

Steve Reed, Reds #1 Draft pick in '74, RIP

NEIBA Hall of Fame member Steve Reed, the 1974 Cincinnati Reds No. 1 draft pick and Wayne H.S. grad, passed away in August.
Read more on back page.

Line Drives



**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHEAST INDIANA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
 FORMERLY THE FORT WAYNE OLDTIMER'S BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
 VOLUME 27 NO. 3 SEPTEMBER 2025**
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Keith Pressler, winning pitcher in the 1951 City Championship game, throws a ceremonial first pitch prior to the 2025 District 10 Invitational title game at Georgetown. Read more inside, Page 3.

Foster Park prevails again

Hall's Restaurants edges TinCaps for LL Invitational title in extra-innings

75 years later, a team from

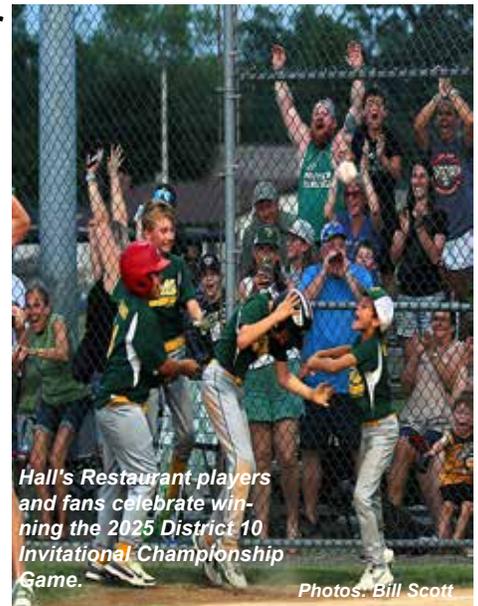
Foster Park Little League, No. 1 Hall's Restaurants, ruled the District 10 Invitational Tournament.

In 1951, Foster Park was then known as Southwest. Fleetwing won the first title. Foster Park champion Hall's edged Georgetown

champ TinCaps 7-6 at Georgetown on Tuesday, June 17.

Halls shortstop/pitcher Diego LaFontaine dashed home from third with the winning run in the bottom of the seventh.

Hall's (18-5) won for the second time in three seasons guided by manager Thom McGuire. The *(Con't on Page 2)*



Hall's Restaurant players and fans celebrate winning the 2025 District 10 Invitational Championship Game.

Photos: Bill Scott

PFW strikes out baseball

This is the most distressing, disappointing news from the northeast Indiana collegiate baseball scene which you most likely all know about. Purdue Fort Wayne has discontinued baseball and softball in a stunning decision to save money.

PFW announced the decision in a release on Friday May 23. The decision, which includes an expected

cost savings of upwards of \$1 million, is directly related to \$6 million in budget cuts the university announced Thursday (May 22).

Purdue Fort Wayne remains fully committed to competing at the highest level of NCAA Division I athletics as a member of Horizon League and Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association. This decision is rooted in the responsibility to maintain a



stable, equitable, and high-quality athletics environment for all PFW student-athletes.

Senior leaders from the university and its Department of Intercollegiate Athletics are already working to assist those individuals who have

been affected by the discontinuation of the two programs.

"This is one of the saddest days in my 25 years as a Mastodon," Athletic Director Kelley Hartley *(Con't on Page 3)*

(Continued from Page 1)

TinCaps (20-2) won the Georgetown LL crown in Dave Dabe's last season as manager.

TinCaps No. 11 batter Preston Ceasaretti knocked in Jackson Pressler (automatic runner) with the go-ahead run in the top of the seventh on a one-out groundout to second base for a 6-5 lead. Owen Fry moved Pressler to second with a sacrifice bunt. But that was the only run the TinCaps managed against the reliever LaFontaine.

