

TIM DOBOSZENSKI

Nominated as: Manager/Organizer

Nominator: Bruce Doney

References: Herb Koch & Joe Kounkel

Nominee reviewed by Trustee: William Bierne

Trustee comment: The Nominator and References have known Tim for over 25 years as opponents, teammates and friends.

Tim is a busy guy, as these highlight will attest:

- More than 20+ years as the manager of Bandits teams in 4 age groups, local leagues, tournament and RHWS.
- Volunteer firefighter/first responder for over 30 years, a position that requires many hours of unpaid, continuing education/training to maintain certification. He has served his community unit as Secretary, Lieutenant and Captain.
- Served as President of his hometown Loretto Baseball Association for 7 of 15 years, and during his tenure was responsible for scheduling facility use and maintaining the fields, which are the envy of ball teams throughout the West Metro area of Minnesota.
- He works full time in his own construction company. That position allows him to give back to his community, donating time, resources and equipment for field improvements and maintenance.
- He and his wife Beth will celebrate 33 years of marriage in 2021.

Tim has shown a great passion and love for the game, is highly competitive and will hold you accountable in a way that is not condescending or critical and stresses the importance of having fun. He ensures playing time for all and frequently plays others over himself.

The nominator has given examples of Tim assisting players who were struggling with personal or financial issues in order for the player to come to the World Series. These occasions are only known by the nominator and are reflective of Tim's selfless acts when he thought that coming to Hobbs would be "just what the doctor ordered."

The respondents state that some players have left his team for "greener pastures" only to return where Tim welcomes them back with open arms. Tim is very approachable and goes out of his way to make sure his players are OK, getting playing time and are having fun.

Tim is a catcher when playing and one respondent feels that is how he approaches life by seeing the whole field and assisting where needed.

As a First Responder, Tim has administered first aid at the World Series on at least 3 occasions to opponents and an umpire for an ankle break, shoulder dislocation and heat exhaustion.

Tim's leadership and organizational skills are very apparent in his dedication to community, local baseball association, players and teammates. Tim has been instrumental in fund raising, field improvement projects with giving back to the community as the ultimate goal.

Achievements:

- Volunteer firefighter for the City of Loretto, Minn. He has been with the department for 34 years and has achieved the rank of Captain with the Fire Department.
- Member of the Loretto Athletic Association for 15 years, including 7 as president.
- LAA duties included, but not limited to, field maintenance, field upgrades, working in concession stands, scheduling of amateur town team games, Legion games, the 35_ games and 50+ games along with scheduling and coaching youth baseball teams.

- Minnesota Bandits: Tim has been in charge of the Minnesota Bandits at Roy Hobbs since 2001, with teams in multiple age groups 28+, 35+, 45+, 53+ and has impacted more than 300 players in those 20 years.
- 5-time team MVP at RHWS.
- Married 33 years to Beth, 3 daughters.

Nominator/reference comments:

Nominator and references responded to questions. What follows are their responses to the questions or their letter of reference. (Some of this material has been edited for redundancy.)

1. Please tell us how this individual and his character affect the game of baseball and his baseball colleagues on and off the field, and why. Use CONCRETE examples.

BRUCE DONEY: I have known Tim for more than 25 years and during that time I have played with him, against him and for him. I know his character is probably as well as his wife of 33 years.

Tim has been a volunteer fire-fighter for the Loretto Fire Department, his hometown, since he was 24 years old. During his tenure with the fire department he has been the department secretary, a Lieutenant and is now a Captain. The fact that he is a volunteer, shows his commitment and character, because, as a volunteer you are required to do monthly training and attend meetings and annual training requirements for which you don't get paid. That plus all the times he has been called out in the middle of the night to fight a fire or respond to a medical call and this takes time away from family and friends and yes even baseball at times, but, I have never heard Tim complain once about his responsibility as a fire fighter.

There were times during Roy Hobbs events where Tim's skills as a first responder were needed. Once where he was the catcher in a game and the player slid into home plate and Tim had the plate blocked, legally with the ball, and the player broke his ankle when he made contact with Tim at home plate. Another time, a left fielder on PDC 4 dove for a ball and dislocated his shoulder; Tim provided care before help arrived. These are selfless acts and I know from my own experiences in the medical field they do provide comfort to the others involved.

Also, last year Tim made a judgement call during one of our games regarding an umpire who was suffering from heat exhaustion. He stopped the game assisted the umpire to our dugout and rendered aid until ambulance personnel arrived.

These are only a few examples of Tim's character. This does affect his team and his colleagues on and off the field. I know for a fact there are many other examples of this same character away from the field and he replies, "It's just my job."

HERB KOCH: Tim Doboszenski has always shown great leadership on and off the field. He is also a member of the Loretto Volunteer Fire Dept for many years. He is a member of the Loretto Community Athletic Association for over 30 years. Also served as President of the LCAA organization.

