

Joe Rossi HOF Committee

Joe Rossi
Dan Weikle
Mason Smith
Greg Holstine

CHSBUA Executive Committee

President - Ross Chase
Past-President - Ryan Roark
President Elect - Kennie Monger
Secretary - John Juranek
Treasurer - Terry Angell
Member at Large - Pat Corcoran
Member at Large - Pat Garcia
Member at Large - Mason Smith

CHSBUA Area Directors

Area 1 – Dan Light, Bill Fleming, Gary Czachowski
Area 2 - Don Howard, David Patterson | **Areas 3/5** - Art Gumke
Areas 4/6 - Jason Dittburner | **Areas 7/8** - Chuck French
Area 9 - Rob Montoya | **Area 10** - Dave Dusza
Area 11 - Derek Kibel | **Area 12** - Dave Granzella
Area 13 - Rodney Winters | **Area 14** - Doug Levinson
Area 15 - Dan Cholas | **Area 16** - Bob Richardson

CHSAA Administrators

John Sullivan - Baseball
Mike Book - Officials
Monica Tillman - Officials

The Colorado High School Baseball Umpires Association

Presents:

The 2023 Joe Rossi Hall of Fame Banquet

at

Denver-Lakewood Holiday Inn

Lakewood, CO

February 4, 2023

Noon – 4pm



Special Acknowledgements

Master of Ceremony and CHSBUA Joe Rossi Hall of Famer **Keith Bailey** began umpiring in 1976 and served as a Denver Area Director and CHSBUA State President. Keith was a CCUA leader and involved in the Mile High Advanced Umpire Clinics. He worked



three High School state championships over 10 years. As an AABC umpire, Keith worked many post seasons including five Connie Mack World Series and two Stan Musial World Series. Keith was named the AABC National Umpire of the Year in 1994.

As a player, Keith pitched the University of Northern Colorado to the CWS by defeating #1 Arizona. He played professionally with the San Francisco Giants and served as scout for the Chicago Cubs. Keith served as the umpire coordinator for both the USAFA and UNC as well as the Cherry Creek Diamond Club. He is also a member of the UNC and Cherry Creek Diamond Hall of Fames.

Keith has been married to Marlis for 43 years and has two children and three grandchildren. He spends his time Marshaling at Murphy Creek Golf Course.

Official photographer **Stefan Brodsky** of Thornton is no stranger to baseball umpiring, having worked as a Colorado HS and collegiate umpire from 1985 through 1994. Brodsky retired from a career in television production in 2016 and has worked as a sports and event photographer for Colorado Community Media since 2016. His “They Came to Play”, a Rocky Mountain PBS documentary history of Colorado baseball, won a Colorado Broadcasters Association award. He’s also received several Colorado Press Association awards for news and sports photography. His son Michael and grandson Dominic coach and play respectively in the Longmont Baseball League.



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2023 Hall of Fame Keynote Speaker

Kelly Dine – Hudson, OH



Kelly Dine, who served in the U.S. Navy, earning the rank of lieutenant commander, worked her way from Little League through high school softball and baseball.

Kelly is the first woman to umpire in the Big 10 and she became just the sixth woman to umpire in the Little League World Series and the second to be a crew chief and home plate umpire in a Little League World Series championship game.



Outstanding New CHSBUA Umpires Recognized



| | | |
|---------|-------------|------------------|
| Jayce | Armijo | Pueblo |
| Anthony | Christensen | Ault |
| Ian | Glasgow | Colorado Springs |
| Jared | Kennedy | Windsor |
| Mitch | Nathan | Parker |
| Scott | Sommerfeld | Denver |

In Memoriam



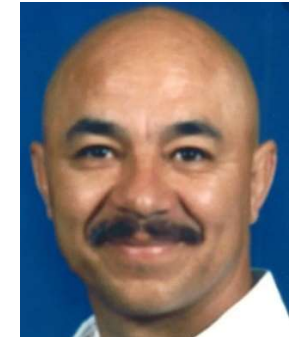
2023 Hall of Fame Inductee

Joey Borjon – Pueblo



Born July 25, 1952.
Died January 17, 2022.

