

**PHS BASEBALL**

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

**Tri-County Rangers open range**

The pistol and rifle ranges are open at the Tri-County Rangers' facility north of town to members of the Paynesville Sportsmen's Club.

Following Gov. Tim Walz's reopening of some outdoor recreational facilities, including shooting ranges, on Friday, April 17, these shooting ranges are open to members. (Members can pick up the key at Hilltop Stop.) It is still too wet for the archery range, said shooting range manager John Mor.

The trap range, operated by the Tri-County Rangers, has not opened yet. Typically this opens in May. Because it requires supervision, it can only be open when volunteers are available. Last year, the trap range was open on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

**MSHSL cancels spring 2019-20 athletics and activities**

**Thursday, April 23:** In response to Executive Order 20-41 issued today by Gov. Tim Walz, the Minnesota State High School League, under direction of its board of directors, has declared, effective immediately, all activities and athletics for the spring season have been cancelled for the 2019-20 school year. The decision of the MSHSL is aligned with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Minnesota Department of Health and is in support of practices that focus on community health and safety.

"As a parent of a high school senior, I understand the tremendous impact of this pandemic," said board president Bonnie Spohn Schmaltz of Eden Valley-Watkins. "As a speech coach, team members that I have coached since seventh grade won't see their final season culminating with the opportunity at the state tournament, including my daughter. Knowing these costs, I'm proud of the sacrifices competitors and coaches throughout the state are making to keep others safe."

The cancellation applies to all forms of student participation in any MSHSL activity, athletics, and fine arts. The section and state tournaments for each of the MSHSL's spring activities are also cancelled. This cancellation applies to adapted bowling, adapted softball, badminton, baseball, clay target, golf, lacrosse, music, robotics, softball, speech, synchronized swimming, tennis, track and field, and visual arts.

MSHSL activities and athletics for the spring season have been suspended since Sunday, March 15.

"I can understand how heartbreaking the cancellation of the spring sports and activities season is for our students," said board member Troy Stein, the activities director at Edina High School. "Many of our students and families spend the entire year preparing for their season. Sports and activities are about so much more than the competitions and performances. They provide students with a sense of accomplishment, purpose and belonging. They also provide the community an opportunity to gather and rally around their school. Without that, I think it is fair to say we all feel a sense of loss."

The MSHSL will continue to communicate with and assist member schools during the cancellation of these athletics and fine arts activities. Its board of directors will hold its regular board meeting on Friday, April 24, via digital communication to further discuss ways to work with member schools as they complete the academic year and look toward next year.

"This difficult decision was one we had hoped we would not need to make," executive director Erich Martens said. "Our activities and athletics offer so much to so many students and their school communities, and we thank all who work to provide these amazing opportunities for students. We also value the incredible benefits of strong and supportive connections between students and their coaches and advisors, and our hope is that these will continue even during this time when they are not able to participate or meet face to face."

"Our work will continue in providing leadership and guidance for our member schools and will soon turn to the summer and planning for a return to participation this fall," added Martens. "At this time, everything we can do to slow the spread and impacts of COVID-19 will help ensure the health of all, and will most certainly increase the chances that programming for students can return."

The MSHSL strongly encourages all students, coaches, advisors, officials, and administrators to adhere to all aspects of the current stay-at-home order and participate fully in all recommended safety practices, including social distancing, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and limiting unnecessary contact with others. With the increasing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals, communities, and states, and in full support of the recommendation of the CDC, the MDH, and all executive orders by Gov. Tim Walz, all Minnesotans must actively work to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Here is background information and the timeline of MSHSL decisions and declarations:

**Thursday, March 12** - The MSHSL cancels the adapted floor hockey state tournament and announces the cancellation of the consolation rounds of the girls basketball state tournament. The MSHSL also issues a directive that the remaining championship rounds of the girls basketball state tournament will be conducted with a specific number of spectators.

**Friday, March 13** - The MSHSL cancels the remainder of the girls basketball state tournament. All boys basketball section tournament games are cancelled, as is the state tournament (scheduled for March 18-21). The section speech tournament events (March 15-21) are postponed indefinitely. In a communication to member schools, the MSHSL shares participation limitations that extend to Monday, April 6, that limit participation to practice and tryouts only.

**Sunday, March 15** - In accordance with emergency Executive Order 20-02 issued by Gov. Tim Walz, the MSHSL updates participation limitations that there will be no participation in any athletic or fine arts activities through Friday, March 27. The previous directive prohibiting scrimmages, contents, and competitions continues through Monday, April 6.