LaFontaine came on with two outs and got a fly to left after the TinCaps scored four runs in the fifth to snap a tie at one, and take a 5-1 lead. He yielded a single to Emerson Riddenheim, but didn't allow another hit to earn the win.

Hall's bounced right back scoring three times in the bottom of the fifth. Millie McGuire, the only player on either team with more than one hit (2) led off with a double and eventually scored with a heads up play to steal home.

Nick Dowling walked and later scored on a wild pitch. Simon Schofield singled to left center with two outs. LaFontaine scored cutting the HR deficit to a run.

"Am I gonna make it, am I gonna make it, am I gonna make it," was running through LaFontaine's mind as he dashed home with the game-winning run for HR in the seventh. "I'm very happy. We just had to boost our energy," when the TCs took a four-run lead. "We stayed focused and persevered to the end."

Falling behind 5-1, Thom McGuire relied on recent history to inspire his team.

"Last Thursday we fell behind 6-1, got some runners on, came back and tied it in the sixth, then won in the seventh," McGuire said. "I just said the same thing today and our team took it to heart."

The trainer at the game said he didn't think Thom's daughter, Millie, broke anything, so she wiped away the tears and kept playing.

"She loves baseball, she's a strong girl," Thom observed.

"We've had such a great group of volunteers at Foster Park," McGuire continued. "I've been inspired by men who coached in the late 80s and early 90s -- Ed Lipstick, Tom Yoder, Bob Hall, Joe Carsten, Ed Murphy -- these are the legends of FP, and my high school coach Mark Redding.

"Some didn't even have kids playing. We looked up to them and now I see all the hard work they put in and the countless volunteer hours."



Hall's Millie McGuire smacks a single to right off her thumb in the sixth inning, the only player on either team with multiple hits in the game. McGuire also doubled and scored in Hall's three-run fifth inning. Below: Max Ahlersmeyer scores the tying run in the top of the sixth for Hall's. Trey Troxell is the TinCaps pitcher trying to get the out at the plate. Photos: Bill Scott



Right: Hall's centerfielder Nick Dowling (left) celebrates a diving catch as rightfielder Enrique Malone offers congrats.



2025 District 10 Little League Major Invitational CHAMPIONSHIP GAME (Ages 9-12)

At Georgetown Community L.L. Complex Tues. 6/17/25

Hall's Restaurants (Foster Park) 7,

TinCaps 6 (Georgetown) (7 innings)

TinCaps (Georgetown)				Hall's Restaurants (Foster Park)			
	ab	r	h rbi		ab	r	h rbi
Nelly Peters 2b	4	1	1 0	Jacoby Surles c / p	3	1	1 0
Phin Fyock 1b	3	1	3 0	Nick Chapman 2b	3	0	1 0
Trey Troxell c/3b/p	3	1	2 1	Keeshon Hepson c	3	0	0 1
Henry Cummings p/ss	2	1	1 0	Max Ahlersmeyer lf	2	1	1 0
Emmerson Ridderheim r/c	3	0	1 0	Millie McGuire 1b	3	1	2 0
Grady Lank ss/p/3b	3	0	0 0	Nick Dowling cf	1	2	0 0
Liam Musser lf	2	0	0 0	Jayce Waddell 3b	2	1	0 0
Sam Akers 3b	2	0	0 0	Diego LaFontaine ss	3	1	1 0
Jack Pressler 3b	3	1	0 0	Mason Kuhn eh	2	0	0 1
Owen Fry rf	2	0	0 0	Enrique Malone rf	1	0	0 0
Preston Ceasaretti cf	2	0	0 0	Simon Schofield eh	2	0	1 1
				Louis Guretis eh	1	0	0 0
Totals	30	6	9 4	Totals	26	7	7 3
TinCaps (Georgetown) (21-2)	001 040 1 -- 6 9 2						
Hall's Restaurants (Foster Park) (19-5)	000 131 2 -- 7 7 1						

