



# Sportsletter #7 dated 2/20/2010

Community Research Technology, Inc.

1435 10<sup>th</sup> South St. – New Ulm, MN 56073 507-276-1774 - [nusc@newulmtel.net](mailto:nusc@newulmtel.net)

---

*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 news 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.*

---

## **MULTI FRONTS**

When someone said there were not enough hours in the day, that was only a half correct statement. Actually, there are not enough hours in the day OR NIGHT. Our project for the preservation of past and current sports photos and records continues to make substantial improvements, However, we still are not able to utilize volunteers to be of assistance. But that's getting closer.

In 2008, some board members expressed concern that the work-load to maintain a vibrant and current website was too heavy. They felt some help and cooperation from the baseball teams and schools was necessary. With missed game reports in all sports during the past year, it continues to me the president's opinion that as Tom Edward says, " ... when tomorrow rolls around, today will be history" and if we have not done the job of getting all of today's history recorded, we may never find it tomorrow.

In the long run, no single individual can maintain the pace that is needed. A system needs to be designed to make sure it is "down the road" to be as effortless as possible. As we learned this website business, there's been progress as we strive to be the "one-stop shopping center for the sports fanatics of New Ulm." Our website is not a simple one-page site that often are done completely for free and never change much.

Meanwhile corporate work and website development continues with the help of people like Tom Edwards, Bob Skillings and Jim Aufderheide in particular and also others. Your executive committee has completed a lot of assignments form our "to do" list. These will be reported in a separate discussion at the annual meeting.

**MAX PREPS ASSOCIATION** New Ulm Sports Central has worked with MaxPreps, a CBS related company with a Internet site for prep sports. Larry Merx, regional director for the Midwest, came down to New Ulm to talk to a few coaches about getting their game information added to the website. We also talked about their intern program which we feel will be worth our support as it provide some benefit to the athletic directors if they choose to take advantage of the program. AD's and coaches feel they have to much to do and should not be expected to be the public representative of their teams..

About the time co-op girls' hockey program got going in November something new was added and we did double the work of the baseball /fall season in half of the time. We were able to link the SCOREBOARD at the top of the website page and mouse-over the results of games to immediately link to the MaxPreps site and get all of the information ... rosters, the stats of the game, schedules, etc. That's providing our "overworked coaches" have seen to it that the material has been provided. Also we linked to views of the scrapbook for sports reports as published on newspaper websites.

We utilize the Martin Luther College's website to directly link to game and other reports. Click the score and you'll get the game story which includes the full basketball box scores, stories, pictures, etc. Coach Matthew Dick has the NUHS girl's basketball connected to MaxPreps also. Two of the volleyball teams and the NUHS football team had the information posted this fall. We hope all the other coaches will be organizing their media reporting to include their results.

Winter sports has been a long process especially when postponements because of weather put the schedules in disarray and piled up events that needed recording in big bunches rather than being spread out a little more evenly. The end result should provide us the ability to archive all of the sports information all of the time. The demo of the website will show the scrapbook concept originated during winter sports.

**HITS COUNTER NEARS 45M:** As this newsletter is prepared, the number of hits to our website have passed 40,000, all of that great number coming since only April of 2009. During the state American Legion baseball tournament, there were 1,000 hits (visits) to the site on the Saturday before championship Sunday. This weekend of the annual meeting we are almost instantly reporting game-ending scores for the games involving 60 Lutheran grade school basketball teams from three states.

**MULTIPLE PARTNERSHIP** As the result of forming another partnership developed by CRT, researching will get easier in the New Ulm community. With the help of New Ulm Public Library and the Martin Luther College Library, newspaper microfilm will be available through the New Ulm library for researchers of sports, family history and other newspaper reported items. The Minnesota Historical Society awarded NUPL a \$7000 grant to purchase microfilm and opened up the opportunity to secure an additional grant for equipment. This application left open more possibilities for us but accomplished one of our objectives when we started CRT, Inc. Ultimately New Ulm should have a new level of researching capabilities that will benefit the community and genealogy buffs as well. These are the results of the cooperation between MLC, Public Library and our own CRT, Inc., organization as non-profit partners and the Journal which also figures in the improvements and availability of the material.

**LEARNING CONTINUES** Preparing the material for our site its arrangement is not a normal, simple one-page site. It is full of inter-active pages and capacities and all require a learning curve that necessitates lots of experimentation. Talk about raising the bars ... when we get up there, suddenly a new higher bar is on the horizon.

**HISTORY BEING RECORDED** This weekend the database to capture the data relating to any historical information to be stored on the website went semi-operational after months of planning and system design. It's not perfect yet with some more work necessary but we've started "cataloging" or indexing some of the material.

In the past couple of years we've supplied authors and others with historical material and without having a file clerk available, the "stuff" has piled up. Much of over 400 pieces that have been cataloged to be entered to the database. The data base will include, for every item, the following information. A unique identifying object number, date of the original object, geographic location involved, the type of entity represented, sort, team name, gender of the people, conference or league involved, research assigned to add information, donor of the material, a permission to use code, generation of the original material, type of material, where and how the original will be stored, a priority of further work involved, and a previous description code.

All of those areas will be included in the search engine which will eventually allow anyone to look for this material on the website. A separate search locates "stuff" from the current news of the site.

As the work for the design evolved, our executive committee made the decision to maintain a file of the "hard copy" of the original object in the event of some major catastrophe with the Internet or changes in digital technology creating an obsolescence. In the middle of what we were doing, that was a major course correction and now the office has eight file cabinets for material, all historic, and about 80% devoted to sports history.

**INTERNSHIP BEING DEVELOPED** On a more recent development, we are moving ahead with establishing an Assistant/Internship program which will be two-fold: 1) to give assistance to activities directors at the schools (and also to handle some media reports) and 2) provide some information and do direct work for the website from home/school via an Internet connection or even work in the NUSC office. MaxPreps is working with us on this. There is some lack of interest because of the fear it will create more work rather than save time for the AD's and coaches.

We already have some funds which can be utilized for a matching grant application we will make to the Legacy grant program through the Minnesota Historical Society.

**HOME SHOW AND SEMINAR** We will again be at the New Ulm Home and Self Improvement show at the end of March and plan to have on-going live wireless connection demonstrations of the website and some of the new capabilities which are on the drawing board for then. In addition, we will sponsor a baseball scoring seminar with some manual and electronic systems to display both during the seminar and the show dates. Brian Larson, who has Hanska ties, has agreed to be our presenter. He is official scorer for Minnesota Amateur Baseball Association and has given seminars in the past.

*Herb Schaper* President