**Tuesday, March 17** - The MSHSL issues updated spring participation limitations to guide participants, administrators, and coaches during the suspension of activities.

**Wednesday, March 25** - Gov. Tim Walz issues a stay-at-home order and closes Minnesota schools until Monday, May 4. The MSHSL alerts member schools that all spring activities are suspended until at least that date.

**Thursday, April 23** - With Gov. Walz extending "distance learning" through the end of the 2019-20 school year, the MSHSL cancels all spring athletics and activities for 2019-20.



Press File Photo

Adam Kampsen, who hit .398 with a school-record 12 homeruns and 32 RBIs in 2004, was the #1 pick in the all-time PHS draft.

**Coach, editor pick all-time PHS lineups**

*With no one able to play ball, I asked Skoogs to do a fantasy draft*

By Michael Jacobson

With no high school baseball this spring, I asked Hall of Fame coach Brad Skoglund to do a fantasy baseball draft, creating a couple all-time PHS baseball teams.

The only ground rules were: to pick any past PHS baseball player (no present players, though we both might have drafted some); to fill 19 lineup spots (all eight fielders, four pitchers, a designated hitter, an extra catcher, and five bench players); but you could switch players into new positions as needed. We drafted for 13 rounds and then filled out our benches.

The only reason Skoogs and I were nervous about doing this was hurting someone's feelings...either by drafting them too low or not at all. Obviously, there are more than 36 great PHS baseball players. My initial list included 48 names, which was actually enough to fill three teams, and there were more great players beyond that, too.

"This was so tough to pick," said Skoogs afterwards. "It was so tough to choose."

I should mention that there is some recency bias in this draft, since the PHS stats that we have today include a few top seasons from the 1970s but are more complete from 1980 on.

Since both Skoogs and I didn't see the Paynesville varsity play until the mid 1980s, our "eye test" for players from the 1970s and earlier eras is limited. So there will be more players from the "modern" PHS era, with apologies to all the great players of the past. Also, my nickname is Jake.

**Skoogs Pick #1:** Adam Kampsen, 3B. He hit .398, with a school-record 12 homeruns, and 32 RBIs in his senior year before playing at Northern State, leading the conference in hitting. Both Skoogs and I think he might be the best right-handed hitter we've seen for the Dogs.

"Solid player. Great team leader. I'll never forget the game against Kimball his senior year," said Skoogs. "He threw a no-hitter and hit three homeruns, including a grand slam. I'm calling in to the media and (after listing his exploits on the hill and at bat) they ask, 'Any high-lights?' What else did he need to do? Pop popcorn and park cars? He was a heckuva pitcher, too. He led by example. When your hardest workers are your best players, you're

**Team Skoogs**

- P - Pat Thompson (1975)
- P - Mike Beier (1989)
- P - Chris Beier (2005)
- P - Jordan Roos (2013)
- C - Shane Kampsen (2009)
- 1B - Marc Schmitz (1983)
- 2B - Ryan Wuertz (1998)
- SS - Luke Johnson (2019)
- 3B - Adam Kampsen (2004)
- LF - Cory Nietfeld (2007)
- CF - Ron Fuchs (1988)
- RF - Tim Haines (1981)
- DH - Nathan Meyer (2013)
- C - Josh Williams (1997)
- B - Mike Stalboerger (1997)
- B - Brent Heinen (1999)
- B - Josh Kampsen (2003)
- B - Josh Bungum (2012)
- B - Sam Oehlein (2019)
- Manager - Chris Stanley (1994)
- Manager - Danny Schutz (2002) and Brandon Michaelis (1996)

**Team Jake**

- P - Jack Hoppe (1954)
- P - Lynn Hemmesch (1978)
- P - Nathan Nietfeld (2009)
- P - Doug Fuchs (2000)
- C - John Hemingson (2006)
- 1B - Justin Butkofski (2005)
- 2B - Jason Kampsen (2012)
- SS - James Paul (2006)
- 3B - Matthew Quade (2015)
- LF - Ben Bork (2000)
- CF - Michael Tangen (1993)
- RF - Aaron Savelkoul (2010)
- DH - Dustin Looman (1999)
- C - Dave Hess (1978)
- B - Jim Schmitz (1982)
- B - Carl Thelen (1982)
- B - Randy Beier (1988)
- B - Jon Lieser (2001)
- B - Grant Ludwig (2018)
- Manager - Tory Spanier (1996)
- Manager - Matt Bayer (2005)

**All-Time Ball Shagger** - Josh Sturtz (2009, both teams) going to have a great season."

He played on the Dogs' state tournament team in 2002 and helped the American Legion team win the state title in 2003. In Legion ball, Skoogs remembered him homering to left, homering to center, and then tomahawking a ball out to right. "The ball...it had a different sound when it left his bat," said Skoogs.