LOB: TinCaps 8, Halls 7. 2B: Troxell (T); McGuire (H). 3B: Peters (T). TB: Peters 3, Troxell 3, Preston 1, Emmerson 1, Fyock 3, Cummings 1 (T); Chapman 1, McGuire 3, Ahlersmeyer 1, Schofield 1, Surles 1, LaFontaine 1. E: Peters, Lank (T); LaFontaine (H). SB: Ceasaretti, Cummings (T).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
TinCaps						
Cummings	4 2/3	5	4	1	3	5
Lank	1/3	0	0	0	0	1
Troxell (L)	1	2	2	2	1	1

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Hall's Restaurants						
Hopson	2	2	0	0	1	3
Surles	2 2/3	6	5	5	1	1
LaFontaine (W)	2 1/3	1	0	0	0	2

HBP--Akers (T) by Hopson; Waddell (H) by Troxell. WP--Troxell 2, Cummings 2 (T); Hopson, Surles 3 (H).
Umpires--Plate: Kent Burkhead; Bases: Max Mohrman. T--1:44. A--217 (est.)
Game Changer contributed to these box scores.

Indiana District 10 City/Invitational titles 1951-2025

	C'ship	Runnerup
St. Joe	15	12
Georgetown	13	8
McMillen Park	10	4
Time Corners/		
Don Ayres	9	4
Foster Park	8	9
St. Jude	4	0
Auburn	4	2
Sacred Heart	3	2
Hamilton Park	2	1
Harding	1	0
Village	1	0
Taylor Street	1	0
Elmhurst	2	4
Holy Cross	1	2
Leo	1	2
Northcrest	0	1
Queen of Angels	0	2

*Does not include 1996, 2004, 2007 runnerup. Research for these year is ongoing.



First 'star' of City LL championship recalls '51

Keith Pressler still gets a special twinkle in his eye when he recalls the first season of Little League baseball in Fort Wayne.

Pressler, now 86 years old, hit a two-run home run in the first inning, went 3-for-3 at the plate and pitched a complete-game four-hitter in Fleetwing's 6-2 win over Superior Fuel in the first City Little League Tournament championship game in 1951.

That first year of Indiana District 10 baseball was also the first in Indiana making the Fort the first Little League program in the state. There were 16 teams in four leagues -- Southwest (Foster Park), Northwest (Hamilton Park), Southeast (Sacred Heart) and Northeast (St. Jude's).

Fleetwing won the Foster Park title while Superior Fuel was Northeast champ.

The four league champions comprised the first City Tournament field, which was conducted at Memorial Park.

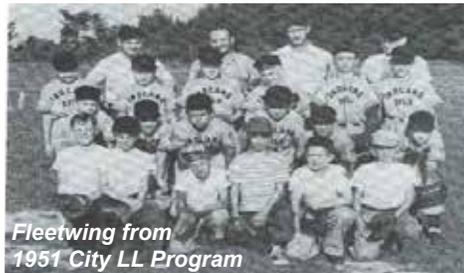
"I remember the people watch-

ing the game were everywhere," Pressler told me along with his two sons -- Scott and Joe. "My catcher was Tommy Means and he kept me in check...I could be kinda wild," Keith said with a chuckle. "I might walk the first three and strikeout the next three. The fourth guy didn't wanna get hit."

"I remember it was just fun," Pressler said. "I played a lot of catch in the backyard with my dad (Harry Keith) and my grandpa drove me to some games."

Of course, he had a whistling fastball "but I really liked to throw my sidearm curve," the right-handed lifelong Cubs fan related.

Fleetwing, managed by Earl Bolyard, defeated Brouwer's Tire and Battery 12-2 on the one-hit pitching of Monte 'Beb' Gerig in the first semifinal game. Superior Fuel edged the favorite, Allen Dairy (Hamilton Park/Northwest champ), 9-8. AD's Bob Meister and SP's John Becker homered.



