



# EXTRA INNINGS - APRIL 2005

By Jim Jones - Executive Director

## SHENDUK RECEIVES AWARD

Softball Alberta Umpire-In-Chief Al Shenduk received an award from all his colleagues at the Blue Convention held in Calgary on the Easter Weekend. Shenduk who has been the Umpire-In-Chief for the past fifteen (15) years received an award from Softball Canada, along with Jimm Barr of Saskatchewan, Chris Lee of BC and Sam Lipare of Ontario, for service above and beyond in the support of the Umpiring Program in their province.



Shenduk, who will retire after this year has brought the Alberta Softball Umpires Association to be recognized as one of the best Softball Umpires Associations in all of Canada.

A very prestigious award to a man that has worked tirelessly for years in making the "Blue" better in Alberta. Way to go Al.

## ALBERTA PLACES FOUR UMPIRES IN THE INDICATOR CLUB

Alberta Umpires Bill Kropinske from Hardisty, Verna Lockwood from Medicine Hat, John Juniper from Cold Lake and Bob Constantin of Calgary, were awarded Indicator club status by Softball Canada upon the recommendation of the Alberta Softball Umpires Association.

These four umpires have taken leadership roles in their own area's, conducting clinics, promoting the Softball Canada Umpiring program and have worked with the Softball Alberta UIC in training and registering umpires annually.

Bob, Verna and John were in attendance to receive their awards but Bill was on a school trip to Ireland. Congratulations to each of you on your well deserved nominations. Softball Alberta would like to Thank You for all your help in coordinating your branch for years.

## PROVINCIAL BIDS TO HOST

Now is the time to look at hosting a Provincial Championship. There are many categories that are still open for bid and with Hosting Grants being increased from \$60 to \$100 per team in attendance there is a much better chance to use these provincials as fund raisers. Give Michele at call at (780) 461-7735

## SUMMER STAFF

Softball Alberta is looking for a summer student to be based out of our Edmonton office that would assist with many of the programs that take place during the summer months. This position would be from 8:30 - 4:30 pm daily and may involve some weekend work. Please drop a resume off to the office.

All applicants must be students that are just completing or returning to school in the fall. STEP guidelines are in place.

This position would start on May 2, 2005 and run to August 26, 2005. The rate of pay is \$8.00 per hour. Deadline for closing on this summer position is April 15, 2005.

## HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Softball Alberta is accepting nominations for Hall of Fame Inductee's for 2005. Nominations may originate from individuals, teams, associations or organizations. The categories are:

**Athlete  
Team**

**Sport Builder  
Official**

All Officials must have a letter of support from the Alberta Softball Umpires Association. Nominators must be prepared to submit a comprehensive resume of supported documentation on the success of the player, team, official or Sport Builder. Those that are accepted by the Hall of Fame Committee will be inducted in a ceremony in Camrose, Alberta at the Norseman Inn in October of 2005.

All nominations must be to the Edmonton office by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005

## CALGARY OFFICE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Gerri Dornstauder has opened business at 1711 - 10th Ave SW in Calgary for another year. The Southern office of Softball Alberta is open from March 15 - September 15, 2005.

Give Gerri a call at (403) 245-8074 if you have any questions about Softball Alberta Events if you are from the Calgary area.

## **'BEST EVER' PROGRAM**

Softball Alberta is pleased to announce the Best Ever program for Pee Wee aged boys and girls in the Province of Alberta. Sixteen Clinics have been set up all across Alberta and Pee Wee aged (Under 14) boys and girls can register for the clinic of their choice for \$50 and they will be put through a full day of fundamental instruction aimed at allowing Alberta to have their best ever showing at the Western Canada Summer Games, which will be hosted in Strathcona County, just outside of Edmonton, from August 3 – 11, 2007.

This program is for all levels of players. Players will be put through a day of drills that the Western Canada Summer Games Head Coach will be using when the Tryouts begin in 2006. This will give all kids a full year to practice and hone their skills to allow them to be the best that they can be for the tryouts in 2006.

Each participant will receive a T-Shirt and ball as part of the \$50 entry fee. This program is proving to be very popular. Don't delay as they are starting to fill up fast. We have budgeted for 30 kids at each camp and when a camp fills up it is full and registrations may be directed to the next closest site to fill that camp as well.

The Head Instructors for these camps will be announced very shortly. Don't be disappointed. Get your registration in for your choice of camps before it is too late. Deadline is April 14, 2005.

