



Audrey Palumbo

Audrey Palumbo has devoted 25 years as an advocate, organizer, publicist, scorekeeper-statistician and team manager of Girls Fast Pitch Softball in North West Ohio. Since the early 1980's she has been known for her tenacity and hard work in increasing the numbers of young ladies playing and raising the level of fastpitch play by promoting the game, promoting parent participation, keeping game and season records and organizing educational clinics.

Audrey was a champion in obtaining equal opportunity for girl's teams in the Perrysburg area and in obtaining recognition for the girl's achievements. She was a major force in transforming Suburban Girls Softball (SGS) from a fledgling loose knit coalition into an organization of communities working together to improve the sport in the region.

The Palumbo family became involved in girl's softball in 1983 when daughter Maria played on a 9-11 year old local team. Audrey was elected Perrysburg Girls Commissioner Oct 12 of 1988. Her agenda included equal opportunity for the Perrysburg girls and to help Suburban Girls Softball get organized.

Immediately after her election as Perrysburg Softball Commissioner, Audrey called Ralph Kreidel from Sylvania and Lee Hill from Anthony Wayne. All three recognized that the SGS needed structure to provide more continuity. They worked as a team to write the SGS By-Laws.

Although Audrey remained active in the SGS, her primary interest was to explore the tournament world. In the summer of 1991 General Walter Churchill sponsored Audrey's 18U tournament team that went to an even higher level of play.

With 1994 came another new experience. Shirley Severoff, Lee Hill and Audrey formed the SGS Adult Women's' League so their daughters would have a place to keep up on their game when they were home from college in the summer. In 1995 Audrey was appointed to apply her scorekeeping and statistical skills for the University of Toledo by MAC Wining Coach Cheryl Sprangle. Audrey traveled with the team for 3 years and learned a great deal more about the demands and the finer points of fast pitch at the college level. In 1996 Audrey was asked to do something that no other had tried in the region; organize a 10&U all-star fast pitch team from NW Ohio and compete at the USSSA Fast Pitch World Series in Cincinnati.

After a two year "softball break" in 98 and 99, Tony and Audrey were asked to once again apply their broad knowledge of the game and help rebuild the Perrysburg High School program; Tony as an assistant coach and Audrey as statistician and writing softball articles for the local paper. In 2004 she compiled the PHS softball history and stats and published softball programs in 2004, 2007 and 2008. Audrey retired her pen and scorebook at the end of the 2008 season. She is in the process of archiving 25 years of Perrysburg Softball history into the local history area of the Way Public Library. She is also compiling the early history of Suburban Girls Softball.