



# Newsletter of the BSL Hall of Fame

April 2008:  
Issue 3

## Newsletter Highlights:

Deadline Nears	Page 1
Milestones	Page 1
Opening Day!	Page 2
5 Star Travel!	Page 2
Clemente	Page 3
Note from Jim	Page 3



Then City Councillor, Barney Frank, throws out the first pitch of the 1979 season at the Fens for the "Esplanade Softball League" (predecessor of BSL)

## Glimpses and Milestones



Opening Day Ceremony 1979 (29 yrs)  
The Chaps team lines it up!



First "On Deck" Issue (25 years)  
The first newsletter of BSL - 1983



**#21, Warren Mitchell, HOF'07** in the '80's (left). His trademark hard swing shows us the number of days left before Nominations end (deadline May 17)! 21 days & counting down!

**Please submit Nomination forms now!**



## Hall of Fame 2008 nominations deadline is near!

There have been quite a few names mentioned as being good candidates for 2008 Inductions in to the Hall of Fame!

No Nominations, however, have been formally submitted yet!

Please take the time to submit a nomination or to encourage others to!

### Nomination Process, *deadline- May 17, 2008:*

- ▶ Complete Nomination Form. Form available at: [http://www.beantownsoftball.com/hall\\_of\\_fame/nominate.html](http://www.beantownsoftball.com/hall_of_fame/nominate.html)
- ▶ Submit form to [jimmcnulty@comcast.net](mailto:jimmcnulty@comcast.net)
- ▶ Candidate informed that nomination received
- ▶ Nomination is emailed to all HOF members

## Reaching and Remembering...Milestones

Congratulations to the BSL for reaching the milestone of 20 teams for the 2008 season! Wow! Who would have thought? 20 teams in the League qualifies the BSL to send an additional team to the NAGAAA World Series in 2008 too! Such expansion also creates more needs and responsibilities. Thanks to the members of the HOF who have come forward to help the League adjust to these needs. Bill Svetz, HOF'05 aided in obtaining additional field permits at Clemente. He and Frank Ribaldo, HOF'05 also have come forward to sponsor the two newest teams that were created from "Clinic Day" in 2007 and 2008 (*Fritz Bubbles & Club Café Bandits*). Seth Hyde, HOF'06 also stepped up to assist in coaching the "Club Café Bandits" along with Frank for their manager (*Club Café Angels* player Todd Askew.) Clinic Day and BSL website inquiries generated the interest of about 100 new people in '08!

2008 also marks another important milestone in League history. It is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the 1st BSL newsletter: "On Deck". This newsletter was an important form of communication to BSL members for League information as well as a source of entertainment featuring the memorable "Torn Pants" articles and interviews. In the 1980's there was no BSL Website or "Pride Sports" line to go to for information. On Deck was THE SOURCE! It was co-founded in 1983 by Warren Mitchell, HOF'07. In 2008, the League has created a contest to name the new "electronic newsletter" which is emailed to members. Among the many submissions, Seth Hyde, HOF'06, has submitted "On Deck" to be the name in tribute to the role it played for BSL members and in BSL history! 2008 also brings back the memory of opening day 1978, the first year of gay softball in Boston. Please join the League and the HOF on May 3, 11:30a-Opening Day!



*Above: Seth Hyde, HOF'06, is recognized on Opening Day '07 as a newly elected HOF member & the BSL's first Commissioner*

*Below: Both Frank Ribauda, HOF'05 and Bill Svetz, HOF'05 will sponsor the two newest BSL 'Clinic Day' teams of '07, '08*



*Above, Henry Weinberger, HOF'05 will manage the 5 Star Diablos this year & be rostered as a player for them too!*

*Below: Gary Brenner, HOF'05 and Ed Rivera, HOF'07 had coached the Diablos in '07 while also playing with Fritz.*



*Clemente Field Opening Day '79*

# Hall of Fame News

## Calling all Hall of Famers... to Opening Day Ceremonies!

The BSL is planning a bigger than usual Opening Day Ceremony May 3 at 11:30a Let's have a **big** HOF presence there!

The HOF plans an exhibit featuring historic items, documents, and jerseys on display near the entrance.

We're also asking that all HOF members try hard to attend the event!

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is coming very soon, so please try to schedule this in your calendar. Bring anyone you want with you too!

The League members give the HOF such great support at our annual Induction Event! Let's show our support to the League through our unified presence with them on this

very special day. A day even more special this year (30 years after the very first opener back in 1978).

**Please wear your HOF jackets, shirts, and pins.** We'll be introduced as a group after all the teams. So don't worry, you'll be with your teams when they are introduced and then have the time to assemble with the other HOF members as a group! Smith Field, 11:30am - May 3!!

*Below: Seth Hyde ,HOF'06, and Jim Vierra, HOF'07 enjoy an on field reunion- Opening Day in 2007*



## 5 Star Travel: Sponsoring & Serving the BSL for 14 years now!

5 Star Travel was founded in '82 by Anne Romano, mother of the former "Ramrod" manager, Jeff. In '91 Paul Moreno, HOF'05 & Stephen Barlow, HOF'05, bought the agency and focused primarily on serving the gay travel community. They even almost changed its name to "Girls on Vacation" or "Pink Travel"! It has since: grown from a 600K per year business to \$3 Million in annual sales with 6 agents, won numerous awards, and is respected across the USA.

