

Dean Brinkman
Sleepy Eye

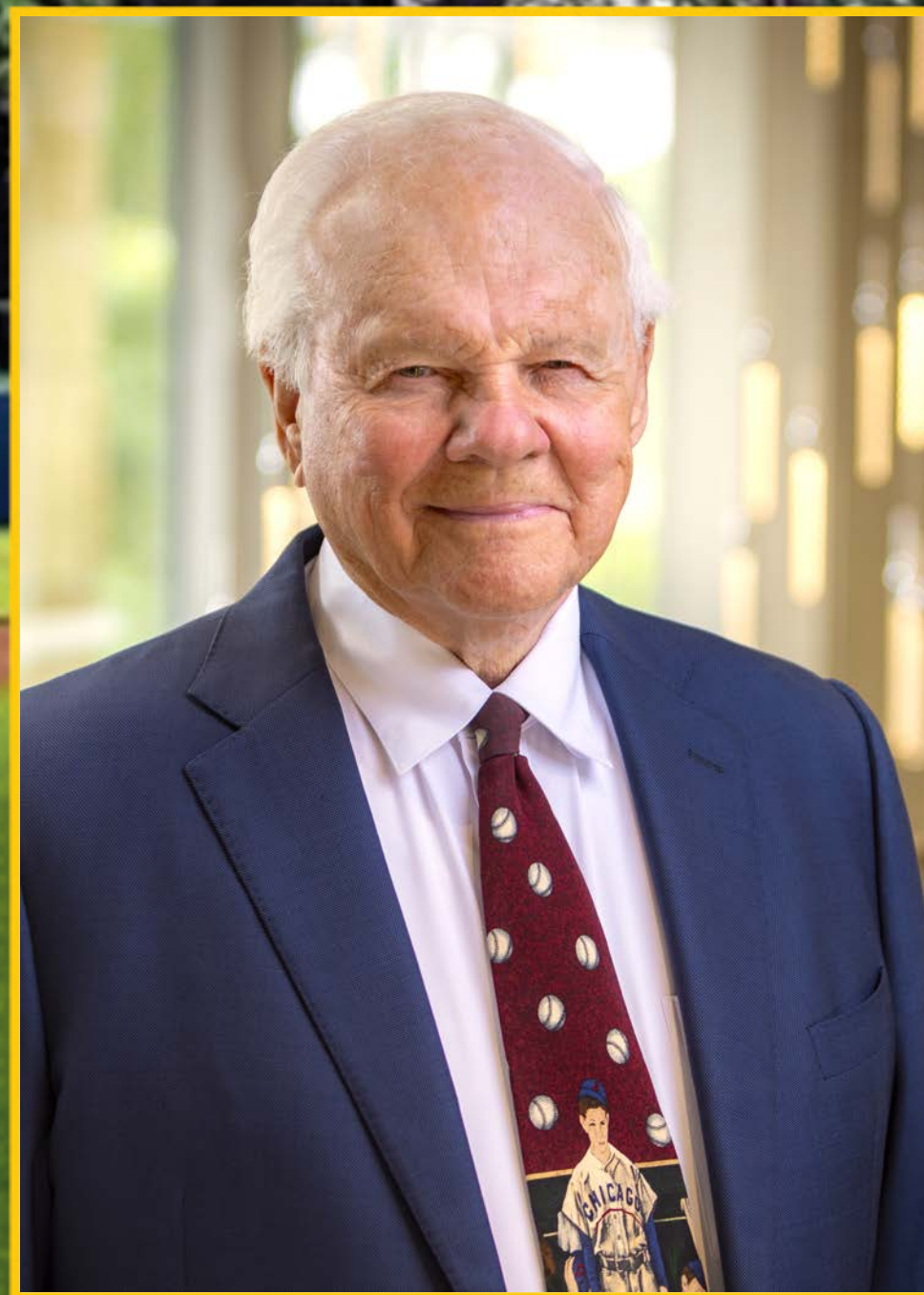
Dean Brinkman approached the game of baseball like life—with the passion and exuberance of a kid. Beginning with backyard sports with friends to VFW, legion and high school baseball at Sleepy Eye St. Mary's, Dean was a leader on and off the field and was an essential part in those teams qualifying for multiple state tournaments. Following high school, Dean played one season at Boone Community College in Iowa where he hit an impressive .404 and helped the Bears qualify for the Junior College World Series in 1982. In 1983, Dean transferred to St. Cloud State University and played infield for two seasons before pursuing his Doctor of Chiropractic.

