



Watertown Baseball Association

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For immediate release:

The Watertown Baseball Association would like to announce that the following individuals and one team have been elected to the Class of 2022 of the Watertown Baseball Hall of Fame:

Team 1931 American Legion Junior Team
Coach Mitch Johnson
Player Heath Rylance
Player Spencer Waite

Profiles of the elected individuals:

1931 American Legion Junior Team: The 1931 team is Watertown's only American Legion State Championship team. The team defeated Sioux Falls Argus Leader 6-3 at Lake Kampeska Ball Park in Watertown to capture the State Championship. The team advanced to the Regional Play held in Park River, ND where they fell to eventual champions Milwaukee, WI.

Coach Mitch Johnson: Coach Johnson lead Post 17 from 1991-1996, while recording a win loss of record of 205-138 in his 6 seasons at the helm. The 205 wins are believed to be the all time record for wins as a Head Coach in Watertown. Johnsons 60% win percentage is also believed to be tied for first all time as the Head Coach for Post 17.

Heath Rylance: A 3 year standout for Post 17 from 1988-1990, Rylance was a two year South Dakota All State Player in 1989 and 1990. Rylance posted a career batting average of .433, highlighted by his .482 BA in 1990. Rylance finished his 3 year career with 41 2B, 14 HR, 135 RBI and 79 SB.

Spencer Waite: A 4 year player for Post 17 from 1993-1996, Waite was a two time South Dakota All State Pitcher in 1995 and 1996. A dominate LH pitcher Waite finished his 4 year career on the mound with a record of 28-11, and a 3.55 ERA. Waite struck out an astonishing 321 hitters in 266 2/3 IP over his career. Spencer was also a concern at the plate for the opponents. Waite finished his career with a .391 BA, 53 2B, 8 HR and 143 RBI over his 4 year career.

Hall of Fame weekend is scheduled for May 20th-22nd. The induction ceremony will take place on Friday, May 20th at North Shore Chophouse & Banquet Hall. Festivities will continue on Saturday with Post 17 Legion and Jr Legion teams hosting Rapid City Post 320 in DH's at the Watertown Stadium, action is set to begin at 11am. Inductees will throw out the ceremonial first pitch and also have the banner unveiling prior to the first Legion game vs Rapid City Post 320. Tickets for the event will go on sale in early April, or to make reservations please contact WBA Director of Operations Ryan Neale at post17baseball@hotmail.com or 605-868-3284

