



Father & Son Sacramento Cardinals catcher Steve Welch (center) pulled off one of baseballs rarest feats yesterday during the F&S National Championship game at Tempe Diablo Stadium. Welch tagged out New England Red Sox runners Tim Keefe # 8 and Mike Lee # 1 to record two outs. The umpire is Robert Buchalski. Photo by Denevi & Jones

Father & Son Divisions, Plus Three New Championships Wrap Up Week 2

By Tom Prendergast

Week two concluded yesterday with five more championship games, including the three newest divisions. In the very competitive 38+ Wood Bat Championship the Kansas City Royals defeated the Boston Wolfpack 7-3. Leading 2-1 in the top of the ninth the Royals broke the game open with 5 runs and held off Boston to win the first ever 38+ wood bat title. The Phoenix 50's captured their first WS championship trophy with an impressive 15-7 win over the SD Rushmores.

The San Diego Padres won the first 65+ championship game in convincing style with a 13-4 victory over the SD Rushmore's. San Diego Padres pitcher Randy Crowell who went the distance and picked up the victory, was given the game ball.

In the National Father and Son Championship game the Sacramento Cardinals shutout the New England Red Sox 2-0 to win their second championship. And in the American Division Championship game the Father & Son LA Athletics defeated the Chicago North Cubs 12-1. The 2003 MSBL WS wraps up this week with 149 38+ / 48+ / 58+ teams.

Providing daily player and team statistics for all 2003 MSBL/MABL Arizona World Series Teams



MSBL WORLD SERIES DAILY NEWS

The MSBL WS office is located inside Tempe Diablo Stadium (by the Buttes) on the second floor in the press box area.

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THE WS DAILY NEWS PLATFORM

This publication is provided by the Men's Senior Baseball League for its members and is intended to provide information about the World Series tournament and its players. The opinions stated and expressed in this publication represent the editor's personal views and may not reflect the views or the official policy of the MSBL.

The MSBL WS Daily News is published every day during the WS Tournament and is available at several tournament hotels.

WS DAILY NEWS CAN BE FOUND AT:

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**2003 MSBL / MABL 38+ National Champions - The Tri Valley 40's****2003 MSBL / MABL 48+ Wood Bat Champions - The Phoenix 50's****2003 MSBL / MABL 65+ National Champions - The San Diego Padres**

For all 2003 WS game scores and standings visit: www.msblnational.com

Diary of an Aging Baseball Player Competition, Winning and Losing

By Max Utsler

I learned how to lose at an early age. My first Little League team went oh-for June and oh-for July. The season ended in August. Throughout that summer I would hear the adult motto, "Losing builds character."

By the time I was 10-years old I had stockpiled enough character to hold a position on the U. S. Supreme Court.

Over the next 45 years I have continued build character, and as long as Mr. Sigler keeps adding older divisions, I will probably continue to do so. My athletic career has included stints in football, basketball, and hockey, as well as baseball. I have played on some pretty good teams and some pretty bad ones. Given the fact, that by definition, half of the teams lose on any given day of competition, I would imagine my lifetime record is somewhere around .500. I have never bothered to keep track. Because deep down, I just do not care.

I mention this as a backdrop to help you understand why I still play baseball and the reason I hope most of you play, too.

It's the competition.

Not the winning, certainly not the losing. But the competition. And what a wonderful week I just had. Our team finished--you guessed it .500. But every game we played was closely contested. That meant every pitch mattered. Every at-bat mattered. Every lead-off mattered. Every sign mattered.

Three hours of sunshine, dirt and sweat. Three hours of an adrenaline rush. Three hours you would not trade for a date with the Coors Light twins. (Okay, I may be getting a bit carried away here, but you get the point).

And yet our World Series participants, our home league and perhaps your home league, sometimes lose sight of that. Here are some of the problems that result when we forget why we play baseball.

Rosterizing (National)—I just invented that term. This is the process of recruiting players from outside your league. Some cities, particularly some who send teams in the older divisions, have a hard time coming up with enough "aging ballplayers." So it is quite appropriate for two cities to combine forces to come up with a complete team. However, some cities "cut" lower quality hometown players and replace them with "friends" from other cities. (Note: A "friend" is someone who lives in another town and either got a couple of hits off your best pitcher, shut you out for three innings or is a catcher).