In 1981, Dean began his 20-plus year amateur baseball career where he was known as a power hitting pitcher/shortstop with a lifetime batting average above .300 and over 150 home runs. He played in eight state amateur tournaments for the Sleepy Eye Indians and multiple years as a draftee, being selected to the All-Tournament team in 1986 and 1995. A highlight of his amateur career was at age 19, when Dean hit a grand slam, a three-run home run, a double and a single, knocking in a whopping 10 runs in one game. He continued to play competitive baseball until his mid-50s. When not playing the game, Dean helped young softball and baseball players develop skills through coaching, supervising open gym and throwing hours of batting practice. He was a driving force behind several ballpark fundraising endeavors, including implementing sponsored signage boards at the ballpark. He also helped coordinate the 100-year anniversary celebration of Babe Ruth's barnstorming game played at Sleepy Eye Ballpark in 1922.

For over 30 years, Dr. Dean provided care, healing, and friendship to his patients at Sleepy Eye Chiropractic. He was a member of the Lion's Club, President of the Sleepy Eye Medical Center Foundation, and President of the Sleepy Eye Baseball Boosters.

Dean had four priorities in life—faith, family, caring for others and baseball. He truly personified the philosophy of, "We don't stop playing when we grow old; we grow old when we stop playing."

Dean was born to Dr. Don and Donna Brinkman in 1963 and married Sandy (Polesky) Brinkman in 1991. They have three children: Alex, Deonna and Carter. Dean crossed home plate to heaven in September 2022.