Joey Borjon was a well-known figure to literally every student/athlete in Pueblo. He was a security guard at Pueblo Central High School for 30 years and patrolled the baseball diamond for seven more. Widely recognized for excellence, he was selected to work state championship baseball games for 32 of those years.



After breaking in as a rookie umpire starting in 1983 with the Pueblo study group of CHSBUA, Joey later was elected to the post of Pueblo Area Director in charge of umpire recruitment and training. In the “off-season”, he umpired high school softball and refereed basketball as well.

During the summer season he served as the Runyon Field Sports Complex Training Coordinator for baseball umpires of all ages along with handling assignments at the prestigious Tony Andenucio Memorial Classic.

Joey was an inspiration and mentor to new and veteran umpires alike. He combined a sharp appearance and command of the rules of the game and their interpretations with a veteran’s expert control when handling difficult situations on the diamond. His calm demeanor earned the respect of coaches and players throughout Southern Colorado.

He was best known for his guarantee given to the coaches at the pregame plate meeting. “We will work hard for your teams this game!”

His most cherished role, however, was that of a dedicated family man to his cherished and loving wife, Rita, and children; Ann, Josh and Buddy (who followed in Joey footsteps umpiring high school baseball) and grandchildren, Hannah, Brooklyn, Remi, Avery, and Bostyn.

2023 Hall of Fame Inductee

Joe Bonacquista – Pueblo

Joe Bonacquista was born in 1942, with a shortstop's glove on one hand and a ticket to a World Series in the other...or so it seemed. In reality, it took twenty years for Bonacquista to make his first College World Series appearance in Omaha with the 1962 University of Northern Colorado Bears. As youthful player, Joe's skills were razor sharp, earning him the top hitter award virtually everywhere he played. Later in life, on the senior baseball league circuit, Joe was named most valuable player on his World Series champion Denver Zephyrs 50+ MSBL team as a sixty-nine-year-old.



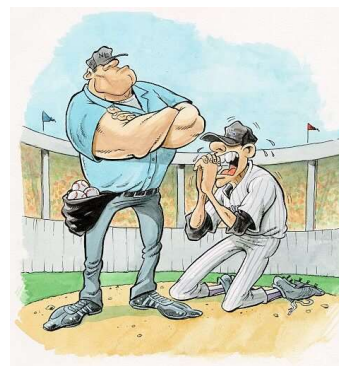
Starting with those early days in Trinidad, Colorado, what was to follow in Joe's sterling playing career would be a total of nineteen amateur World Series appearances beginning at age twenty and ending a remarkable forty-nine years later in three different classifications.

He started with the College World Series in Omaha and ended with Senior League World Series stops in Phoenix and Ft. Myers. As a senior player, he collected five national age-group championships and eight division championships thanks to the Denver Men's Senior Baseball League and the Roy Hobbs League of Ft. Myers.

In his "prime", Joe was named his team's top hitter five times and was named to all-star teams nine times. Later in life, Joe was a senior league MVP twice, named Comeback Player of the Year once, and earned the Denver Zephyr Team Spirit Award.

Off the field, Joe was a championship coach. Over a ten-year period, Bonacquista's teams, both high school and summer, claimed another seventeen championships. He was named South-Central (HS) League coach of the year three times with a startling total of one hundred seventy-five wins to his credit, not to mention his youth baseball coaching record of another sixty wins. In short, from his first coaching job in 1964 in Keenesburg, Colorado to his last coaching stint in 1971 at Pueblo East High School, Joe was the gold standard of coaching excellence. Three of Bonacquista's former players went on to have careers in professional baseball. Joe's son, Jeff, who led the South High Colts to a state championship in 1984, went on to play for Wichita State. Together the Bonacquista's are one of only nine father-son combinations to every appear in the College World Series. Both have been inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame.

