

Rounding Third

Chicago 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame Monthly Newsletter

Neighborhood Legend Mickey Balestri keeps our Game going

By George Bliss

There is nobody more famous in the Neighborhoods than Mickey Balestri. He keeps the Game Alive and all Chicagoans owe him a debt of gratitude.

16 INCH NO Glove Softball aka "Chicago's Game" started in 1887 in the very same neighborhood that Mickey's Great Grandfather grew up in. Yep, the South Side and right near what is now Bridgeport.

Here We are..... 127 Years Later and Mickey is carrying on.. This is real softball.

Not that fancy 400 dollar uniform stuff and players with Ego's bigger than Trump tower. This is Get Dirty, Tape it up and shut the "f" up and play.

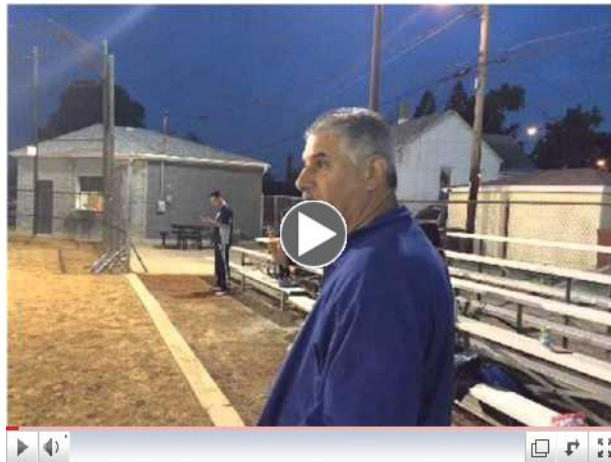
Nobody tells the Coach here that they should be batting "up" in the lineup. A little rain this year in Chicago?? So What, Get out there in the muddy outfield and play the game. Yes your "uniform" will be caked with mud but nobody cares.

So, If you want to see real Chicago Culture and a Legend in our City, Go out to Clyde Park in Cicero, Yes the Same Cicero That Al Capone controlled in the 30's. Ain't his town now, the game and the town belong to Mickey B.

Oh Yeah, his team Called 'Rewind' won the game 7-1 and his son Mick Jr. pitched a gem against Carlito's Way.

Long after Chicagoans forget names like Toews and Kaner, They will still remember the Balestri Legacy.

Listen to a Great One Mickey Balestri



Softball Hall of Fame Inductees Day

Saturday July 18, 2015

The unveiling of our newest inductee plaques will be hosted Saturday July 18th. We are excited to lay these plaques, as this will be the first year after our Grand Opening! A North vs South Softball game of previous inductees will also be played that day. Don't miss this great day.

10:00 - Forest Park No-Glove Nationals Tournament Play in games - 2 games Both
East and West Field

10:00 to 3:00 - Hall of Fame Museum opens - 50/50 Raffle Sale

10:00 to 4:30 - Concessions on Sale by the Park District of Forest Park

11:15 - Forest Park No-Glove Nationals Tournament Play in Game Championship - 1
game - East Field

1:00 to 1:30 - Hall of Fame Inductees Ceremony - Inductee Park

1:30 to 2:30 - Hall of Fame Legends of the Game Softball Game - West Field

2:00 to 3:30 - The Battle of Chicago's First Responders Softball Game
Chicago Police Department vs Chicago Fire Department - East Field

3:00 - 50/50 Raffle winner announced



Volunteers Needed!

The Chicago 16 Inch Softball Hall of Fame requires funds to help pay off construction loans and for day to day expenses. If you haven't been to the

museum yet you need to stop in. Check out the museum at

www.16inchsoftballhof.com

We have a great opportunity to raise funds by working the concession stands at Soldier Field. We would receive a percentage of what was sold during the event we worked. There are 15 events to work starting with the Taylor Swift concert in July and continuing with college football and the Bears games at Soldier Field. We need 30-40 volunteers total. You would not have to work every event. They require about 12 of us at each event. You need to be at least 18 and we need several at least 21 to sell the beer. If you are interested in volunteering and helping the Hall of Fame raise needed funds or know someone who is interested please message me or text me at 708-574-6191.

We hope to hear from a lot of you softball players and fans especially any Hall of Fame inductees or honorees.

Thank you in advance
Paul Rowan HOF Inductee

Help Keep 16-Inch Softball Alive---Donate to the Hall of Fame

There are many ways to donate to the Hall of Fame, see below and learn **How to Donate**.

Become a Sponsor: By being a sponsor you have the opportunity to support your fellow Hall of Famers. All of our sponsors are advertised on our website and at our events. You have the opportunity for sponsorship at our next event, the 5th Annual Hall of Fame Golf Outing. To become a golf sponsor, [Click Here](#). To become a sponsor of the Hall of Fame [Click Here](#).

Opportunities for Sponsor Recognition: Opportunities start at \$5,000 and will offer you and/or your company recognition in three-year time spans.

- Naming rights
- Prominent display of your name/company logo within the museum and on the web site
- Honorable mentions/recognition in program materials and newsletter
- Plus more

To donate for an opportunity to be recognized by all of the above, [Click Here](#).

Be Seen on a Brick: With your purchase of a Hall of Fame brick, you not only donate to the Hall of

Fame but can have your name immortalized on your own brick outside of our 16-inch Hall of Fame building. To purchase a brick, [Click Here.](#)

Please Note: We are hosting a fundraiser this month more information will be coming out in the mail very soon.

Join Us for the 5th Annual HOF Golf Outing August 17th!

The 5th Annual 16-Inch Softball Golf Outing will be held Monday August 17th at the Ruffled Feathers Golf Course in Lemont, IL. All proceeds will go towards paying our debt expenses and maintaining our wonderful Hall of Fame. For more information on how to sign up, [Click Here.](#)



Hall Of Fame Museum Hours for Forest Park Week

Saturday July 18 10:00 to 3:00

Wednesday July 22 6:00 to 8:00

Thursday July 23 5:30 to 9:00

Friday July 24 5:30 to 9:00

Saturday July 25, 12:00 to 9:00

Sunday July 26 12:00 to 5:00

2015 Tournaments from Illinois Softball Report

2015 16" Tournaments

Date:	Assoc:	Class:	Tournament Site:	Contact Person:
7/11	None	Open	Summit Park District	summitparks.org
7/23 - 26	Open	46th Annual Forest Park Invitational	Forest Park	Invitation Only
7/31	SSA	Open	Melrose Park	ssa2011@comcast.net
7/31	SSA	14"	Melrose Park	ssa2011@comcast.net
8/14	SSA	Flip a Coin	Mayfair Park, Westchester	ssa2011@comcast.net
8/21	SSA	Class A Nationals	McCaslin Park, Carol Stream	ssa2011@comcast.net
9/3	ASA	Major Nationals	Mt. Prospect	Tom O'Neill (708) 906- 0351
9/4	SSA	Major Nationals	Elgin Sports Complex, Elgin	ssa2011@comcast.net
9/19	SSA	14" Co-Ed Nationals	Melrose Park	ssa2011@comcast.net

Do you have a great story or photos you would like to share send them to info@16inchsoftballhof.com for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter.

To sign up for the newsletter, please email info@16inchsoftballhof.com

Sincerely,

The Chicago 16-Inch Softball Hall of Fame

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