

## **2006 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Kevin Thiel**

Kevin played for the Rangers from 1984 thru 1995. The statistics that we have on Kevin's pitching career for the years 1989 thru 1991 & 1994 are 53 Games, 39 Wins, 6 Losses, and 2 Saves. When a batter did reach first base Kevin was known for his excellent pick off move to 1st base. Kevin was a member of 8 Dairyland grand championship teams.

### **Eli Hilliker**

Eli was a part of the Navarino "Galesburg" organization for many years. Eli started playing ball in the late 1940's. Eli also managed the Rangers in the 1940's & 50's. After retiring as a player and manager Eli ran the concessions stand for 20 plus years. Eli also sponsored the ranger organization through his grocery store for many years.

### **Wendy " Breezy " Pues**

Wendy started playing baseball for Navarino in the 1940's and was active in the organization into the 1970's. Breezy was primarily a catcher in his playing days. Although no stats are available from Breezy's playing days he was a very good hitter. He managed at different times in his career and managed the first undefeated team in the Dairyland league in the 1960's. At one time the Rangers were nicknamed Breezy's Bombers when Wendy managed the ball team.

### **Jerry Herb**

Jerry was a pitcher for Navarino in the early 1960's. Jerry was the winning pitcher for the Navarino Rangers when they captured their first Grandchampionship title in 1960. Jerry was a very good hitter and was considered an excellent pitcher. He was known as a very steady all around ballplayer.

### **Jack Dingeldein**

Jack started playing base for Navarino when he was 14 years old and played until he reached the age of 42. Jack played all positions on the team except for pitching. He was the catcher for 16 years and moved around at other positions through out his career with Navarino. Jack is a past president of the Navarino Athletic Association and the Dairyland League.

### **Ed Krohlow**

Eddie started play for Navarino "Galesburg" in 1934 at the age of 16. Ed primary position was 1st base and also played some center field. He was on the All-Star Team for 9 consecutive years. One statistic Ed is proud of is once played the entire season without striking out until his last at bat that year. Ed was involved with organization for over 50 years as a player, manager and umpire. Ed was instrumental doing a lot of work on new ball field in 1948

## **2007 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Wally & Lorraine Bisterfeldt**

Wally and Lorraine have been attending Navarino Ranger games for 30 years. As a grade school teacher in Navarino Lorraine has taught many of the ball players over the years. Three of her students are playing today Chris Herb and Mike & Scott Dingeldein. Wally & Lorraine feel there is no better way to spend a Sunday afternoon being with friends and watching a Navarino Rangers game.

### **Lee “Lefty” Neumann**

Lefty played for Navarino for 15 years. Lefty pitched and played 1st base. Some of Lefty’s most memorable moments were the 1-0 victory he pitched against the undefeated Bonduel Bronco’s. Lefty also remembers batting 4 for 5 and hitting his only home run of his career against Nichols in a 7-6 Navarino win.

### **Jeff “Jiffy” Richter**

Jeff played for the Rangers for 20 years from the late 1970’s thru the early 90’s. Jeff played mostly in the outfield. In 1985 Jeff was the Rangers batting champion with a batting average of .456 for the year. In his career Jiffy always maintained a batting average above .300 and at one point went 3 years with only 12 strikeouts. Jeff was a member of 6 Dairyland League Grandchampionship teams. Jeff’s son Justin plays for the Rangers today.

### **Arlyn Pues**

Arlyn played baseball for 32 years. He was primarily a catcher while also playing 1st base later in his career. Although no stats are available from his playing days he was a very good hitter. Arlyn’s most memorable moments were the great memories playing with friends and 3 of his brothers. Arlyn was a member of the 1960 Grandchampionship Team.