Left to right, first row: Stephen Sullivan, Rondot, Willie Schmidt, Danny Weaver, Arnold Pearson, Dan Mitchell. Second Row: Gary Baeher, Phillip Shriner, Leroy Samra, Steve Kinnerk, Steve Gaskill, Bobby Rice. Third Row: Fred Prochise, Don Harz, Thomas Means, Danny Kallmyer, Keith Pressler, Monte Gerig. Fourth Row: Hornberger, Bolyard, Bolyard, Broderick.

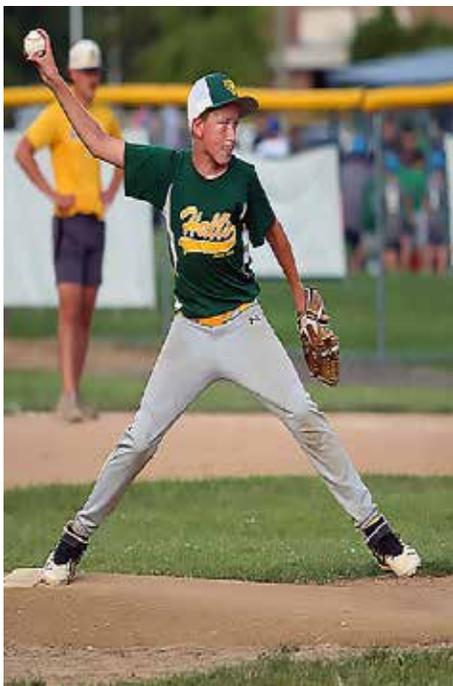
Meister finished with an 11-2 record pitching for AD. "It was different then. We

didn't have a pitch count," Keith chuckled. "I just wish I could find the trophy we

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received." Keith's sons Joe and Scott both played at Village LL, coached, of course, by Keith.

-- Bill Scott



12-year-old Max Ahlersmeyer struck out 11 and didn't walk a batter in Hall's 4-0 win over Healthkick (Georgetown) in the first semifinal game at Georgetown on Monday, June 16.

2025 District 10 Little League Major Invitational

Game 1 Semifinal

At Georgetown Community L.L. Complex Mon. 6/16/25

Hall's Restaurants 4, Healthkick Nutrition Centers 0

Healthkick (Georgetown)	ab r h rbi	Hall's Restaurants	ab r h rbi
Braylon Monteith ss/p	3 0 1 0	Jacoby Surles ss	2 1 1 1
Cohen Snyder 1b/ss	3 0 0 0	Nick Chapman 2B	1 0 0 0
James Morris c	2 0 0 0	Keeshon Hepson c	2 1 1 0
Myles Shovlin p/1b	2 0 1 0	Max Ahlersmeyer p	2 0 0 0
Leo Jordan 2b	2 0 0 0	Millie McGuire 1b	2 0 1 1
Mason Monteith lf/3b/lf	2 0 0 0	Nick Dowling lf	2 0 0 0
Blaine Hatfield 3b	2 0 0 0	Jayce Waddell 3b	3 1 1 0
Noah Edmondson rf	2 0 1 0	Diego LaFontaine ss	0 1 0 0
Elijah Tadsen lf/1b	2 0 0 0	Mason Kuhn eh	2 0 1 0
Cruz Gonzalez rf	2 0 0 0	Enrique Malone rf	2 0 0 0
Jordin Haller cf	2 0 0 0	Simon Schofield eh	2 0 1 0
		Louis Guretis eh	2 0 0 0
Totals	24 0 5 0	Totals	21 4 5 3

Healthkick (Georgetown) (13-7)..... 000 000 -- 0 5 2
 Hall's Restaurants (Foster Park) (18-5).....100 12X -- 4 5 1

DP--Healthkick, Surles L to SS B. Monteith to 1B Snyder, 3rd in.
 LOB--Healthkick 6, Halls 5. 2B--Surles. SB--Kuhn, McGuire.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Healthkick						
Shovlin (L).....	4 2/3	5	4	2	3	6
B. Monteith.....	1/3	0	0	0	0	0
Hall's						
Ahlersmeyer (W).....	6	5	0	0	0	11

WP--B. Monteith. Umpires--Plate, Jaxson Scott; Bases--Kent Burkhead, Max Mohrman. T-1:12. A--157 (est.)