If you know of a Pee Wee aged boy or girl that may have been missed in getting a form mailed out to them please ask them to call one of our offices or pull off a registration form from the Internet.

Give Jim at call at (780) 461-7735.

## **MARK SMITH ADVANCE D SCOUTING CLINIC**

Mark Smith, head coach of the Men's National Team will be in Edmonton and Calgary to conduct an advanced scouting clinic. He will be in Edmonton on Tuesday Night June 7th and in Calgary on Wednesday night June 8th to conduct these clinics.

Sites are TBA and watch our web page for more information. This clinic will be all about scouting the opposition and things to look for to take advantage of. Mark will conduct a classroom session and then the coaches in attendance will watch a Ladies League game in the evening with specific tasks to achieve and then come together to build a game plan to allow your team to take advantages of the oppositions weaknesses.

This should be just a superb opportunity to tap one of the best minds in Softball today. Plan to be in attendance. Limited enrollment will be in effect.

Give Jim Jones a call at (780) 461-7735 or drop me an email at [jim@softball.ab.ca](mailto:jim@softball.ab.ca)

## **NCCP PROGRAM CHANGES**

Anyone that has registered in an NCCP clinic lately has been advised of a change to the way that coaching clinics will be instructed.

Softball Canada and the Coaching Association of Canada are teaming up to merge the Theory and the Technical portions of the NCCP program and this should be completed for Softball in the next two years.

Presently, Softball Alberta is accepting the Part A Theory as the old Level I and Part B Theory as the old Level II. Softball Alberta is looking for up to ten individuals that would consider piloting a new merged program in March of 2006 that would allow a coach to get their full Level II – Theory and Technical over two to three weekends instead of four.

If this interests you, please give Jim a call at (780) 461-7735.

## **PITCHING CLINIC INSTRUCTORS**

Softball Alberta is no longer conducting pitching clinics. All pitching clinics in Alberta are being operated by private contractors. All private pitching instructors should be advising all participants of the nature of the clinic and ensure that parents and kids are signing a waiver limiting the liability to the pitching instructor.

Signs should be posted in the gym that indicate the danger that exists for participants and spectators. This is a matter that has to be addressed by the Instructor, the organizer of the clinic, and the participants.

## **2005 WORLD JUNIOR MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Softball PEI and the City of Summerside will host the 2005 World Junior Men's Championships from June 24 – July 3, 2005. There is a website that you can access the schedule at [www.2005worldsoftball.com](http://www.2005worldsoftball.com)

Shayne Cusack of Clandonald will compete for a spot on this team. Best of Luck Shayne.

## **SP TEAMS TO CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Softball Alberta has entered three men's teams and two women's Teams in the Softball Canada Senior 'A' Men's and Women's SP Canadian Championships that will take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba from August 15 – 20, 2005,

In the Men's Division, Alberta will be represented by Calgary Big League Sports, Calgary Vortex and the Calgary Mavericks. In the Women's side, Alberta will be represented by Calgary Stixx and Calgary Impact.

All other teams that participated in the Men's and Women's provincial championships in 2004 and are not one of the teams representing Alberta at the Senior 'A' Canadian Championships are eligible to attend the Western Canadian Championships (Senior 'B') that will take place in Lethbridge, Alberta from August 11 – 14, 2005.

If any of these teams would like to enter, please contact Jim @ (780) 461-7735 to begin the process. Those teams include: Men's side – Average Joe's Extreme, Taber Oilmen, Easton Longhorns & on the Women's Side – Lethbridge Doo Uggs, Rock Stars and Team 7.

## NEW RULEBOOKS & HANDBOOKS ARE IN

The new Softball Canada Rulebooks and Softball Alberta Handbooks are in and they are available by calling our office at (780) 461-7735. Cost of the new two year rulebook is \$10.70 tax included. Please contact our office if you require one. The Handbooks are available free of charge to any affiliated team.

# HAVE A GREAT YEAR!

Have a great year everyone and remember, cut the local organizer's some slack. They are in these positions as volunteers and it is not their responsibility to find every kid a place to play, but they try their best. Please remember to say Thank You to these people, as they get tired of all the phone calls, the meetings, and quite simply the verbal barrage that they face just because they stuck up their hand. These local organizers are the lifeblood of Softball in Alberta, Western Canada and Canada. See you at the diamonds!