## **2008 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Dan “Gomer” Diemel**

Dan “Gomer” has been involved well over 30 years with the Ranger organization. He was a former player, held various roles on the “Board of Directors”, always involved with diamond and grounds maintenance, concessions and now an outstanding fan. Dan’s father and 2 sons also played in Navarino. His more memorable moments as a player were going 6 for 6 against Hofa Park and hitting 3 consecutive home runs on another occasion.

## **Steve Daebler**

Steve has been affiliated with the Navarino Rangers for 30+ years. During that time he had played 10 years, helped with grounds and for the last 20 years the voice of the Rangers in the Press Box. Most memorable moment for Steve was one of his first at bats at 17 years old. He was given the sign by Breezy to lay down a suicide bunt with Arly "One Eye" Pues coming down 3rd baseline yelling obscenities at Steve to make contact. Skill or fear, success was achieved.

## **Bruce Landsverk**

Bruce was born in Navarino and at 8 years old his family moved to Neenah. As a young boy he spent most of the summer months at his grandparent's home in Navarino, as his passion was to attend the baseball games and some day play. He started as the batboy and then in 1960 his dream finally came true. He was 15 and was part of the Navarino baseball team. Bruce played from 1960-1972 as he played every position at one point but mainly at 3rd or shortstop. Bruce batted over .400 with 60 to 70 home runs during his tenure. Most memorable moments, the camaraderie at Josie's after the games.

## **Rayce Pues**

Rayce has been around the ballpark since he can remember. Either shagging baseballs for 10 cents, preparing the diamond with his dad "Breezy", as the batboy, and then 10+ years as a player. Rayce has supported the organization in numerous ways but most recently his 20+ years as the team's statistician. His fondest memories were playing on an undefeated regular season with his dad for the team known at the time as "Breezy's Bombers" and playing on the same team as his youngest brother Kobey.

## **Barney and Ruth Theyel**

Barney and Ruth have lived in Navarino their whole lives. There was nothing more enjoyable for them, than to be at a baseball game on a Sunday afternoon. Barney helped build the current diamond and was always there after church dragging and preparing the diamond. Besides the love of the game and friendships, they were blessed with a son "Don" as a manager, a grandson "Gary", a pitcher on numerous championship teams and 3 grandsons, Bret and Nick Nowak and Josh Theyel, all who played for the Navarino Rangers. Though Barney is no longer with us, our memories are with him, Ruth and the entire Theyel family for their contributions to the Navarino Ranger organization.

## **2009 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Rick Davis**

Rick was a part of the Ranger organization for 25 years. Retiring as a player in 1999 and managing thru the 2004 season. Some of Rick's most memorable moments are being the Bonduel Tournament MVP in 1981. Winning 3 Dairyland League Grand Championships in a row. The 1994 undefeated team with a record of 16-0. Rick was a member of 6 Dairyland League Grandchampionship teams 1984, 85,86,1994.95 and 2003. Rick considers it an honor to have worn the ranger blue in front of the best fans in the world.

### **Jack Herb**

Jack played for Navarino for a number of years. Jack played on the 1960 Grand championship team. Jack is remembered for excellent hitting and long home runs. He was a center fielder. Jack's playing career was cut short after his father's death when he took over the family farm.

### **Pete Hartlaben**

Pete played for the Rangers from 1973 thru1990 and also was a past Board of Director for the Ranger organization. Pete played center field. Pete's most memorable season was in 1978 playing for the Rangers nicknamed "Breezy's Bombers" as it was an undefeated season. Pete was a member of 5 Dairyland League Grand Championship teams 1984,85,86,88 and 1990. Pete remembers all the players, fans and friends he made and met through the years that he wouldn't have met if not playing baseball.

## **2010 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Allen "Sandy" Porter**

Al started playing for Navarino in 1955 at the age of 13. Al was a member of the 1960 Navarino Grand Championship team. The positions Al played were center field and pitcher. Some of Al's memorable moments were in 1958 he had a hit in every game. Al remembers pitching all 12 innings against Bonduel with no idea of how many pitches he threw. He recalls throwing a 2 hitter against Cecil in which he had 5 hits himself that day. Al fondly remembers all the great times he had playing ball and the great people he met thru the years.

