

Bowman

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B-52's win Berry Days crown

The B-52's out of Inver Grove Heights won the Cottage Grove Berry Days tourney last month. They played "berry good!"

Grandfathered bat question

Long-time reader Richard Cranium of Faribault writes in: "Diamond Don, what's up with policy regarding 'grandfathered USSSA bats?' Are they good or not this year?"

Dick: Old/grandfathered USSSA bats can only be used by leagues that specifically permit them in their league bylaws. They are NOT allowed in many leagues now, and definitely not allowed in tournaments or the postseason!

It looks like all leagues could be going "grandfatherless" in 2015, so be prepared to buy a new model if you already have not.

Senior Softball Qualifier set for Eagan

The Minnesota Senior Games Softball Qualifier is slated for Saturday, August 9, at Diffley/Lexington Park in Eagan. Seventeen teams are entered so far. Come on out and check out the action in men's/women's 50-80 year old play!

Teams qualifying will advance to the National Senior Games Tournament, also in Eagan, in 2015!

MN Senior Sports Golf Tournament

The Minnesota Senior Sports annual golf tournament is slated for September 15 at the Tanners Brook Golf Course. For information, e-mail Ray Brown at raybrown.mn@gmail.com. Proceeds go to support amateur senior athletics!

Speaking of the Tanners Brook course, former Wintz Trucking softball star and Hill-Murray hockey standout Nick Guzzo shot a hole in one there last week!

MN Masters Red 60s wins in Kansas

The MN Masters Red 60s AAA club out of Little Canada won the SSUSA Tournament of Champions Qualifier in Hutchinson, Kan., a few weeks ago, and in doing so, qualified for the TOC in Winter Haven, Fla., come February!

MN Merchants celebrate 30 years



The Minnesota Merchants softball club are celebrating their 30th anniversary during the 2014 season. Let's Play Softball/Let's Play Baseball photo by Mike Thill

Let's Play Softball **Let's Play Baseball**

The next edition of Let's Play Softball/Let's Play Baseball comes out in May 2015.

THE RANKINGS RACE

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

- EXCELSIOR
- Tri-City Red
- Lakeville North
- Eden Prairie
- Edina
- Kramer-Berg
- Eastview
- Wayzata
- North St. Paul
- Bloomington Blue
- New Ulm Gold
- Burnsville Champlin
- Elk River
- East Ridge
- Alexandria
- Elk River
- Coon Rapids
- Nisswa
- Fridley Gold Eagle Prior Lake

H.S. BASEBALL AAA FINAL

- MOUNDS VIEW
- Eden Prairie
- Lakeville North
- Lakeville South
- Elk River
- Mahtomedi
- New Prague
- Minnetonka
- East Ridge
- Brainerd
- Bloomington Jefferson
- Cretin-Derham Hall
- Woodbury
- Duluth East
- Rochester John Marshall
- St. Francis
- Burnsville
- Robbinsdale Armstrong
- Benilde-St. Margaret's
- Bemidji

H.S. SOFTBALL AAA FINAL

- LAKEVILLE SOUTH
- Maple Grove
- Anoka
- North St. Paul
- Bloomington Jefferson
- Orono
- Lakeville North
- Forest Lake
- Elk River
- New Prague

H.S. BASEBALL AA FINAL

- ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL
- Fairmont
- Glencoe/Silver Lake
- Kasson-Mantorville
- St. Anthony Village
- Rochester Lourdes
- Marshall
- Luverne
- Blake
- Perham
- Dassel-Cokato
- DeLaSalle
- New Ulm
- Park Rapids Area
- Cannon Falls
- Minnehaha Academy
- Aitkin
- Little Falls
- Delano
- La Crescent

H.S. SOFTBALL AA FINAL

- KASSON-MANTORVILLE
- Le Sueur-Henderson
- Rockford
- St. Anthony Village
- Visitation
- Pipetstone Area
- Norwood-Young Amer.
- Zumbrota-Mazeppa
- New Ulm
- Hawley Hermantown

H.S. BASEBALL A FINAL

- NEW LIFE ACADEMY
- New York Mills
- Chatfield
- BOLD
- Springfield
- New Ulm Cathedral
- Wabasha/Kellogg
- Sleepy Eye-SM
- Ely
- Southland
- West Lutheran
- Mankato Loyola
- Janesville-W-P
- Red Lake County
- Kenyon-Wanamingo
- St. Agnes
- Randolph
- Lake Crystal-WM
- Martin County West
- Norman County

H.S. SOFTBALL A FINAL

- NEW ULM CATHEDRAL
- New Life Academy
- Edgerton/SWC
- Mankato Loyola
- Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sun.
- Cherry
- New York Mills
- Badger/GB-MR
- Fillmore Central/Lanes.
- Hayfield

NCAA DIVISION III MIDWEST BASEBALL FINAL

- UW-WHITEWATER
- St. Thomas
- UW-Stevens Point
- Concordia-Chicago
- UW-La Crosse
- St. Scholastica