Joe is enshrined in five different halls of fame from Pueblo to Greeley and has been honored four times with induction into Who's Who Among America's Teachers during his thirty-three-year tenure teaching United States and Colorado History. His civic involvement didn't stray far from the baseball diamond either. Joe was a featured clinician at coaching clinics in Southern Colorado, served on the Runyon Field Board of Directors as a member and president, and for a change of scenery was a volunteer coach in the local YMCA basketball program.



"Me? Argue? ... No, sir! That was an excellent call."



2023 Hall of Fame Inductee

Mike Doohan – Boulder

Mike Doohan says *he* “just stumbled across an opportunity.” And for the next thirty years, he took full advantage of it. Long-time CHSBUA umpire Gene Crusan recruited Mike in 1982 from a softball field in Commerce City. It was an offer Mike couldn’t refuse; nine-year-old softball for eight dollars a game.

Mike’s story was no different than most career arbiters. Eventually, he registered with the CHSBUA umpire group in Boulder, Colorado and came under the mentorship of Ken Furman and David Graham, both noted umpires, CHSBUA Boulder Area Directors, and CHSBUA Executive Committee members. Four years later, Mike attended The Harry Wendelstedt Professional Umpire School and returned to Boulder to continue what was to become a very successful career on the diamond.

Eventually, Mike followed his mentors off the field as well becoming the CHSBUA Boulder Area Director in the early 1990’s. Before it was all over, Mike developed into an umpire of note being selected to umpire post-season contests for twenty-five years, working fifteen state tournament contests.



Looking back, Mike comments that for him the most important job of an area director was to keep people engaged and positive. Mike did both and what he accomplished as an area director can serve as a blueprint for CHSBUA area directors across the state today. He sought out professional training and returned to his local group and developed a training regimen based on sound, professional fundamentals instead of the usual anecdotal “strategies” which were often “tried but not often true” by most area directors of the past. Mike was among the first to bring professional umpiring to amateur umpires. CHSBUA area directors follow Doohan’s example to this day.

Along the way Mike says he got to know a great group of people. But a lot of those people also got to know a great mentor who took the proper steps to help them improve both on and off the diamond.

2023 Hall of Fame Inductee

Dave Baker – Denver

Dave “Chick” Baker, who hails from the small town of Snyder, Colorado, was once an Italian umpire. In 1960 while stationed in Aviano, Italy along with being part of United States Air Force, he was also registered with the Italian Sports Federation.



But instead of making his mark in the “Wild Blue Yonder” the Air Force kept him firmly grounded in the middle of a baseball diamond, or a basketball court, or a volleyball court where Dave displayed his versatility. Not only was he a player but could also be counted on as an official when needed. Without Baker, it just didn’t get done.

His last duty post was Lowry Air Force Base in Aurora, Colorado where he began his Colorado officiating career in 1971, a career eventually spanning seven generations. "Chick" Baker umpired five state championship baseball games, and worked several state football title games as well. He also worked basketball. Employing his usual versatility, besides his career as an umpire, he worked a combined thirty-seven football and basketball post-season tournaments.

Dave is being honored for all he has done for CHSBUA both on and off the field or court. He was an outstanding three-sport official, served with distinction as CHSBUA President, CHSBUA Executive Committee member, and for several of the previously mentioned generations, was the CHSBUA Secretary/Treasurer. He helped plan and coordinate many previous CHSBUA Master Clinics as well lend a helping hand to Joe Rossi in getting the Hall of Fame established. In a career spanning seven generations and almost fifty years, this small-town kid from Snyder just got things done.



Save the date for the Joe Rossi Hall of Fame Golf Tournament

June 10, 2023 | 1:30pm Shotgun Start

More details in March 2023



Joe Rossi – Hall of Fame