**Jake Pick #1:**

Jack Hoppe, P. I had Adam rated highly too, but Skoogs always talks about having

good pitching, so I want to get my ace. I never saw Jack play, but he was a fireballing lefty. His stats don't survive, but he pitched Paynesville to the American Legion state tournament in 1953, throwing 13 scoreless innings in the district tournament, beating Bemidji and St. Cloud. He was drafted by the Cold Spring Springers in 1955, leading them to the Class B state title and being named tourney MVP. Then he pitched for the University of Minnesota as they won the NCAA championship in 1956 (throwing two innings in the College World Series). Oh, and he was a star basketball player for PHS, and held the school's pole vault record at 11' 2", advancing to state as a senior. He hurt his arm, but still was the ace for the Paynesville Lakers for most of the 1950s.

"Old school. Ooh, that's a great selection," said Skoogs.

**Skoogs Pick #2:** Tim Haines, RF. Skoogs immediately takes the other lefty pitcher at the top of our lists and puts him in right-field, though he will also pitch. In 1981, his senior year, Haines had a 1.47 ERA, won nine games (a school record, since broken), and struck out 117 (still the school record). And he hit .396.

"Tremendous player," said Skoogs. "I didn't get to see him play high school ball, but he was a tremendous amateur player. Great student of the game. Tremendous bat speed." He played Division I baseball and hockey at the University of Wisconsin.

Like Skoogs, I saw him play for the Regal Eagles in amateur baseball, and he would usually pitch a little in the playoffs and state tourney, despite his arm injury. Zip, fastball at the knees. Zip, another fastball at the knees. Then, it'd be another fastball right past you, or a lunge at an off-speed pitch.

**Jake Pick #2:**

John Hemingson, C. Hit .458 with five homers and 25 RBIs as a senior, and was the

ace on the state runner-up team, going 9-1 with a 0.77 ERA. He would have broken the school record for ERA in a single season, but the day after he pitched a one-hit shutout over Mora 4-0 in the Class AA state quarterfinal, he pitched in relief in the state final and gave up five earned runs (two more than in the entire season to that point). Paynesville has had some great defensive catchers, but he might be the best. I still remember Skoogs telling me after their 2005 state title that their defense started with Hemingson behind the plate. Nobody could steal on him, so the Dogs could play their outfielders next to the fence to prevent any extra-base hits, forcing teams to get three hits to score a run.

"My next pick," said Skoogs. "The Twins called me up and asked me to bring him down to a tryout camp two years in a row." Hemingson threw to second base in 1.87 seconds, close to Joe Mauer (1.82). "Tremendous arm. Didn't throw out many guys his senior year because nobody ran on us," Skoogs continued. [I'm glad I didn't have to pitch to him. He threw the ball so much harder than I did. He was quick as a cat. He set the tone for us.]

**Skoogs Pick #3:**

Shane Kampsen, C. Hit .500 his senior year (2009) and hit 16 career homeruns for PHS. Then was an All American at Ridgewater College.

"He called a great game," said Skoogs. "He was so smart behind the plate. He had a quick release on his throw to second. Smart baserunner. Good speed, excellent leader. He was in charge when he caught."

I used to like to tease Skoogs that one of his best coaching jobs was teaching those Kampsen boys to hit, and Shane is the only one who did it left-handed (like Skoogs, back in his prime)! Shane would have been my next pick, but I would have had to put him in rightfield. His 35 RBIs his sophomore year (2007) are still second in school history.

**Jake Pick #3:**

Lynn Hemmesch, P. 1.12 ERA as a junior (1977), 1.19 as a senior (1978), and a three-year ERA of 1.49.

I want more pitching, so I take another lefty. He pitched the Dogs to the District 20 title in 1977, winning three straight games, including a 1-0 shutout over Cokato in the finals. I never saw him in high school, but he played amateur baseball for 25 years and he still could chuck it.

Skoogs played with him in fall baseball at Ridgewater



Photo by Michael Jacobson

On a cold April afternoon, with the wind howling at the PHS grandstand, PHS head coach Brad Skoglund and Press editor Michael Jacobson picked all-time PHS baseball teams.