NCAA DIVISION III MIDWEST SOFTBALL FINAL

- LUTHER
- Coe
- St. Thomas
- Central
- Washington-St. Louis
- Fontbonne

TOWN TEAM BASEBALL

CLASS A	CLASS B
1 MINNETONKA	1 VICTORIA
2 St. Louis Park	2 Chaska
3 Minneapolis Lakers	3 Shakopee Indians
4 Minneapolis Cobras	4 Moorhead Brewers
5 St. Paul Shamrocks	5 Cold Spring
6 Hopkins Berries	6 Blaine
7 Lyon's Pub	7 Eagan
8 Rosetown A's	8 Elko
9 Bloomington Bandits	9 Austin
10 St. Paul Capitals	10 Dundas
	11 Coon Rapids
	12 Champlin
	13 Savage
	14 Burnsville

CLASS C

1 MAPLE LAKE	9 Fort Ripley
2 Sartell	10 Upsala
3 Spring Hill	11 St. Peter
4 Jordan	12 Nisswa
5 Howard Lake	13 Blue Earth
6 Green Isle	14 Owatona
7 Sobieski	15 Fairmont
8 Waconia	

Interested in becoming a ranker?
E-mail us at editor@letsplaysoftball.com

BASEBALL 15 A/AAA FINAL

- BURNSVILLE
- Woodbury Royals
- Northfield
- St. Michael-Albertville
- Elk River
- Eagan
- Minnetonka Black
- Prior Lake
- Forest Lake
- Delano
- Shoreview
- Mankato
- Champlin-Dayton
- Blaine
- Lake Elmo

BASEBALL 14 A/AAA FINAL

- MINNETONKA BLACK
- Woodbury Royals
- St. Michael-Albertville
- Blaine
- Osseo/Maple Grove
- Shakopee
- Lakeville North
- Centennial
- Eden Prairie
- Rochester Raptors
- Hopkins
- Minneapolis
- Apple Valley
- Edina
- St. Cloud

BASEBALL 13 A/AAA FINAL

- MONTICELLO
- East Ridge
- Farmington
- Hopkins
- Chanhassen
- Minnetonka Blue
- Blaine
- Burnsville
- Oakdale
- Eden Prairie Black
- Eden Prairie Red
- Plymouth/Wayzata
- Coon Rapids
- Prior Lake
- Austin

BASEBALL 12 A/AAA FINAL

- BURNSVILLE
- Chanhassen
- Prior Lake
- Blaine
- Lake Elmo
- St. Michael-Albertville
- Woodbury Blue
- Alexandria
- Rosemount
- Champlin-Dayton
- East Ridge
- Eastview
- Mahtomedi
- Minnetonka Big Willow
- Hastings

BASEBALL 12 B/AA FINAL

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 SHAKOPEE RED | 9 Champlin-Dayton |
| 2 Orono | 10 Burnsville White |
| 3 Red Wing Wings | 11 Lake Elmo |
| 4 Blaine | 12 Eden Prairie Red |
| 5 St. Michael-Albertville | 13 Cold Spring |
| 6 Monticello | 14 Mahtomedi |
| 7 Prior Lake Blue | 15 Maple Lake |
| 8 Eden Prairie Black | |

BASEBALL 11 A/AAA FINAL

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 HUDSON | 9 Farmington |
| 2 Osseo/Maple Grove | 10 Burnsville |
| 3 Chanhassen | 11 White Bear Lake |
| 4 Lake Elmo | 12 St. Michael-Albertville |
| 5 WAA Royals Blue | 13 Champlin-Dayton |
| 6 Eden Prairie | 14 Forest Lake |
| 7 Chaska | 15 Minneapolis |
| 8 Plymouth/Wayzata | |

BASEBALL 11 B/AA FINAL

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 SPRING LAKE PARK | 9 St. Michael-Albertville |
| 2 Eastview | 10 Little Falls |
| 3 Westonka | 11 Alexandria Black |
| 4 New Richmond | 12 Highland White |
| 5 Woodbury Black | 13 North St. Paul |
| 6 St. Charles | 14 North Branch |
| 7 Chanhassen Blue | 15 Becker |
| 8 Chaska | |



Bunting 101

Bunting improves hitting and should be taught at all levels! Learning to bunt develops timing and helps the player see the ball better. It also develops discipline to actually keep your eyes on the ball as it comes in contact with the bat. The fundamentals of bunting should be taught before the fundamentals of hitting. Do babies walk before they crawl?

- Square around: Learning to bunt, start the batter in this position, bat held at the top of the strike zone (never bunt a ball above the top of the strike zone) and level to the ground, hold firm at the knob end and pinch the bat midway up the handle.
- Pivot: Pivot on toe of back foot and heel of front foot. (next level).
- Bat angle: Harder to learn and should

- be taught at above the beginner level.
- On the plate: Step on the plate, make contact (foul or fair) batter is out, main reason to start squared around in the teaching/learning process.
- Bend at the knees: Low pitch, bend, don't reach down for the ball.
- Placing the bunt: Move the bat at the knob end not at the head.