### **Jim Kamke**

Jim was a player for a couple of years before taking over of the manager's position. Jim was with the Ranger organization for 15 years. He managed a total of 8 Grand Championship teams. Jim was instrumental in the ballpark lighting project. A part of his fundraising efforts was getting pledges for weight loss. The home run Jim hit in Freedom in 1986 in the top of the ninth to win the Grand Championship was one of Jim's most memorable moments.

## **Dave Pues**

Dave is a lifelong Rangers fan and supporter. Dave is currently a member of the Board of Directors. Dave has helped in many ways with the improvements to our ballpark. Dave was instrumental in coordinating the construction of the Bleacher roof project. Dave has a couple of nicknames around the ballpark being known as Mr. Heckle or the Ticket King. Without Dave's help selling tickets over the years our raffles wouldn't have been as successful. Thanks for all your help and support.

## **1994 Ranger Grand Championship Team**

The 1994 Rangers went undefeated in league play and threw the playoffs going 16-0 while winning the Grand Championship against Cecil. The overall record that year was 28 wins and 4 losses. The team had a team batting average of .334. The members of the team managed by Jim Kamke were Kobey Pues, Dave Diemel, Jason Westgor, Mike Dingeldein, Scott Dingeldein, Rick Davis, Greg Carpenter, John Whitehouse, Mike Whitehouse, Brent Hoppe, Chris Herb, Cliff Krull, Parry VanDenElzen, Kevin Thiel and Jamie Hillsberg.

## **2011 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Edna Dingeldein**

Edna Dingeldein came from a family of ball players, the Pues family. Her dad, brothers, son, son in laws, and at last her grandsons were all players she came to watch. Soon, most likely her great grand children will be playing. Edna attended Navarino ball games for a period of 50 to 55 years. Edna also gave of herself by always helping (working) at the ballpark. She mowed the lawn for many years, using her own mower and gas, worked in the concession stand whenever needed. She would run any errand asked of her, picking up beer, soda etc for the concession stand. She also served as financial secretary for many years. During all that time Edna was a faithful fan no matter how well or how poorly the teams were doing. She came because she loved the game, the players and Navarino Baseball.

### **Howie VanDenElzen**

Howie played for Navarino for 10 years. Howie played in the outfield and pitched. He was known as a dependable, steady ball player. He always gave 110% never complained and was very competitive. Howie fondly remembers the great memories playing with friends and enjoying the game of baseball on a Sunday afternoon.

### **Kobey Pues**

Kobey played for the Navarino Rangers for 25 years. Kobey was a member of 9 Dairyland League Grand Championship teams. Some of Kobey's most memorable moments and accomplishments include in 1990 hitting 2 home runs against Bonduel in the Grand Championship game with Navarino winning 2 to 1. Playing on the 1994 team which went undefeated in the league and winning the Grandchampionship. Kobey hit 5 home runs in 5 consecutive at bats against Hofa Park and Cecil. He also had a 4 home run game. In 1998 Kobey had 1 strike out for the year while batting .607

## **2012 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Marvin “Mony” Pues**

Mony played for the Navarino organization for 29 years. Mony enjoyed playing ball every Sunday. Mony played the infield most of his career. He recalls in one game he played every position. Playing baseball with his brothers and friends in Navarino has created many fond memories for Mony and his family.

### **Norm Stark**

Norm started played baseball in Galesburg (Navarino) in the 1930's. Norm played mostly shortstop and second base in his career. Norm's career was interrupted as he served in the Navy from 1941 – 1946. His most memorable moment playing was during a game in Nichols when Jack LeCapitaine slid into him cutting open his chin. His dad Al had to take him to Seymour for some stitches. Norm will be 92 years young on October 28<sup>th</sup>. He now lives by his son Bill in Jackson, Mississippi.

