



# Dugout News

## A's open 59th season memorial weekend

Clarinda A's will kick off their 59th consecutive season with a 5:00 double header vs Ozark Generals Sunday May 26. On Memorial Day they will complete their three non-league game set with a 1:00 game.

Manager Ryan Eberly who is heading into his 11th year at the helm, will be assisted by coaches Rod Eberly, Craig Hindman and Brian Nicholson. The schedule will have a total of 55 games including 42 MINK League contests. As always the league will be very competitive. Clarinda's North Division includes St. Joseph Mustangs, Omaha Diamond Spirit & Chillicothe Mudcats. Sedalia Bombers, Nevada Griffons, Ozark Generals and Joplin Outlaws are in the South Division.

Returning from last year's squad will be D'Marco Poindex-



RYAN EBERLY

ter, an infield/outfield player; Dominick Francia, an outfielder and Brian Nicholson, a first baseman who is returning to the team as a player/coach after being in independent pro ball the past two seasons. "On paper we look really good as far as having a balance in the pitching staff with seven lefties among the 17 who will take the mound this season, as well as position players who are versatile and come with good credentials at the plate, as well as speed" Eberly said. "Again, we feel fortunate that we have several former A's who have recommended the players coming in as they know what it takes to play in this league and those who will also fit well in our program," he continued.

A's president Gary Ulmer expressed thanks for the work the board and auxiliary have done during the off season and encourages everyone to join the team this summer for an enjoyable and exciting season.

## From the President's Desk



you to come to the ballpark, relax and watch exciting baseball with us.  
Gary Ulmer

The Clarinda A's organization is excited to start our 59th year. Ongoing improvements are happening at Municipal Stadium/Eberly Field and several special/free nights/promotions have been planned for the summer.

Thanks to all who have made previous years a success and who work hard now to bring good baseball to Clarinda, Iowa.

It takes teamwork to get things done, so thank you to everyone involved. I invite

## Local Hall of Famer Millhone dies



JIM MILLHONE

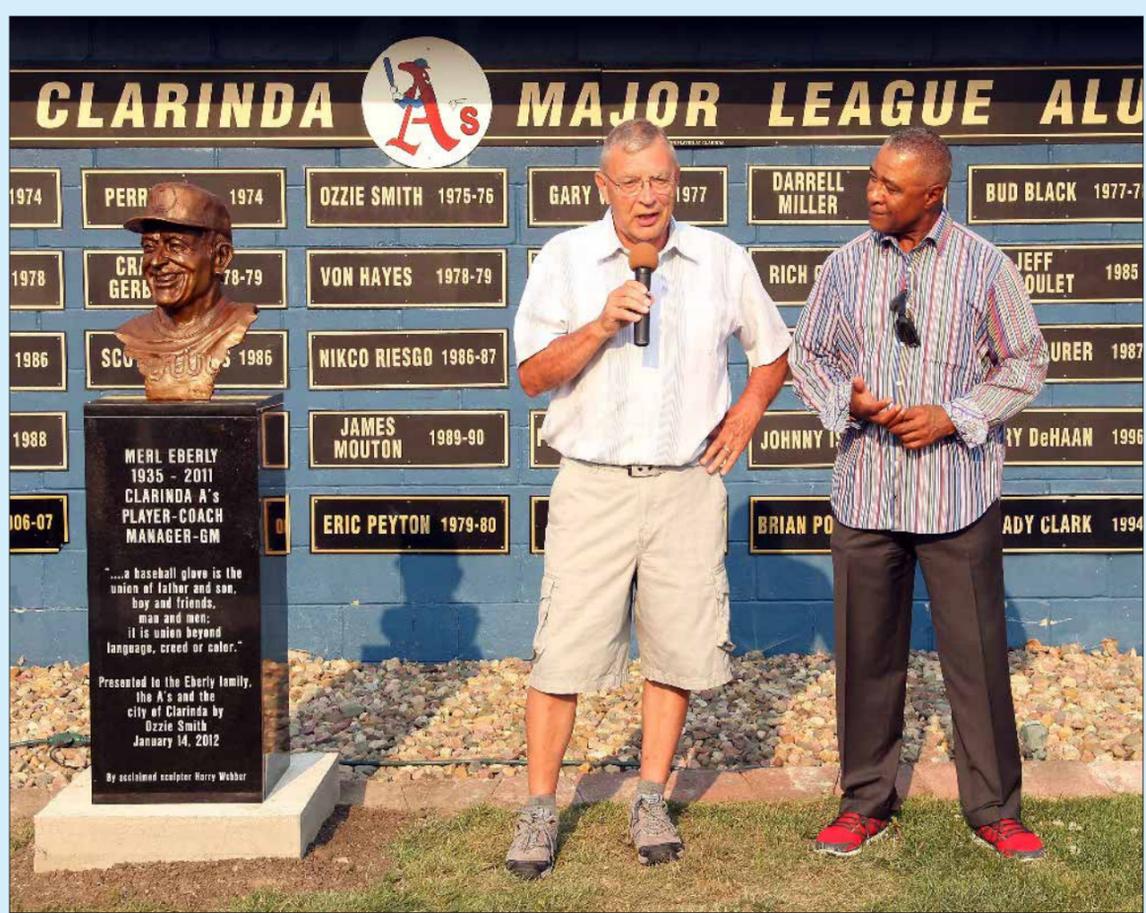
Jim Millhone, a local attorney died in Omaha May 15. He had been associated with the A's program from its inception, except for a few years when in his early career took him to other locations before returning to Clarinda to establish his law practice.