Game 2 Semifinal, At Georgetown Community L.L. Complex Mon. 6/16/25

TinCaps 4 (Georgetown),

Coach McKinstry's Warehouse 3 (Georgetown)

McKinstry's Warehouse	ab r h rbi	TinCaps	ab r h rbi
Harrison Welch c	3 0 0 0	Trey Troxell c	2 0 0 0
Parker McKinstry p/ss	2 2 2 0	Nelly Peters 2b/p	2 1 0 0
Graham Tingley ss/p/lf	2 1 0 1	Phin Fyock 1b	3 1 2 0
Issac Harris 1b	2 0 2 0	Henry Cummings p/ss	2 1 1 0
Will Lemberg 2b	2 0 0 0	Emerson Riddenheim rf	3 0 0 0
Jacob Houser 3b	2 0 0 0	Grady Lank ss/p/2b	2 1 1 1
Ascher Eastman lf	2 0 0 0	Liam Musser lf	3 0 0 0
Logan O'Neill rf	1 0 0 0	Sam Akers eh/3b	3 0 1 2
Lincoln Sanger lf/p	2 0 0 0	Jackson Pressler 3b	2 0 1 0
Bart Carteaux rf	2 0 0 0	Owen Fry eh	2 0 1 0
David Lemberg cf	2 0 0 0	Preston Ceasaretti cf	1 0 0 0
Totals	25 3 4 1	Totals	25 4 7 3

Coach McKinstry's Warehouse (Georgetown) (14-12)..... 100 200 -- 3 4 1
 TinCaps (Georgetown #1) (21-1) 000 004 -- 4 7 2

DP--McKinstry 1 (Tingley (M) L6 to Lank, Lank to ss Peters, Welch out fail to tag up.) LOB--M 1, T 7. 2B--McKinstry, Fyock. 3B--McKinstry. SB-- Pressler 2, Lank, Troxell, Fyock, Fry, Cummings (T); Harris 2, Welch, W. Lemberg, Tingley (M).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Coach McKinstry's						
McKinstry.....	4 2/3	5	0	0	1	7
Tingley.....	1/3	1	3	3	3	1
Sanger (L).....	2/3	1	1	1	1	2
TinCaps						
Cummings.....	2	3	1	1	0	2
Lank.....	1 2/3	0	0	0	0	4
Peters (W).....	2 1/3	4	2	2	1	5

WP--Shovlin 2, Cummings, Tingley. T-1:25. A--197 (est.). Umpires--Plate: Burkhead; Bases: Scott, Mohrman.

(Continued from Page 1)
 Hutton said. "We know this news will upset our student-athletes, alumni and fans. It was

not made lightly, and we are committed to supporting those affected through this transition."

With the sponsorship adjustment, Purdue Fort Wayne will now sponsor 14 NCAA Division I programs.

Front Page Graphic courtesy PFW athletics

Sophomore Justin Osterhouse (Forest Hills Central / Grand Rapids, Mich.) is both the Horizon League Batter of the Week and the Pitcher of the Week, the league announced on Monday (May 19). Osterhouse produced his single-game feat on May 15. It may be a first in PFW baseball history. He hit a walk-off grand slam for his fourth home run of the game while earning the win by pitching a scoreless ninth inning in the 'Dons 21-17 win over Wright State. He helped the 'Dons to an 11-run ninth inning in the contest. He is the first Mastodon to hit four home runs in a game.