Rosterizing leads to such familiar cries from the bench as. "Come on 23, drive in that run," or "Bear down 41, we need a strikeout."

Courtesizing—I just invented that term, too. This includes lacing your lineup in such a way that your lumbering power hitters always have two little skinny guys in front of them as courtesy runners. While this is perfectly legal in the MSBL, I think it does go a bit against the spirit of the rules. MSBL designed the courtesy runner rule to allow a person with an injury, illness, or disability to participate. Chronic slowness does not constitute an injury, illness, or disability. *(continued on the next column)*

Lineupizing—Another made-up term. I know it is the World Series, and I know how much you want to win. But if a guy pays his way to come to Phoenix he deserves at least a few shots. Creative managers find a lot of ways to utilize a bench.

A couple of other problems pop up more in the local league than the World Series.

Rosterizing (Local)—Here's how it works at the local level. Your team finishes around .500 in the summer of 2003. So in the off-season you tell your three weakest, often defined "oldest," players to find a new team. (Note: I think you see why I am sensitive to this one. I think I have worn more different uniforms than Rickey Henderson). You replace those old guys with three younger/better ones. You usually accomplish this by stealing the three best players from the weakest team in your league. If three .500 teams do this all at once you can probably eliminate the three weakest teams from your league and put some three dozen other players on the free agent market. Of course no one will pick them up. Trouble is, the team that finished 33-3 in the 2003 season has also been out "rosterizing." That manager feels he is only a couple of players away from a perfect season.

Downsizing—This comes about when you have 16 players on your roster, 14 show up for a game and you only bat 10. I will admit I am not crazy about a 14-man batting order, but I like it better than the alternative, paying players not getting to play.

And why do we pull all of those shenanigans? To win, of course. But the next time you are tempted to make one of those moves, ask yourself, "Does anyone really care?"

Does anyone really care whether you won or lost? Have you noticed that when you show up in your uniform at a Quik-Trip, a Phillips 66, or a Burger King, the person who waits on you seldom asks how you fared? I called home twice this week. Around 10 or 11 minutes into the conversation they would ask how we did? That's my wife and son! I could tell they didn't care either.

So let's face it, the only reason we do this is for ourselves. And does winning or losing have anything do with anything? No, it's the competition. That's what we take away from this game. My ideal league season would have all 12 league teams finish with a .500 record. Then we could flip a coin for seeding in the playoffs and get after it. Unfortunately, many of my MSBL'ers don't share this view. I honestly think some would rather win a game 20-0 than lose 3-2. Call me crazy, but I would not.

Maybe if I was an accomplished sculptor, I could get the same rush from an Art Fair. Maybe if I was an accomplished trainer, I could get these kicks at the Westminster Dog Show. Maybe if I was an accomplished psychic I could give Miss Cleo a run for her money.

But I'm not. I'm just an aging baseball player—and relishing every minute of it. Every minute of the competition that is.

(Dr. Max Utsler has played in the Kansas City MSBL and the MSBL World Series since 1988. In his spare time he teaches journalism at the University of Kansas).



**The Newest MSBL / MABL National
Tournament Desert Classic
held in Palm Springs
January 17th - 19th**



Father & Son New England Red Sox pitcher **John Maki** looks into get his sign from his catcher during Sundays 2-0 loss to the Cards.



Brian Sigler presents raffle winner **K.L. Wombacher** (right) with his prize of an 1 free Player Fee for any MSBL 2004 tournament.



38+ Wood Bat Kansas City Royals cleanup hitter **Doug Scheelk** drives in two runs with this single in the ninth inning yesterday.



48+ Wood Bat South Dakota Rushmore's pitcher **Jim Sobdeck** delivers a pitch during yesterday's championship game Sunday.



MSBL WS staffer **Paul Juarez** (right) presents Phoenix 50's team manager **Wally Kopp** (left) with his team's championship trophy.



65+ National division San Diego Padres batter **Billy Shell** takes this pitch for a base-on-balls during the championship game.