

Joe Jennison began his softball career in 1967 at the age of 17. He played in 11 state tournaments, winning the co-rec state championship in 1980, and played in two national tournaments. He is a career .500 hitter, but his contributions to softball reach far beyond his playing career.

Joe has been a player, coach, umpire, and administrator.

He has served on the Rochester Softball Association Board since 1995. Joe has always been a "doer", and never one to complain. Joe rolls up his sleeves and says "Why not us". He has been a leader and has been the brainstorm and muscle behind several projects at McQuillan Softball Complex, most notably, the Wall of Champions/Hall of Fame Monument, which beautifully identifies the team names of past Minnesota State Champions and National Tournament Champions from Rochester, and additionally, the Rochester Area Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame inductees. Joe always felt it was important to remember these teams and players. Other projects that Joe has been behind include additional scoreboard funding, flagpole to hoist the American flag, security lights, dugout covers, and the solicitation of the many RSA sponsors, donors, and volunteers acquired annually.

Not only has Joe been the sparkplug in numerous projects, but he has taken a lead role in hosting and directing tournaments on the local and state level. Joe was instrumental in securing national tournaments in 2004 and 2006. These tournaments have brought millions of dollars to the community of Rochester.

"His generosity during these years with his time and effort has been truly outstanding," says Becky Macken. Joe gives careful attention to all duties, whether it is to rake a field, trim a tree, provide color commentary on a broadcast, or flip a burger. He is the first to offer help without hesitation and expects nothing in return. Joe is extremely well-liked and respected.

Joe's son Tony explains, "The positive relationships he has made though softball are the reason he strives to make the game better for people today."

It is with great honor to welcome Joe Jennison to the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame.

October 25, 2009

Minnesota Sports Federation
Hall of Fame Committee
7833 Hwy 65 NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432-2846

August 15, 2006

Re: Joe Jennison, Nomination for Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame

Dear Hall of Fame Committee Members,

This letter is in strong support of the nomination of Joe Jennison for induction into the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service.

I have known Joe since 1993 when he became an acquaintance of our softball teams, Macken Plumbing & Jonny's Saloon. My husband Mike played against Joe for years and he was always known as a fierce competitor, who frankly, showed talent beyond his years. He enjoyed playing ball with his sons, and I was always intrigued by his aggressive nature and love of the game.

During the past 13 years, though, I have come to learn another side of Joe, which now finds me in this dubious position to nominate him for this prestigious award. Joe always "tells it like it is". I respect Joe for that. It is refreshing these days to find someone who is genuine, unique and who holds great esteem for his associates.

In 1995 I asked Joe to run for a seat on the Rochester Softball Association (RSA) for a Board of Director position. We were in need for strong leadership for our growing men's program (over 140 teams). We needed someone that had played at all levels of competition and someone who was familiar with, and recognizable in the softball realm of Rochester. His years as a player, coach, manager and umpire proved ideal for us, and so he jumped aboard. Joe has been a model for the RSA and its growing program.

Like everything Joe does, it is not without hesitation or reserve. It is with sincere thought, hard work and straight resolve. Joe has always been a "do-er", not one that complains or wishes that things could be, or should be different. Joe rolls up his sleeves, finds a way, and says "Why not us".

Joe was featured in-part in the June 2003 issue of “The Inside Pitch”, which is the official newsletter of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA). He has been a leader in the insurmountable successes and has been the brainstorm and muscle behind several projects at McQuillan Softball Complex. Most notably, the Wall of Champions/Hall of Fame Monument, which beautifully signifies the team names of past Minnesota State Champions and National Softball Champions from Rochester, and additionally, the Rochester area Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame Inductees. Joe always felt that if we didn’t honor these champions that were, they would be forgotten. This truly was a project that will be embedded into our rich Rochester softball history forever. We have Joe to thank for that. Other projects of Joe’s devise include: additional scoreboard funding, a flagpole to honor our American Flag, security lights, dugout covers and the solicitation of the many RSA sponsors, donors and volunteers we acquire annually. Every time my door bell rings, and see it is Joe, I grab a couple of beers, pull out a chair and prepare myself for another inventory of selfish less things he wants to do for others. I am always intent and never bored with Joe’s grand thoughts.

Not only has Joe been the sparkplug in numerous projects, but he has taken a lead role in hosting and directing tournaments on the local level and post-season district and state tournaments. In addition, Joe led an RSA group to the ASA Council Meeting in 2004, which secured Rochester’s first ASA National Championship Final, the Men’s Class “C” Western in 2006. Joe will serve as host and co-manager. The financial return that these tournaments secure for the city of Rochester is quite impressive, as the projected revenue the RSA tournaments have brought to the community though 2005 is over \$3.3 *million* dollars.

I feel very fortunate to have Joe as a friend. His generosity during these years with his time and effort has been truly outstanding. I could always call on Joe when it was “crunch time”, and he would assist in any matter or detail that needed prompt attention. He has always been in my back pocket when difficult and frustrating dealings have cornered us. He handles these events with tack, class and an exceptional sense of humor, that only a softball junkie would understand. I anticipate that he will continue to support the RSA and the numerous opportunities for others as he has done for so many years. My involvement with local, state and national organizations has given me exposure to every facet of adult and youth softball programs

and their communities. There is no doubt that Joe Jennison is a leader when it comes to organization skills, coaching, playing and managing. No duty is menial to Joe, whether it is to rake a field, trim a tree, broadcast color commentary for a game, flip a burger or pour a beer; he is the first one to roll up his sleeves. He offers help without hesitation and expects nothing in return.

Joe is also a kind and decent human being. He is extremely well liked and respected. He represents the center and heart of what a non-profit organization should be. I am proud to call him my friend.

As you can see, I am very enthusiastic in my support for Joe and his nomination and subsequent induction into the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame. He is by far one of the most outstanding individuals that I have ever met.

Sincerely,

Becky Macken

Player Representative, Amateur Softball Association

President, Minnesota Sports Federation

Officer, Rochester Softball Association

Director, Rochester Youth Fastpitch Softball Association

Player & Manager, Jonny's Saloon Coed Softball Team

Player & Manager, Macken/Excel/Rookie's Women's Softball Team

Assistant Coach, U12 Lourdes Eagles Girls Fastpitch