Steve Reed 1955-2025



NEIBA Hall of Fame member Steven "Steve" Edward Reed, 69, of Ossian, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Monday, August 11, 2025, at Stillwater Hospice, surrounded by family. Born on September 22, 1955, in Fort Wayne, the 1974 Wayne High School grad was selected by the Cincinnati Reds at No. 23 in the first round of the MLB June Amateur Draft.

Steve was part of Wayne High School's first baseball team in 1971-72, and helped the Generals win three consecutive Sectional titles. The right-hander was first-team All-City Team in 1972, 1973 and 1974. He was selected in the first round of the 1974 MLB June Draft by the Cincinnati Reds and went on to pitch four seasons in their minor league system. After a shoulder injury in 1977, he continued his career as a closer in the Milwaukee Brewers' organization. In recognition of his diamond accomplishments, Steve was inducted into the Northeast Indiana Baseball Association (NEIBA) Hall of Fame in 2005.

After his baseball career, Steve worked in sales. He was especially active in his grandchildren's sporting events and spent much of his free time outdoors—hunting, fishing, and relaxing by the river with his son and nephews.

Steve is survived by his wife, Julie Reed; daughter, Angie (Jimmy) Logan; son, Jason (Laura) Reed; brother, Rick (Helen) Reed; and six grandchildren. He also leaves behind several nieces, nephews, and extended family. He was preceded in death by his father, Jack Reed; mother, Martha "Jeanne" Reed; and brother, Michael Reed.

Celebration of Life will be held at 12:30 pm on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at Klaehn, Fahl, & Melton Funeral Home, 6424 Winchester Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819, with visitation beginning at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Wildcat Baseball or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