### **Walt & Josie Anvelink**

Walt and Josie supported Galesburg and Navarino baseball for over 75 years. Their lives touched many players and fans over those years. The fond memories of the great times after the ballgames remain with everyone whose lives they touched. Josie always made sure the ball team had what they needed monetarily and in refreshments.

### **Kevin”Covey”Conradt**

Covey is the current president of the Navarino Athletic Association and Navarino Town Chairman. He has been instrumental with many of the ball park improvements over the past 25 years starting with the shelter in 1989, the lighting project in 1992 and many more. His leadership working with the town, Ranger organization and the community has provided the Rangers and the Navarino Community with a facility that is second to none in the area.

## **2013 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Gary Theyel**

Gary started playing at the age of 14 and played for the Navarino Rangers for 14 years. Gary was a member of 6 Dairyland League Grand Championship teams 1984, 85,86,88,90 and 2003 when he managed the Rangers to their last Dairyland Grandchampionship. Some of Gary's most memorable moments were throwing a 1 hitter and winning the MVP in the NBC Clintonville tournament. Managing and playing with his son Josh and playing in the Bonduel Broncos tournaments. Gary mostly enjoyed the camaraderie with the players and the fans and the great memories over the years.

## **William “Jr” Kuhnke**

Jr has been attending Navarino Ranger games since he returned home from military service 47 years ago. He is a great and loyal fan of Ranger baseball. Jr donated the 1<sup>st</sup> yard of concrete when we asked for donations when our shelter was constructed. Before the electronic age Jr would hang the numbers on the old scoreboard located not to far from where he sits and enjoys the games today. Jr feels there is no better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than being with family and friends at a Rangers game. The Ranger Organization would like to thank Jr for his service to our country and dedication to the Rangers.

## **2014 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Mark Bartz**

Mark played for the Rangers for 10 years from 1977 thru 1986. He mostly pitched for the Rangers. Mark's most memorable season was in 1978 playing for the Rangers nicknamed “Breezy's Bombers” as it was an undefeated regular season. Mark pitched the complete game vs Hortonville that year with the Rangers winning the game 1 – 0 on a solo homerun by Mark. He was a member of 3 Dairyland League Grand Championship teams 1984, 85 and 1986. Mark remembers finding out Arlyn Pues could only see out of 1 eye during a game as Arly went into pitch with Mark playing 1<sup>st</sup> base. Arly told him to yell at him if the runner got to far off 1<sup>st</sup> as Arly couldn't see over there.

### **Harvey Brandt**

Harvey played for Navarino / Galesburg for a number of years in the 1940's and 50's when they played in the Outagamie County Baseball League. Harvey was a great pitcher. In 1948 the Galesburg team led by Harvey's pitching won the northern division. His stats for that year were a 11 – 1 record in 13 games striking out 71 and walking 29 batters in 106 innings pitched. Galesburg had a team batting average of .329 that year with Harvey hitting .288. Accepting Harvey's plaque is his daughter Amy Nordlee.

## **2015 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Bruce& Betty Ladwig**

Betty has been a fan nearly 50 years. She has taken many pictures over the years. Betty went to grade school and lived in Navarino most of her life. She mowed the ballpark when they lived next to the ball diamond. Betty cherishes the memories and fun at the ballpark and closing up Josie's. Besides being inducted into the Rangers Hall of Fame one of Betty's most memorable moments was when she told her son "Hall of Famer Rick Davis" if he struck out Jim "Yimmer" Reinke she would buy him a case of Beer. Rick got his case of beer!

Bruce was introduced to Ranger baseball by Betty 36 years ago. It's been great to be a fan and part of the winning tradition and Ranger Organization. There have been many great memories over the years. Along with being inducted into the Hall of Fame, The Ranger's dominating the Dairyland league in the 1980's and 90's, the great times at Josie's and Kobey Pues's 5 consecutive home runs in League play. The least most memorable moments were the hangovers on Monday mornings and having to go to work.

