



HISTORY OF THE IHSBCA NORTH / SOUTH ALL-STAR SERIES

The idea for an All-Star series was first considered in the fall of 1974. Members of the Executive Board were aware of a successful series conducted in Ohio and the Indiana series was patterned after it.

Tom Bradley, then the coach of North Central, volunteered to be the director of the first IHSBCA All-Star series to be held in 1975. Under coach Bradley's guiding hand, the first All-Star series attracted 2500 people to Bush Stadium in Indianapolis. Coaching the All-Star series were Clark Froning of Indianapolis Marshall, Orval Huffman of Bedford, and Roger Schroeder of Indianapolis Marshall. Playing for the South in the July 26th twilight double header were Robin Courtney and Andy Rice; both have been head coaches in the Evansville area. Jim Turner of Logansport, Jim Anderson of Hammond Noll, and Larry Jones of Logansport led the north team to a doubleheader victory. Every series since has been a three-game series, so there will always be a series winner.

Each year a committee is appointed to select the North team and another committee selects the South team. During the first series one school had five members named to a squad. This led to the adoption of a rule which limits a school to one member unless unusual situations develop. Players who are drafted by professional baseball, but have not signed are strongly considered. The division between North and South was first set at State Road 28. A change was made in 1988 which pitted the South Bend and Lafayette semi-states against the Jasper and Richmond semi-states. When class baseball arrived, the dividing line was set at State Road 32 and 36.

The annual summer classic has moved around the state as communities bid to host it. Eight times the series has been hosted by Jasper. The Terre Haute area has hosted it 5 times. Lafayette, Richmond, and Ball State have all hosted it 3 times. LaPorte and South Bend have each hosted the series twice. The 1979 series in Jasper coincided with the opening of the IHSBCA Hall of Fame which is located in Jasper. All players names and team photos are part of the displays in the Hall of Fame. Changes have been added over the years: a wooden bat game and all games are now 9 Innings. The Saturday games see the players wear special all star uniforms, then they don their varied high school uniforms for the Sunday showcase. The 1981 series saw the first MVP chosen and honored by McMillan Sports.

Several former All-Stars have appeared in major league play. Some have even become a major league coach, while another All-Star played in the NBA. Countless more have played minor league baseball.

Appearing in the big leagues have been: Jamie Allensworth, Brandon Beachy Kevin Brown, Bryan Dorsett, Dave Doster, Chad Dunwoody, Kyle Gibson, Jeremy Hazelbaker, Tom Hunter, Matt Kinzer, Richie Lewis. Adam Lind, Josh Lindblom, Lance Lynn, Lloyd McClendon, Alex Meyer, Hal Morris, Steve Ontiveros, Cameron Perkins, Josh Phegley, AJ Reed, Scott Rolen, Jeff Samardzija, Drew Storen, Walt Terrell, and Eric Wedge.

Working as major league coaches have been Mark Riggins, Eric Wedge, and Lloyd McClendon. Brian Evans played in the NBA.

Each year as one watches the series unfold you wonder which of the 50 players will be the next to appear in The Bigs and/or become a world-class citizen.