



# LEOPOLIS BASEBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

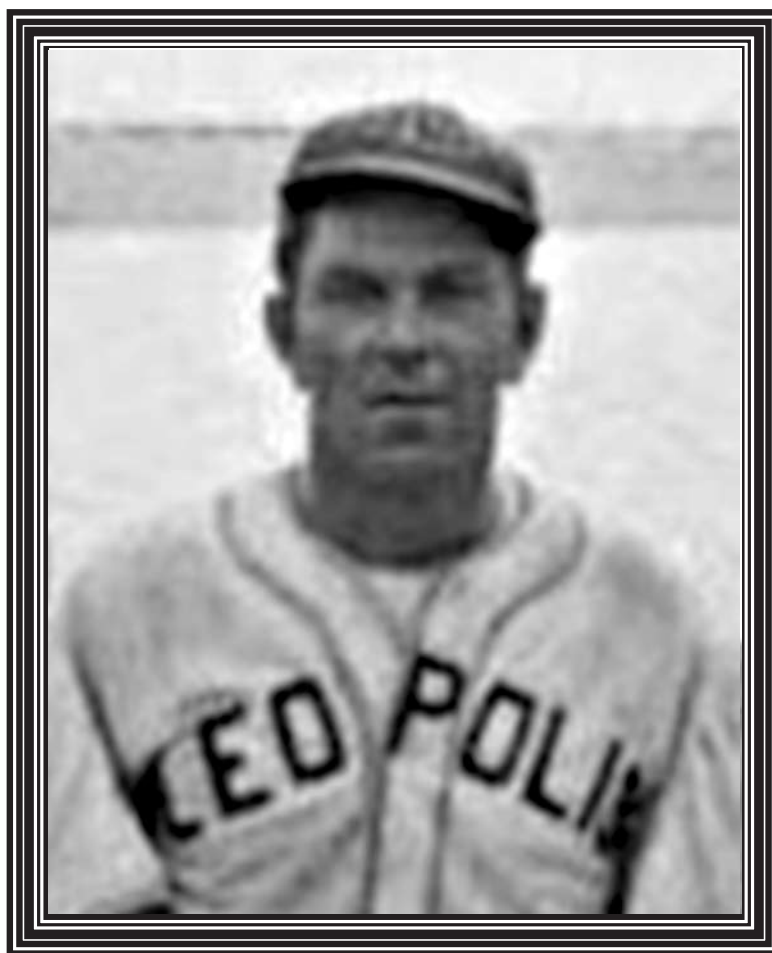


**JULY 19, 2009**



Hall of Fame Committee Members  
Joe DeBaker, Steve Conradt, Tom Kristof, Pete Kucksdorf,  
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# **LEOPOLIS BASEBALL HALL OF FAME**



**HAROLD PAISER**  
JULY 19, 2009

## **HAROLD PAISER**

Harold Paiser was born June 23, 1919 in the Town of Seneca. He is son of Frank and Christina Paiser who were farmers. Harold attended Weasel Dam grade school and finished his schooling at the Leopolis High School.

On November 18, 1942, he was united in marriage to Doris Mae Schultz at St. Francis Church in Gresham. Together they had five children: Nancy, Darold, David, Dick and Dennis. During his early life, Harold farmed and did other jobs to support his family. He did custom white washing with a machine he built. He also built the first hay conveyor for his farm. Later he worked road construction until his retirement.

Harold commonly referred to as "Stiff," loved the game of baseball. He loved to talk about his playing days and had fond memories of the 1946 B.A.B.A. Championship. Just prior to the championship game, Harold hit a three run homerun that powered Leopolis to victory over Bowler 6-5 and gave Leopolis the right to play New London for the first ever B.A.B.A. Championship. During the championship game, Harold scored on a Joe Stezenski single that proved to be the margin of victory for Leopolis. Harold played first base on this, the only Leopolis team to capture the crown.

Other players say "Stiff" was probably not the most agile runner but his love of the game and commitment to winning proved very valuable. Fellow Hall of Famer Bert Thiel said, "Harold always swung hard. And if he hit it, it would go a long way." Bert also laughed about Harold not being too speedy on the base path.

Records indicate Harold played about 15 years for the team. Later he enjoyed being a fan and a family member called him a "sports fanatic." He also played basketball, as he was pretty big in stature. Sports dominated the Paiser family television. Unless Lawrence Welk was on. Then his wife put her foot down.

Harold loved the outdoors and enjoyed getting together with his family and friends. He was a lifelong member of St. Mary's Church and the Leopolis Fish and Game Club.

Harold died on June 6, 2002 at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife Doris and has 11 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Aaron and Austin Paiser currently play for Leopolis and will make today's presentation.

# **LEOPOLIS BASEBALL HALL OF FAME**



**JOHN SAZAMA**  
**JULY 19, 2009**

## JOHN SAZAMA

John Sazama was born February 19, 1930, the son of the late John Sazama Sr. and his wife Emma "Paiser" Sazama. John lived on Paiser Lane with his two sisters, Jeanette and Grace. A graduate of Marion High School, John excelled in baseball, basketball and football. Earning All-Conference status in basketball and football.

John started playing for Leopolis in 1945 when they were still in the old "Shawano County League." John played mostly center field and was on the 1946 B.A.B.A. Championship team but couldn't play in the final game due to being in football.

John proudly served his country in the United States Navy after the 1952 season. After returning home his baseball career went through the 1966 season.