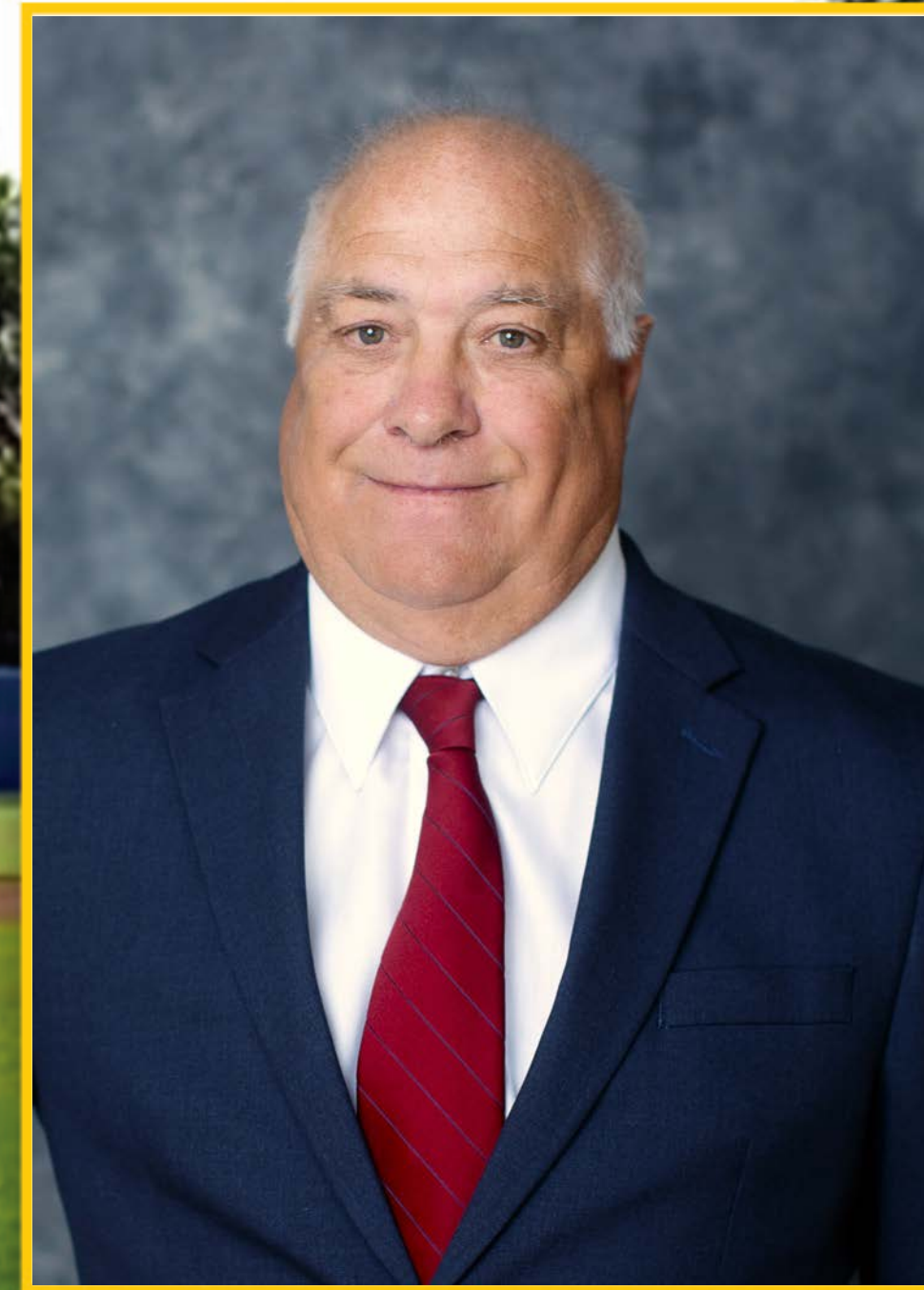
Mark Davis
St. Peter

Mark Davis, a lifelong baseball enthusiast, has nurtured his love for the game for over eight decades. He started playing little league baseball in St. Peter in the late 1940s and played the game at every level growing up. In high school, he was an accomplished running back in football, played basketball and baseball where he was the left fielder for St. Peter's third place team in the 1957 Minnesota State High School Baseball Tournament. He went on to play a year of football at Gustavus Adolphus College before transferring to Mankato State and graduating with degrees in Business, Political Science and Economics in 1963.

Mark began his 26-year amateur baseball career with St. Peter in the River Valley League at the age of 17. After a three-year stint with Mankato in the Southern Minny League during his college years, he went back home to play for St. Peter until his retirement in 1983. During his career, he played all positions except catcher, but was primarily a center fielder. He hit well above .300 for his career and participated in state amateur tournaments in 1972 and 1973. Mark continues to play in Minnesota Twins Fantasy Camps and Roy Hobbs Baseball.

As a prominent figure in the U.S. dairy industry, Mark has garnered numerous awards for his outstanding achievements in both business and philanthropy. Mark and his company, Daviso Foods International, have made substantial contributions to various organizations such as Junior Achievement and Mankato State's Business Department. In addition to awarding many college academic scholarships, his family donates to a wide range of programs and fields benefiting young players, high schools, colleges, and town ball organizations, particularly in the St. Peter area. This dedication and generosity of his family's philanthropic support has spanned over 40 years. Mark has also been on numerous boards in both the business world and in his community and has been honored in four Halls of Fame.