He was a member of the first High School team when baseball was reinstated as a varsity sport in 1954 and won the Hawkeye 8 championship in its inaugural year and played with the A's till his college days were over, joining the team again when he came back to town. Following his playing days Millhone was a member of the A's board of directors, serving in many capacities, being secretary till just two years ago.

He was inducted into the A's Hall of Fame in 1985 in recognition of his playing and support of not just the A's, but his involvement in many community and church activities.

**Clarinda A's Baseball Clinic will be held May 28-30, 9:30-noon each day. Registration can still be made. Forms are at the Lied Center.**

## Renovations and improvements continue



One of the events last year was the placement of the Eberly bust on a granite base - Mayor Gordon Kokenge and Ozzie Smith are shown at its dedication in June. (File photo by Clarinda Herald-Journal)

Each year brings its own needs for improvements and refurbishing and this year has been no exception. A late summer storm wiped out the right centerfield fence and it has been replaced by the city, as well as the wooden fence running from the restrooms to the left field corner has been taken down and replaced with chain link. The A's will be replacing the blue windscreens along the entire west side of the outer fencing and have replaced the doors on the concession stand and the club house.

Drought last year took a toll on the evergreens on the west area running south and plans are underway to take those affected out and do some type of replacement. Trees Forever replaced a tree that had died last year south of the concession stand & will bring needed shade to that area. Some sodding and repair of the underground watering system has also been done this spring.

With both the A's and the High School using the field, it is important to keep the facility in good repair and attractive. There is much activity on the entire baseball/softball complex and even during the off season there is traffic which stops to see the Ozzie Smith and Danny Gans displays, the list of former A's players who have or are playing in the majors, the Hall of Fame list, the display of the 1981 National Championship team, the Memorial Rock and the bust of Merl Eberly which was placed there last season.

There is an A's field improvement fund to which Millie Jensen had made a donation earlier this year toward the door replacement project and we certainly welcome any donations to help keep Municipal Stadium a place to be proud of.

## Season tickets a real bargain



A's season tickets can be purchased at the gate when you come to the games, at J's Pizza or by contacting Pat Eberly (712) 542-4272.

Again this year the prices will be the same - Family - \$25 and Adult \$15. Admission for a single game is \$2 for adults, with students

K-12 admitted free. This is a real bargain as there are 32 games on 30 home dates.

A's board president Gary Ulmer stated, "We try to keep the cost down to encourage people to come to the park - it is a great place to enjoy and evening of visiting & seeing some great baseball at the same time."

## Special dates and events

Free nights scheduled this year include Wednesday, June 5, sponsored by the Clarinda Chamber of Commerce; Wednesday, June 12, Subway; Wednesday, June 12, Hy-Vee and Wednesday, July 3, Clarinda Academy.

There will be a color guard for the 1:00 Memorial Day game as well as the July 3 fireworks night. Some new promotions have been added this season with Hat Night Sunday, June 2 - the first 100 paid admission (or season ticket holder) and children accompanied by an adult will receive an A's hat; the A's management will be contacting the Little League & traveling team coaches to set up a date for their team to be recognized on a Wednesday or Sunday game night, with the players going with the A's players as they take the field before the National Anthem; on Sunday's games, the A's will be wearing special camouflage hats with the A's emblem having a flag pattern on it. They also invite veterans as well as active members of the military to come to the games on Sunday as guests, asking them to register at the gate so they can be recog-

nized at the end of the 5th inning each night. The A's will also play a game in Shenandoah June 16, sponsored by their Optimists Club

Parents Week is scheduled for July 1-5 with a picnic to be held at the Clarinda Lutheran School July 4 for the visiting parents, players, houseparents, A' board and auxiliary. This always gives the A's a chance to thank the parents for sharing their sons with us for the summer and for them to get acquainted with the houseparents and our community.

Hy-Vee will again sponsor the Hy-Vee toss where two people will be selected each night for the opportunity to win a \$100 gift card. Baseball Bingo will also be played at each game, it is free and the numbers are based on the performance of the batters in the home half of each inning.

There will be a lot of exciting baseball this year and many other activities at the family friendly Municipal Stadium/Eberly Field - come out and join the fun. PLAY BALL!

Proud to support the Clarinda A's

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We're Cheering for a Home-Run Season!

Good Luck to the Clarinda A's

We know you have the talent and the heart, so now we're wishing you the luck for a season that hits it out of the park. Go, team!

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