### **Scott Dingeldein**

Scott played and managed for the Navarino Rangers for 20 years. Scott was the starting shortstop at Milwaukee County stadium for the Legion all-star game in 1984. Scott was a member of 8 Grandchampionship teams 1984, 85, 86, 88,90,91,94 and 1995. He was always very competitive and known for his pregame speeches. There was a game against the Hortonville Stars when Scott started pitching and came in twice later in the game to shut them down for a Ranger victory. Scott also remembers a game against the Bonduel Broncos where he pitched 7 innings while striking out 18 batters. Kevin Thiel closed out the last 2 innings in a Rangers 3-2 win. Scott enjoyed the camaraderie with his teammates and socializing with the fans after the game.

## **2016 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductees**

### **Lon Hilliker**

Lon has been a Ranger fan and supporter all his life. Lon helped his grandma plant the tall pines as a child that are located between the outfield fence and cemetery. Lon is currently a member of the Navarino Rangers Board of Directors. Lon and his wife Nancy have operated the Ranger Station for the Little League games. Lon has spent countless hours and time maintaining the great facility that we all enjoy in Navarino. Lon cherishes the great memories with family, friends and players over the years while enjoying a few cold refreshments!

## **Joe Dingeldein**

My memories of baseball go back to this field over 40 years ago when Little League first started in Navarino. Practice was here on this field almost every summer morning. Following practice, there were hundreds of pick-up games played in the afternoons, either right here or over in Greg Carpenter's backyard. Many of the bonds we had as Ranger teammates were formed in those early years.

As a Ranger player, I was fortunate to play with many extremely talented players. The camaraderie amongst the players made for an extra special team. We pushed each other hard, yet respected and supported one another. If you failed, the team picked you up and if you did well, they celebrated with you. The success of the team came from not only the talent but also from the team's mindset. Winning was expected. As a young team we were fortunate to have Kevin Thiel. He raised the level of expectation, setting the bar higher than we would have ever set it for ourselves. Even if we were behind in the late innings, the team always had the expectation that we were going to win. Most always...we did.

That same winning expectation carried over to the fans that supported us not only at home, but everywhere we went. I remember a few occasions when we lost, we sat in the dugout for a long time, not really wanting to come out and face the fans. You felt like you let them down. Each and every week our fans would outnumber the opponents and that support from the community pushed us to give our all. Some fans, being students of the game, would quietly watch the game, other fans were loud! When I think back to the moments I experienced here, I can still hear their voices in my head. Some more loudly than others. Great times!

Joe played on 6 Navarino Ranger Grand Championship teams  
1984,85,86,88,90 and 1991.

## **2017 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductee**

### **Greg Carpenter**

I would like to thank the Navarino Athletic Association for this honor. I am a true product of the Navarino "Farm" System, having played little league in Navarino from 8 to 14 years old, high school and legion for Bonduel, and then about 17 years for the Rangers.

I was lucky to be on many successful teams with so many awesome teammates/friends. The fan support was always unbelievable. I don't make it to the games anymore, but I'll always be a Ranger and Navarino will ALWAYS be home!

Greg played on 6 Navarino Ranger Grand Championship teams  
1986, 88,90,91,94 and 1995.

## 2018 Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame Inductee

### Charlie Herb

Charlie Herb inducted into the Navarino Rangers Hall of Fame for 2018. Inducted not for his athletic achievements but for the support of the baseball team, the Ranger organization, and the community in and off the field.

Had a brief career with the team in the early 1960's, played behind big brothers Jack, Jim and Jerry. The rest of the team consisted of Monnie, Harvey, Wendy, and Arlyn Pues, along with Lew Erb and Butch Tischer.

Then Uncle Sam called, still had the Military Draft, I was sent to Korea for two years.