In '95 Paul & Stephen began "Community Share" where 5 Star donates a portion of its sales to non-profits (including the BSL). '95 was also the 1<sup>st</sup> year they sponsored a BSL team, the former GBBC 'Boston Bucks' which became the "5 Star Generals". After

many of the 'General' originals retired or went their separate ways, 5 Star created a new team of predominantly Latino players called the "Diablos" organized by Jack Campbell, HOF'07, managed by Ed Rivera, HOF'07, and coached by Gary Brenner, HOF'05. Henry Weinberger, HOF'05 will manage the very energetic & exciting team this season.

When making travel plans, please support 5 Star. They'll work to match or beat any fare for you!

*Paul (l.), Stephen (r.) with longtime 5 Star pitcher, Woody F.*



## BSL Returns to its roots: Clemente Field in the Fenway!

With Smith Field 3 being renovated and still under construction, the BSL has obtained permits for Clemente in the Fens!

This marks the first time since the mid-80's that the BSL has played games there!

Games are scheduled for the 3 Saturdays when the Sox aren't at Fenway:  
May 10, May 31, July 17 (12:00-5:00pm).  
(Perhaps an HOF observance there on May 10?)

The short outfields are also limiting the fields to Division 3 & 4 team play.

*Inscription on the Bronze plaque (right)*  
His Three Loves; Puerto Rico, Baseball & Children





Hall of Fame – BSL

We're on the Web  
[http://www.beantownsoftball.com/hall\\_of\\_fame/](http://www.beantownsoftball.com/hall_of_fame/)



The Official BSL Logo (above)

*Celebrating  
 "30 years of Pride"  
 through sportsmanship,  
 competition, & teamwork!*



Phone: (781) 820-8110  
 E-Mail: [jimmcnulty@comcast.net](mailto:jimmcnulty@comcast.net)

## Boosters Club!

At the Booster's Club Committee meeting on March 22, Bill Svetz, *HOF'05* kicked things off by presenting the 2008 Boosters Club with its first generous donation of the year! Thank you Bill!

Please look forward to receiving a 2008 Boosters Club membership letter in the mail soon.

Membership levels will remain the same, but have more benefits, merchandise, and value options to choose from.

Thanks for all your inquiries about donating!

And....Thank you in advance for your support!

## A note from Jim

We are coming into the busiest time of the Hall of Fame calendar! It's also the most exciting time too!

Our calendar was pushed back one week as we realized that the Pride Parade/Dance is on June 14. Inductions will now be June 21.

But, we need candidates to Induct! So please get those nominations completed and submitted! Or encourage others to do so! The earlier the better, too, because nominations usually need clarifications and corrections. HOF members also seem to ask for more information before they vote. Because all of this takes time, last minute nominations may not be a good idea!

'08 will be another year of remembering the past and beginnings of the BSL, with the HOF symbolizing those things for many BSL'rs.

As they seek to remember, please be there for them to see and connect with! 😊

### Events of the Hall of Fame

**Deadline for Nominations**  
 May 17, 2008 –Saturday

**Ballots mailed to Members**  
 May 21, 2008 - Wednesday

**Election of New HOF Members**  
 May 31, 2008 - Saturday

**Inductions of New Members**  
 June 21, 2008 - Saturday

### Events of the BSL

**Opening Day 2008 Season**  
 May 3, 2008–Smith Field, 11:30a

**Pride Parade-** B.S.L. Marching  
 June 14, 2008

**Friends & Family Day**  
 June 21, 2008 – Smith Field  
 Day of HOF Induction Event

**Hall of Fame Inductions**  
 June 21, 2008 - Saturday

**World Series – NAGAAA**  
 August 22-30, 2008- Seattle

### Don't Forget!

Please try your best to  
 attend opening day on  
**May 3 at 11:30am!**  
 Smith Field

## MEMBERS OF THE HALL OF FAME :

### 1970's Era

Seth Hyde '78  
 Gigs Kreger '78  
 Ken McNeill '78  
 Frank Mickelson '78  
 Jim Vierra '78  
 Henry Weinberger '78  
 Bob Burnham '78  
 Gary Staples '79  
 Leslie Tiffany '79

### 1980's Era

Kevin Docherty '80  
 John Cutting '81, *RIP*  
 Vinnie Peruzzi '81, *RIP*  
 Rudy Beccera '82, *RIP*  
 Warren Mitchell '82  
 Gary Brenner '83  
 Bill Hull '83  
 Mark McGrath '85  
 Ed Fernald '86  
 Mike McCabe '86  
 Bob Quist '86  
 Bill Svetz '86  
 Ed Rivera '89

### 1990's Era

Peter O'Leary '90  
 Frank Ribauda '90  
 Paul Gedman '91  
 Buck Bachman '94  
 Chris Burke '94  
 Stephen Barlow '95  
 Jack Campbell '95  
 Mark Haas '95  
 Paul Moreno '95  
 Sandro Frattura '96  
 Jim McNulty '97