Mark's wife, Mary, is an avid baseball aficionado in her own right and has been at his side through it all. They were married in 1962 and have spent many nights at the ballpark with all the Davis children, Mitch (Laurie), Marty (Annie), Matt (Kristi), Julie (Tom Rydeen) and Jon (Jenny) along with his 18 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Dave Fischer
Pierz

As a young boy growing up on a dairy farm, Dave was obsessed with the game of baseball. During chores he would often play catch with his twin brother, Dennis, and played his first organized baseball as a 9-year-old for his hometown of Lastrup. He played high school and legion baseball for Pierz, never striking out during his high school career. He was also an All-Conference wrestler.

Dave began his amateur baseball career for the Lastrup Lakers as a sophomore in 1972. In 1973, Dave was able to play in his first of five state amateur tournaments and, at the age of 21, he resurrected the Genola Brewers, now known as the Pierz Brewers. Dave played for and managed the Brewers until 1999. Throughout his career, Dave played all nine positions but was known primarily as a 2nd or 3rd baseman with a career batting average of .373.

Since 1996, Dave has been president of Pierz Legion Park Board of Directors. In addition to countless hours of field maintenance over the years, he has overseen park improvements including lights, grandstand, concession stand, press box, dugouts, irrigation and infield resurfacing. As the only park in the area with lights for many years, Pierz hosted the first weekend of the Region 8C Tournament annually from 1997 through 2021. Dave also served as Victory League President from 1981 until 2001 where he worked with the MBA Board to reform the postseason drafting process. Dave also umpired at the high school and amateur levels, umpiring both league playoff and region tournament games.

Dave coached the Pierz legion team in 1979 and 1980 and currently coaches the 8th grade baseball team. Dave also coached youth-level girls basketball in Pierz for 13 years, was girls assistant varsity basketball coach for 12 years in Pierz and girls varsity basketball coach at Onamia High School for two years.

Dave was a member of the Lions Club for 10 years, served as Pierz City Clerk for two years and mayor for four years. He also served terms on his bank community advisory board and local water and sewer board.

Dave and his wife, Laure, have three children, Jessica (Sam Brandt), Dan (Alanna), and Lauren (Karl Martinson) and six grandchildren.



Jeff Neutzling
Dassel-Cokato

Jeff played his first organized baseball for Albany High School in 1970, winning the state championship that year as a freshman. He also participated in football and basketball and was All-Conference in all three sports his junior and senior years. Jeff played his college baseball at the University of Minnesota where he was a 4-year letter winner. He was named to the All-Big Ten team in his freshman and senior years and was a member of Minnesota's College World Series team in 1977.

Jeff's amateur baseball career began with the Avon Lakers in 1971. Even after moving to Cokato in 1980, he continued to play for Avon another five years. He then played with the Maple Lake Lakers for four years before joining the Dassel-Cokato Saints in 1990 for his final 14 seasons. Jeff was an outstanding catcher who hit over .350 for his career and amassed over 100 home runs and 500 RBI. Jeff participated in 30 state amateur tournaments—13 with his own team and 17 as a draftee. He was part of two state championship teams in 1973 and 1981 as a draftee for Cold Spring. Jeff's playing career ended after the 2003 season, but he continues to dress for the Saints where he can be found coaching first base as an assistant coach. Jeff has also been a key contributor in Dassel's three state amateur tournament bids.

Jeff has been an usher and Eucharistic minister at St. John's Catholic Church in Darwin for over 35 years. He taught for 30 years in the Dassel-Cokato School District and coached both the high school and legion baseball teams for 13 years and coached many years of football and basketball at various levels. He started the Dassel-Cokato Baseball Association for youth baseball players and was a member of that board for ten years. Jeff was elected to the Albany High School Hall of Fame in 1998 and the North Star League Hall of Fame in 2012.

Although baseball has been a large part of Jeff's life, his faith, family and friends still are the most important aspects of his life. His late wife, Carol, and their three daughters Emily (1983-2003), Katherine (Brice Berggren) and Margaret (Todd Goudy) were his biggest supporters. He now enjoys watching the numerous activities of his eight grandchildren.



