

September 2024

Dear Mr. Olson, Dr. Theisinger, and the Putnam County Board of Education:

I'd like to propose that the junior high softball field be named the "**Chris Walker Field**".

I worked and coached with Chris Walker for twelve years. Not only is his knowledge of the game outstanding but, he brought to Putnam County a softball culture that was incredible. During the 12 years that I worked with him, I witnessed him pour his life into junior high softball like no other coach that I have seen. Coach Walker worked endless hours on the field to make it look impeccable. He took funds generated from the Puma Classic and made signs that listed yearly accomplishments that those teams, including those prior to him being the coach. He also made banners for the boys baseball field as well. His love of the game is clearly evident through the good deeds he does for all Putnam County teams.

Outside of school hours Coach Walker spends endless time with girls who want to work on their game during their off season. For example, we had a young sixth grader one year who did not make the team. After our season ended, she and a few other girls started coming in to work on hitting, bunting, and throwing for next season. This particular young lady worked very hard in the off season and Coach Walker helped her every chance he got. She made the team the following year. (He did not receive money for these services).

He organizes a "pink game" (for cancer) every season and tries to give the charity funds to either the individual, their family or a particular charity. One year a former player's son was battling leukemia. We wore orange and gave the money to his family. Recently we had a player whose mom lost her life to breast cancer and the money went to a Breast Cancer charity fund. His wife was battling her own fight with cancer one season and the money we raised went to charity. He always thinks of others and helps people when he can. He's a class act.

Finally there is the matter of his coaching record and his induction into the ICA Hall of Fame. He coached softball at the Junior High from 2001 to 2019 and his teams have produced a 238 - 147 - 1 record in that time. They have 9 Regional titles, 7 Elite 8 titles, one 2nd Place title, and one State Championship title under his guidance. Obviously he has shown himself to be an outstanding coach, but more importantly, he has shown me, his staff and his teams that he is an excellent person as well. Also in 2024 he has been inducted into the Illinois Coaches Hall of Fame. Please consider my recommendation.

Please consider this proposal.

Thank you,  
Lynette Olson  
(Assistant Coach 2008 - 2019)