

Bob Curtis

Bob Curtis is without a doubt the finest fastpitch softball player the City of Rice Lake has ever produced. He was one of the state of Illinois premier fastpitch hurlers for Belvidere during the mid to late 1940's. Among the opponents he faced was the nationally known Aurora Sealmasters.

He was born August 8, 1926 in the Wisconsin township of Madge near Long Lake. He attended Spooner High School through his sophomore year and graduated from Belvidere High School in 1943. He entered the U.S. Army at age 18 with his twin brother Jack and served as a military policeman in the South Pacific during WWII. He returned to Rice Lake in 1950 when he purchased what is now BFI and owned and operated the business until his retirement in 1991.

Bob pitched fastpitch in Rice Lake from 1950 thru 1967 and accumulated over 300 wins while dominating the Barron County Fastpitch League and the Rice Lake Municipal League. He began playing for the Sockness Shoe Company and then played for Breunigs Lager, Manson's Clothing Store, Grouchy Don's Café, Mathisen Tire, Corners' Bar and Club 48. Bob simply overpowered hitters with his fast ball and 6'5" stature and was an excellent left-handed batter as well, doing as much damage hitting against an opponent as he did pitching.



He was involved in all areas of outdoor sports. He was one of the organizers of fastpitch softball in Rice Lake and was instrumental in organizing many northwest Wisconsin chapters of Duck's Unlimited and was a participating member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Muskies Inc. and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep.

Curtis Field, a softball diamond at the Tate Park complex was named in his honor on June 10, 1983. Bob died at the age of 65 on Thursday, April 16, 1992.

