



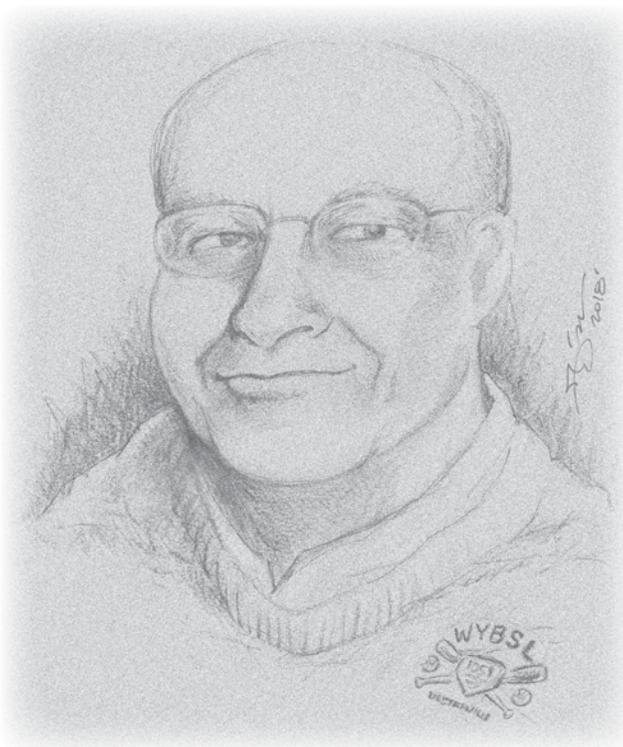
BATTER UP!



Volume 23, Issue 1 ☆ ☆ ☆ Westerville Youth Baseball and Softball League ☆ ☆ ☆

Spring, 2018

ALWAYS, FOR THE KIDS



This year marks the WYBSL's 67th year serving our community and young people. Sadly, it is also the first season in over 28 years without one of the most influential volunteers this organization, and likely Westerville, has ever had. Not long after moving to Westerville from the Chicago area, Bob Crain began volunteering in our league to coach his sons in 1991 and then began serving as a Trustee in 1992.

Bob's commitment to his community ran deep. Most did not know that as a founding member and first President of the Lutheran Sport Association of Illinois, he continued to serve that organization – including regular trips back to Chicagoland – until 2002, while also serving the WYBSL.

Here in Westerville, he served as the Baseball Program Director, President and for the last 20 years, as our Treasurer where his contributions were arguably the most influential. His financial disciplines – including accounting, treasury, budgeting and database management – created a solid foundation for operations. His vision for partner-

ship with the City of Westerville and Westerville City Schools created truly "win-win" relationships. His leadership with the PROS 2000 and 2020 initiatives helped renovate and build new fields including Huber Village, Metzger and Towers Parks that will endure for years to come.

The WYBSL is a proud, all-volunteer organization guided by closely held principles that were strongly influenced and embodied by Bob's spirit and outlook. Over the course of almost 20 years volunteering alongside him, he taught me much. He believed that "even though you are a volunteer, it doesn't mean you can do a half-~~bleeped~~ job." And how hard, but absolutely necessary it was to decline passionate requests that jeopardized our principle of fairness. If Bob and I had a dollar for every time we heard the argument "awe, just make an exception one time – do it for the kids", well, you know the story. But importantly, Bob sincerely *always* did it for the kids and worked tirelessly for their and our benefit.

We welcome you to become part of a great Westerville tradition this spring – and offer whatever time you have to volunteer to help continue it. Lastly, we hope you can join us at our annual "First Pitch" event on Saturday, May 5th to kick off our season – and also – a special commemoration of the extraordinary contributions that Bob Crain made to our organization and our community. Stay tuned for more info and event details which will be posted on our website.

Ken Sahlin, Editor

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