JOE KOUNKEL: Tim Doboszenski is a player/coach/person of the upmost character. I remember one time when we were playing a semifinal game at Roy Hobbs, and in the 5th inning we found out they were using an ineligible pitcher. Tim contacted Tom and got him to the field to figure out what to do. Tim didn't raise his voice; Tim didn't rant or rave. He calmly discussed the situation, and everyone came to a resolution. The result wasn't good for our team, but Tim was cordial and agreed the game should be decided on the field. In the age when the squeaky wheel gets the grease, Tim is never that squeaky wheel. He works to find solutions in a respective and calm way.

2. What qualities and/or accomplishments make this individual special ... that they STAND APART from their peers and should be recognized through induction to the Roy Hobbs Baseball Hall of Fame? Use CONCRETE examples.

DONEY: Tim has been a player/manager/coach/sponsor of teams in the Roy Hobbs World Series since I first met him there in 1999, then as only a player. Since then, Tim has managed and coached teams in the open division, 35's, 45's and now the 53's.

He also plays with these teams along with coaching and doing some of the organizing of the teams. He is a fair and competent coach and makes sure that everyone gets enough playing time and plate appearances. He does not put any of his players down for bad plays or not hitting or missing signs, but he does insist on HAVING FUN, that is his main goal for each team he is involved with. Yes, like many he also wants to win, but he does not have to win at any cost mentality. This makes playing for Tim much more relaxed and less stressful. I have enjoyed playing with Tim for the past 20 plus years.

Another area Tim has excelled, in my opinion, is the fact that he has raised 3 daughters during this time and has not missed many of their events during their years in school and beyond. Tim would do anything for his family, friends and baseball players if he were asked. And he would not ask for anything in return.

Several times our teams do not finish as well as the players think we should have, so they leave for other teams, thinking the grass is greener on the other side, only to find out this is not the case, so they ask if they can come back and play for The Bandits, Tim's teams, and he does not hesitate to allow them back, but only asks them why they want to come back. Their response has always been the same. THIS TEAM HAS FUN. That can only be a credit to Tim and his approach to both the team and the game.

KOCH: Tim Loves Ball, he is a great team player. He is always willing to help out anyone on and off the field. His community service is above and beyond. He also had his wife Beth and their 3 daughters, Ashley, Amanda, and Amber work the concession stand at many games. Very much a Family Man.

KOUNKEL: Tim Doboszinski has won our team MVP 5 times, and it's not because he is always the best player, but because he is the **best person**. He is always looking his players and team.

I know once that I was going through some tough times with a divorce and financial hardship. He still wanted me to come down and participate. He told me not to worry about the money or where to stay. I got there and I was able to stay in a house with Tim, his wife Beth, and some other players free of charge. He didn't play me less. He didn't expect me to do anything different than to come to Florida and play baseball.

3. From your list of character qualities and/or your line of reasoning in support of your candidate, if you could pick only 2, which would they be and why? These should be compelling, and your stories should demonstrate how your candidate is EXCEPTIONAL.

DONEY: Having known and played for Tim and considering him one of my very best friends, it is difficult to pick what I believe are 2 of his best qualities. But, here goes.

First is his commitment to his team. There are many times in the past 20 some years at the Roy Hobbs and at local games, where Tim has not put himself in to play and given his spot in the lineup to another player. And I know Tim is a better player than some of those he put in, but he does it anyway to allow that player more playing time. He is selfless in this respect.

Second, he watches out for all his players and anyone on the field to make sure they are safe and healthy on the field, whether you are a player on the other team an umpire or just a spectator at the event. He is always there to help.

KOCH: Tim has been playing for many years on many different teams. He just Loves the Game, by playing and supporting it. He a team player, always willing to help out Before, During and After the game.

Tim has left his mark on our town, bringing many teams to play in Loretto in tournaments and games. His leadership as president and his ability to help with fundraisers, field maintenance and improvements is priceless. Cooking Burgers for Region Games and working Concessions throughout the years. Tim is always willing to help.

KOUNKEL: Tim's top quality is a person of integrity. Tim doesn't bend the rules. Tim doesn't play in the gray areas. In that semifinal game, we needed to replay the game, and we had just used our last

eligible pitcher. We could have used a non-qualified pitcher to get us to the championship game, but we didn't. We used Tim. He had just caught 5 innings, but he went out and did his very best to help the team. You hear all the time about who would you start your team around? Tim is one of those people.

Another top quality is family. When players bring their spouses/girlfriends/kids to Roy Hobbs, Tim takes care of them also. He always has fan gear made up for them. Our motto is "We aren't here for a long time; we are here for a good time." Sure, winning helps, but we play to play. And he doesn't just buy run of the mill T-shirts or one size fits all, he contacts each player and gets the sizes needed and male and female cuts of shirts.

Tim is so committed to Roy Hobbs and family that when one of daughters was going to be getting married, he asked her to schedule the wedding around Roy Hobbs and he brought both his daughter and her fiancé along for the "good time."