Randy Schoenberg
Spring Hill

Randy started playing Little League baseball in Spring Hill as a 10-year-old in 1975, and quickly fell in love with the game. He went on to play legion baseball in Greenwald and high school baseball in Melrose before helping to form Spring Hill's original team in 1983. He proceeded to play 21 seasons for Spring Hill, where he played center field and shortstop for most of his career while hitting .301 in league play for his career with 55 home runs and 220 RBI. Later in his career, he began to pitch more, striking out 277 batters in 465 IP and was drafted twice. All in all, Randy holds the record for Spring Hill career home runs and is in the top five in many other categories.

Randy managed Spring Hill for 13 seasons. Many of those seasons he managed his four sons, which is one of his greatest highlights. He and his son, Shawn, played together for two years and even hit back-to-back home runs in his final season as a player in 2003. Under Randy's management in 2007, Spring Hill earned its first state tournament berth. They went on to punch their ticket to State four more times in the next decade. Randy didn't miss a single game in his 33 combined seasons of playing and managing.

Randy is currently in his 24th year as Region 15C Commissioner and is President of Spring Hill Recreation Club. He played a vital role in the original construction of the Spring Hill field and every ballpark renovation in the last 40 years, including new dugouts, new scoreboard, field maintenance and the fundraising that goes with those projects. He actively volunteers at other sporting events throughout the year including running the clock and scoreboard for Melrose wrestling. Randy is also a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Spring Hill and St. Michael's Men's Society.

Randy and his wife, Cindi, raised four sons together: Shawn (Kayla), Eric (Lindsey), Corey (Julie), and Austin (Haley) and have 11 grandchildren. There's no doubt the love of baseball has had a generational impact on the Schoenberg family. You'll still find Randy and Cindi at every Spring Hill game announcing and watching their sons carry on the family tradition.



Jeff Wollin
Litchfield

Baseball has been a way of life in the Wollin family for a long time, and it began for Jeff when he played his first organized baseball with Chaska's Little League in 1971. He worked his way through the baseball ranks by playing Babe Ruth in Waconia, and legion baseball in St. Bonifacius and Chaska. Jeff graduated from Waconia High School in 1979 where he played baseball, basketball and football and played two years of baseball at Mankato State, graduating in 1983.

In 30 years of amateur baseball, Jeff hit over .340 for his career, hitting over 30 home runs and 400 RBI. And even though he was an excellent hitter and played every position in his career except catcher, Jeff is mostly remembered as a pitcher with great control. He threw over 1,000 innings in his career and compiled over 100 victories and over 700 strikeouts with an ERA below 3.00. In 1999, he had a 14-0 record for Litchfield with 12 complete games in over 120 innings pitched. Jeff was a member of seven different teams during his career and played in 11 state tournaments—four times as a draftee. He spent the bulk of his career with the Litchfield Blues before retiring at the age of 45 in 2006.

Jeff has coached Litchfield High School's baseball team since 1990 and his teams have won 414 games, which currently ranks 24th in Minnesota history among all high school coaches and 7th among active coaches. He was director of the Litchfield Summer Rec Baseball program for 30 years and has coached Litchfield's VFW team since 1992. His VFW teams have won over 450 games and qualified for two state tournaments.

Jeff has been a board member of the Litchfield Baseball Association for 34 years and led the grounds crew during State Amateur Tournaments in 2016 and 2023. He is a member of the Litchfield Baseball Hall of Fame, the North Star League Hall of Fame and the Minnesota State High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

Jeff was a Business Education teacher for 38 years and coached various levels of basketball for 35 years. He's also been an usher and reader at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield since 1990.

Throughout his career, Jeff received the understanding and support of his wife, Carla, daughter, Jamie (Bruce Brunz), son, Mitchell, and two grandchildren.

2023

Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame Inductees

Hall of Fame Induction ceremony held September 16, 2023 @ St. Cloud Convention Center