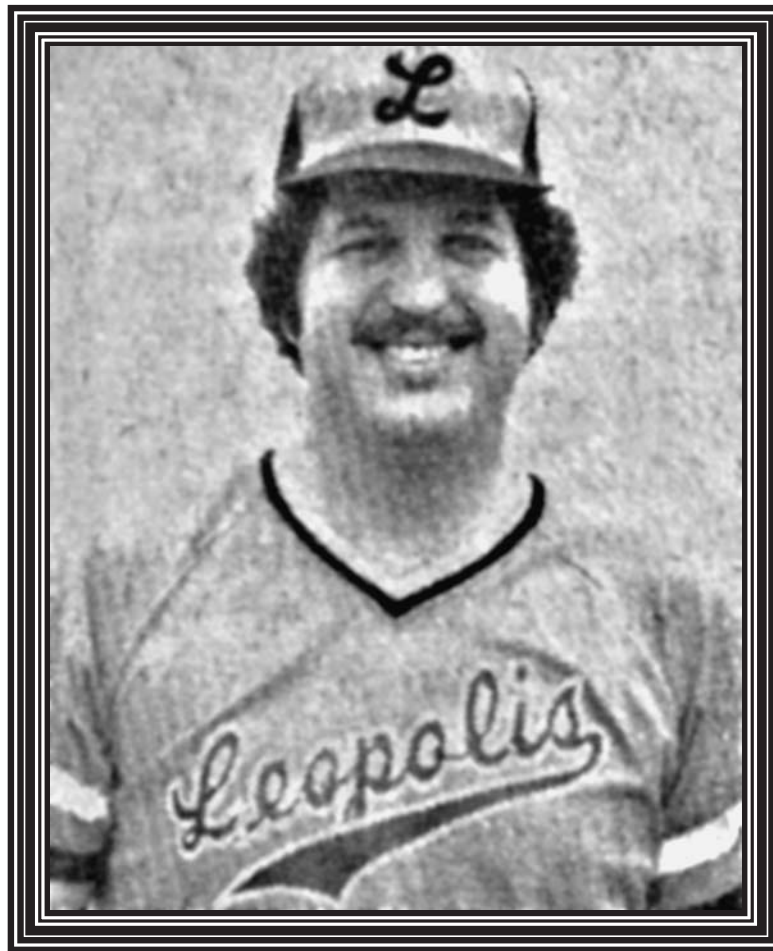
John remembered playing with Bert Thiel on Bert's last game prior to Bert turning professional. John recalled playing right field that game as Bert pushed Leopolis past Shawano with 21 strikeouts.

One of John's fondest memories was when Leopolis beat Gresham 9-0. John hit a homerun and came back to the dugout to meet Harold Paiser. Harold was smoking a cigarette and remarked to John "now you can sit with the men."

Bert Thiel said John was one of the most dependable players on the team, but "He was like a Thiel. He couldn't run very fast." Bert also noted that John could catch just about any ball hit his way. "He was a good guy on the club and played many games. He was a very good hitter who always made contact with the ball."

John has also been a very loyal fan since his playing days came to an end. He can be seen at many of the games and is a pleasure to talk baseball with.

# LEOPOLIS BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



**RON ZIMDARS**  
JULY 19, 2009

# RON ZIMDARS

If there were one word that describes Ron Zimdars' love for baseball it would be "passion." It is very clear by talking with Ron that baseball was a great love of his life. His love for the game and the high expectations he had as a player came through loud and clear. We are very happy to be honoring that commitment today.

At 60 years old, Ron talks about his playing days as if they were just months past. His proud display of two scrapbooks filled with memorabilia about his playing days gives way to his love for baseball. Those record books speak volumes. Article upon article of history of his playing days. A graduate of Marion High School and having had the honor of playing with some of the local greats – the likes of Ken Frailing. As a high school junior, he recalls Marion in the State finals only to lose to Neenah. Ron was named to the Fox Valley Legion All Star Team in 1967.

Ron started his Leopoli career in 1968. Missing several years after being drafted in the Army, he played a total of 13 years before retiring in 1981. Ron regrets he didn't play a few more years. He has fond memories of playing with Hall of Famer Tom Kristof Sr. "We fed off each others abilities." Missing the batting title two years by just a few points did not seem to alter his enthusiasm. "If I would have sat out the last game I would have won a title. But that wasn't me. I wanted to work for it." Five years in a row he was in the top five in B.A.B.A. batting averages.

Ron is the son of Alvin and Mary Zimdars. He has four brothers and three sisters – Mike, Chuck, Tom, Jerry, Charlotte, Janet and Joan. He has two sons, Ryan and Joshua, and a 15-month-old grandson.

Ron has many memorable games. One was in the Tigerton Tournament. With two out, he lined a double to score Rick Otto. Then scored from third on a John Reminger bunt. Another game was when he and Tom Kristof homered to power Leopoli to victory over Menominee. Another Tigerton tournament game Ron hit a two run homerun off Orman Waukau to win the game. One league game Ron had six hits. In 1968 or 1969 Ron hit a 0-2 pitch off Tigerton's Gary Schlender over the center field fence. One not so memorable game was when Leopoli went up 7-0 against Tigerton in a playoff game. Leopoli ended up losing the game 15-11.

Ron played with the wood bats. Usually gripping a fat handle Jackie Robinson or Nelson Fox. Ron said, "I love the game of baseball terribly."

Ron credits fellow Hall of Famer Floyd Kristof for getting him started in Junior League. "I owe a lot to Floyd."

Bert Thiel former manager remembers Ron's playing days and said Ron could really "hit the ball sharp." Bert also said Ron was probably a little faster on the base paths than Harold Paiser but "not that much." Bert called Ron a "power hitter and a team player and mentioned Ron even got first base umpire Arlie Paiser to "call a few his way."

Ron, welcome to the Leopoli Baseball Hall of Fame.

