

CRT, inc Sportsletter #6 ...powering



Community Research Technology, Inc.

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Our mission as a community non-profit organization is to (1) promote digital preservation of the athletic history of the New Ulm area, (2) provide real-time Internet access of the preserved archives and make current athletic available to any person at any time any place in the world and (3) promote development of a friendly environment for technology-focused family and community history research.

MEMBERSHIP We are closing in on 100 members for 2009, up over 30% from 2008 but still have a few 2008 members who have not renewed. The Home Show brought in a batch of supporters of the project. Present coaches continue to not be represented.

HOME SHOW Our first ever New Ulm Home and Self Improvement Show was a worthwhile venture in obtaining new members and most importantly, developing support among the sports fans of the immediate New Ulm area. Right after the show we were able to make some improvements in the website and by next year should be able to see greater search opportunities to locate historic material on the web.

WEBSITE We're pleased with the interest in the website of New Ulm Sports Central with over 2,000 hits coming in about a three-week period from when we started counting. Schedules and results have been added via links to the Journal and KNUJ. Also the schedule of upcoming events is a regular placement on the right side of the page. It's been fun tracking the progress of Jamie Hoffmann in the AA Southern League on a daily basis. We're monitoring the "reads" of local stories and upcoming events and find a good amount of interest in many areas. The site is a work in progress as daily we learn how to make improvements on our own. Our progress is keyed to the time available from South Central College. We're anxiously waiting for the opportunity to test the data entry system which will allow information and photos to be indexed and put onto the site. This means we will need to organize a the volunteer crew shortly.

INFO We've been waiting for feedback from several organizations which have been presented information of the project (and asked for financial support). Searles has made its initial donation to augment the preservation work of Roger and Norma Breu. We're hoping for good news also from New Ulm Junior Baseball and New Ulm Club. We'd hoping to get Hanska, Courtland and Essig baseball scheduled for presentations shortly.

MICROFILM After the Home Show we purchased a microfilm reader/printer to research missing information and verify data which will be added to the website. The years 1933-1935 were searched and results printed out for baseball in the area. This is an era where a lot of the real old-timers were active and their performances now can be documented. We probably made 300 copies of Brown County Journal sports "pages" for baseball news. We might want to see if New Ulm Review had significant reports during those periods. Next step is to assemble the material into a presentable format and then add this to the records, both hard copy and digital. The ideal system for microfilm involves a \$10,000 digital scanner which is not presently available in the community. The step above that is said to be near \$100,000. A consortium of three non-profit organizations and the Journal has made a request for New Ulm Area Foundation matching funds to upgrade and add standard microfilms machines and purchase the digital scanner. Another phase of that project is to originate a microfilm lending library at the New Ulm Public Library so that newspaper films are more readily available. The Journal started microfilming in 1985. This project is a huge step to improve availability of research opportunities in the community. The digital scanner would be located at Martin Luther College library which has just lots of site open hours available for researchers.

BASEBALL BOOK The publisher of *Minnesotans in Baseball* has agreed to let CRT, Inc. share in the proceeds of the new book if ordered through us (see the website). Terry Steinbach has a chapter devoted to his major league career to give the book plenty of New Ulm flavor.

FACILITIES CRT and Herb have agreed to a lease arrangement for his "Tree House office" which is providing temporary space for the computer, scanner, files, microfilm reader, work area, etc. The lease allows protection for both parties relating to issue of insurance and liabilities.

PRIORITIES

Most of our present priorities of items needed accomplishment relate to further development of the NUSC website. A list of ranked priorities (23 in all) recently was revised. The current list involves:

1. ~~Making grant application to New Ulm Foundation.~~
 2. Resolving website data entry format including finalizing the screen, entering the descriptive codes to a number of "tables", creating the "how to do it" tutorials and making the first tests of uploading information.
 3. Membership and fund raising.
 4. Recruiting additional board members.
 5. Recruiting the data entry volunteer team supervisor.
 6. Develop necessary tutorials for identification codes for photos which are not ready to be loaded.
 7. Get the search process going on the website when first material is loaded to the site.
 8. Establish a more prominent connection for contacting the website/CRT/NUSC.
 9. Expand the historic value in the news and coming events sections similar to the blog/feature which creates an archive for each of the items to automatically preserve the historic content.
 10. Develop cell phone to website connectivity and tutorials.
 11. Implement a system to upload photos and documents to website.
 12. Initiate documentation and research of baseball/software in use and compile list of others available.
- Involve coaches to standardize for future direct links to NUSC.
13. Finalize methods of keeping tabs on athletes at schools and in pro baseball.
 14. Establish format for baseball, softball statistics and historic box scores.
 15. Increase hard copy file capabilities.
 16. Add SCC, other logos to website.
 17. Move hosting of NUSC to commercial entity with multiple backups.
 18. Install loaner computer for townball stats.
 19. Finalize the website banner artwork.
 20. Create automatic archiving of sports "scoreboard" type activity.
 21. Create business cards for directors
 22. Order special microfilm for research, eventual start of loaning library.
 23. Create NUSC sports stylebook for consistency in sports article and stats writings.

See ya on the `net.

**Herb Schaper,
President**