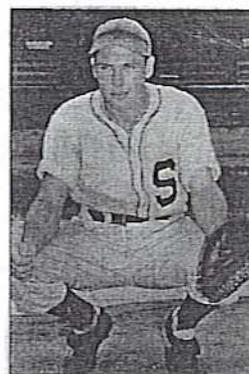


Don Zaspel

A baseball field, known as "Don Zaspel Field," was dedicated in his honor on June 4, 1998 at Roux Park in Rice Lake. Don graduated from North St. Paul, Minnesota and has extensive experience in both professional and amateur baseball. As a strong armed catcher and powerful hitter, he played class 'C' baseball in the minor leagues at Grand Forks, North Dakota, part of the St. Paul Saints chain in 1942 and 1947. Sandwiched in between the seasons at Grand Forks was a three year stint in the Coast Guard during World War II. Zaspel also played class 'D' ball at Sanford, Florida in 1946. Zaspel retired from professional baseball after the 1947 season to go back to school at the University of Minnesota. While in school, he played stints with a few Minnesota teams including Owatonna, Leseur and North St. Paul. Zaspel moved to Rice Lake in 1952 and kept playing ball. In 1954 he was player/manager of the Rice Lake Robins who won the Wisconsin Baseball Association State Championship. Zaspel's final two years as a player were with the Cumberland Islanders in 1958 and 1959.



In 1960, Don began managing the Rice Lake American Legion team of Post 87 through the 1970's. He co-founded the Rice Lake Youth Baseball Association in 1967. In 1983, he co-founded the highly successful Rice Lake Arrows Amateur Baseball Team. He managed the team for three years in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Interstate Baseball League. In 1987 he joined the Eau Claire Cavaliers as a coach and the 2004 season will be his 18th year with the team.



Zaspel was a scout for the Milwaukee Braves from 1954 to 1958 and has been a bird-dog scout for the Chicago Cub's since 1989. Don was inducted into the Rice Lake Sports Hall of Fame on December 7, 2003.