NEIBA Hall of Fame Members

- 1961 Lou Holterman, James "Hub" Hart
- 1962 Max Carey, Eugene "Bubbles" Hargrave*,
Everett Scott*, Bill Wambsganss*
- 1963 Earl Bolyard, Ralph Miller*, George Nill, Herman Tieman
- 1964 William "Pinky" Hargraves*, Jess Runser,
Andy Woehr, Butch Henline*
- 1965 John "Red" Braden, Rolla Zeider, Charles "Chick" Stahl*
- 1966 Edward "Red" Carrington, William Hildinger
- 1967 Joe Henry, Orley Blauvelt, Fred Romary
- 1968 Robert A. Reed, Jock Somerlott, Kenneth Wattier
- 1969 Bruff Cleary, Dick West, John Forney
- 1970 Fred "Cy" Alberts, Chuck Bobilya,
George Beach, Sal Madrid, Mel Kestner
- 1971 Bob Arnold, Ralph Harwood, Bill Brandt,
Walter "Lefty" Schweizer
- 1972 Glen "Zulu" Bolyard, Bob Mooney,
Chuck Noel, George Weberus
- 1973 Art Bartels, Vern Krauss, Harold McGary, Louis "Jap" Voirol
- 1974 Carl Blauvelt, Charlie Koons, Harry "Mike" Freese
- 1975 Ned Garver*, Sal Cuttitta, Gunnar Elliott,
Gene Englehart, Herbert Huth
- 1976 Charles Shipman, Bob Parker, Scott Cary, Parnell Hisner
- 1977 John Ramp, Gene Runser, Paul "Hank"
Doehrman, Bob Baker
- 1978 John Carpenter, Lawrence "Porky" Slater,
John Minser, Dee Hamilton
- 1979 George Langenberg, Bob Stafford,
Paul "Oz" Bolyard, Bruce Hamilton
- 1980 Bill Beery, Bill Bower, Dick McComb,
Ralph Troyer, Howard Korn
- 1981 John Nill, Charlie McAfee, Corky Conrad,
Snitz Schneider, Bill Haynes
- 1982 Mike Lemish, Otto Rodenbeck, Luke Majorki,
Jim Saxton, Wayne Schurr*
- 1983 Ross Aiken
- 1984 Bud Kurtz, Marvin "Lefty" Reynolds,
Virgil Feeney, Bruce Miller*
- 1985 Carl "Molly" Mies, Steve Krull, Joe Hanchar,
Wally Bartels, Burdette Hall
- 1986 Bob Schremser, Barney Myers, Merle
Shively, John Lombardo, Ralph Werling
- 1987 Jim McCrea, Ron Burgette, Bob Bolyard,
Larry Whetstone, Norman Kramer
- 1988 Denver Howard, Jack Hornberger, Mel Held, Roger Gaskill
- 1989 Milton Johnson, Jim Baker, Gary Hisner, Stu
Martin, Ed "Lefty" Berwert, Eric Hall
- 1990 Cecil "Lefty" Burns, Norm Ellenberger, Walter
Bonham, Max Miller, Niles "Bud" Fry
- 1991 Ron Gersmehl, Chuck Huwer, Bob Mumma, Pete Stammen
- 1992-1997 No inductees
- 1998 Bob Beber, John Grantham, Tony Martone,
Jack Massucci, Chris Stavreti
- 1999 Dottie Collins, Colin Lister, Pinky Stellhorn, Joanne Weaver
- 2000 Dave Beber, Bill McColly, Art Pinnow, Clint Wickensheimer
- 2001 Dale W. "Mr. Mac" McMillen Sr., George Glick,
Larry Windmiller
- 2002 Feroen Betts, Vivian "Kelly" Kellogg, Maxine
Kline, Joseph McComb, Dottie Schroeder
- 2003 Steve Hargan*, Bill Jones, Brent Gaff*, Katie Horstman
- 2004 Wilma Briggs, Matt Kinzer*, Olan Smith, Tom Zahn
- 2005 Steve Reed, Jean Geissinger Harding,
Larry Koehl, Betty Weaver Foss
- 2006 Russ Johnston, Thelma "Tiby" Eisen, Michael Roesler*
- 2007 Dave Doster*, Dave Bischoff, June Peppas
- 2008 Dick Crumback, Bill Derbyshire, Doug Bair*
- 2009 Eric Wedge*, Gerry Tilker, Keith Shepherd*, Thomas Pillers
- 2010 Carl Erskine*, Gary Rogers, Brian Reith*
- 2011 Ben VanRyn*, Rob Bowen*, Steve Warden
- 2012 Dave Switzer, Don Sherman, Ford Frick
- 2013 Ray Miller, Don Graham
- 2014 Louis Heilbronner
- 2015 Harold Greiner, Leo Ochoa, Andy Owen
- 2016 Doug Neuenschwander, Mark Parker, Mark Stultz
- 2017 Lance Hershberger, Eldon Hullinger, Kelby Weybright
- 2018 Randy Lewendowski, Lee DeTurk, Jim Shovlin
- 2019 Mike Frame, Mike Marchesano, Mike Nutter
- 2020 No inductees (COVID-19)
- 2021 Matt Brumbaugh, Mark Grove, Caleb Kimmel
- 2022 Dave Ginder, Dean Lehrman, Steve Finken
- 2023 Jarrett Grube*, Kip McWilliams
- 2024 Mike Dull, Pat 'Bubba' McMahon, Rich Dunno
- 2025 Jay Grate, Fred Inniger, Jon Stevens

*Appeared in at least one Major League Baseball game.

Dick Crumback/NEIBA Player of the Year

- 2019: Grant Besser, P, Sr., South Adams H.S. / Rutgers
- 2020: Season cancelled / CoVid Pandemic
- 2021: Carter Mathison, OF, Sr., Homestead H.S./Indiana University
- 2022: Dalton Wasson, P/3B, Sr. Heritage H.S./Belmont University
- 2023: Parker Smith, P/Infielder, Sr. DeKalb H.S./Wabash College
- 2024: Brayton Thomas, P/DH, Sr. Bishop Dwenger H.S./Indiana Univ.
- 2025: Brandon Logan, OF, Sr., Snider H.S./U. of Notre Dame