Upon returning got married to Gayle, raised three children, Chris, Shelly and Joe. Chris and Joe carried on the tradition of playing baseball for the Rangers, behind their Dad and their Grandpa, John Herb who played for the Galesberg team.

After Ed Krohlow retired from base umpiring, Charlie took over until being relieved by Tom Henn, who was later relieved by a new paid umpiring crew.

Better known for his off field activities, construction was his main talent, along with masonry, cement work, woodworking and some plumbing. Spending forty years in the masonry business was a great asset when we built the new bathrooms, and the new concrete block visitors dugout. Charlie helped with a lot of improvement projects: New playground for the younger kids, recently completed the basketball court. Did numerous landscape jobs: cutting brush, cutting trees and cleaning up the area behind the outfield area. Filled in and planted grass in the swampy area just south of the new basketball court. After a couple of years of planning the "Covey" trail was developed. The trail goes from south of the ballpark east to the church property. Grass had to be removed along with some trees. Then a stone path was put in place. Great improvements. Last major project was the new bar top for the Ranger station.

Comments:

"Although I got involved with many of the park improvements, we always had plenty of assistance, from Dan Krause, Lon Hilliker, Pete , Gary and Todd Hartleben, Travis Stedjee and Paul and Ron Herb. Can't forget "Covey " as our project manager. Sorry if I missed anyone.

Looking at the old time pictures on the bar top taken almost 100 years ago, we can all take pride that we have fourth generation Pues and Dingeldeins still playing baseball here. Fourth generation Shane Herb is playing for Birnamwood BABA we do need competition. Keep it going"

Charlie

### Chis Herb

Chris Herb started playing baseball for the Navarino Rangers in 1989, following in the footsteps of his uncles and Dad. Over the course of the next 20 years, Chris played in 7 Grand Championship games, winning in the years 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, and 2003. He played the majority of his time in center field. He batted 4th for many years. He made numerous Dairyland All-Star teams, and was named Most Valuable player one of

the years. Chris was also named the Rangers MVP in 1998 and 1999. He was part of the 1994 team that was inducted as a team to the Hall of Fame for their 16-0 undefeated season. The last full year he played was in 2007, which he led the team in batting average. Chris also managed the team, while playing, for a few years after Jim Kamke retired.

Chris was author and editor of the well-loved "RangerGram." Dave Pues nicknamed Chris the "Shepley Slugger," and liked to yell that out from his favorite game-viewing chair.

He enjoyed playing with other Navarino elites including the Cliff and Brett Krull; Jeff and Justin Richter; Kobey Pues; Scott, Joe, and Mikey Dingledein; Dave Diemel; Mike and John Whitehouse; Greg Carpenter; Perry VandenElzen; Kevin Thiel; Rick and Scott Davis; Matt and Andy Krause; Artie; his brother, Joe; and other players over his 20 year career.

Chris and Becky added 3 fans to the grandstands. Shane, Emma and Carter were never far from the dugout or the concession stand, loving the spoiling from Jean and Joy. After leaving the Rangers, Chris coached the Eland Little League team for 10 years. He still enjoys playing softball two nights a week. He enjoys watching his kids play not just baseball and softball, but all their sporting events...usually every night of the week. His kids are lucky to have Gayle and Charlie support them as they did him by going to every game they can.

Chris' claim to fame was the time he filled in for Bob Wickman (who went on to play professional league baseball!) The scorebook showing the substitution now hangs in Josie's.

Chris recalls the league changing from aluminum to wood bats and made his own "Shepley Slugger" bats.

Chris still proudly displays his Green Jacket from beating Steve and Crane in the annual Ranger Golf Outing.

Some of his playing memories include beating Greenville/Hortonville for the opportunity to go to multiple Grand Championship games, all the Bonduel, Pulaski and Black Creek tournaments that were won, the cheering from the fans in the high-rent district down the first base line, and just having the opportunity to play ball in such a great community filled with so many friends, family and faithful Ranger fans.

