



## ***As a company, CSN Chicago wins 2016 Jerome Holtzman Award***

*By George Castle, CBM Historian  
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Comcast Sports Net Chicago is turning out to be a skilled video baseball history professor.

For the second time in three years, CSN Chicago is the recipient of the Jerome Holtzman Award for service to Chicago's baseball history, presented at the Pitch and Hit Club's 70<sup>th</sup> annual banquet Sunday, Jan. 31.

The only continuous area off-season baseball dinner/awards ceremony since the 1940s, the banquet will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, on Harlem Avenue just north of Interstate 80. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. with the dinner/awards portion starting at 5:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$100. A table for 10 costs \$750. They can be ordered from Pitch and Hit Club treasurer Bill Motluck at 708/805-1928 or [MotluckW@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:MotluckW@SBCGlobal.net). Tickets also can be ordered via an on-line form at [www.pitchandhitclub.org](http://www.pitchandhitclub.org).

South suburban native Curtis Granderson, who reached the World Series as the New York Mets' right fielder, will receive the Major League Player of the Year Award. Cubs hitting coach John Mallee, a Schererville, Ind. Resident, will be honored with the Major League Coach of the Year Award. Cubs announcer Pat Hughes, marking his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Wrigley Field radio booth, will get the club's Lou Boudreau Hall of Fame inductee. Hughes also again won the Illinois Sportscaster of the Year Award.

Tom Shaer, a longtime CBM supporter and banquet emcee, will receive the Harry Caray Broadcasting Award.

In 2014, three CSN Chicago mainstays won the Holtzman Award, sponsored by the Chicago Baseball Museum, for "5 Outs," a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary special on the star-crossed 2003 Cubs. On-air personality David Kaplan tried his hand at producing to help ace staff pro-



**Phil Bedella, Comcast SportsNet  
Chicago's vice president and general manager.**

ducers Sarah Lauch and Ryan McGuffey, who total 19 Emmy Awards between them, to put together the Cubs documentary.

This year, CSN Chicago is being honored as a company for its overall historical work. The top documentary in 2015 was “Believe: The Story of the 2005 White Sox.” The show, marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the only World Series champion in Chicago since 1917, was the only significant local production last year on the ’05 Sox.

CSN Chicago also had a historical basis for smaller on- and off-the air projects. And the regional sports network chronicled history-in-the-making by taping documentaries on a Major League Baseball tour of Cuba and Cubs manager Joe Maddon’s annual return to hometown Hazleton, Pa. Both were taped just before Christmas. McGuffey helmed the Cuba show while Lauch produced Maddon’s homecoming.

The company is making a habit of being honored at the Pitch and Hit Banquet. In 2015, Patrick Mooney, CSNChicago.com’s “Cubs Insider” writer, garnered the top sportswriter award.

Phil Bedella, the network’s vice president and general manager, does not mind at all making the annual trip to Tinley Park to pick up hardware.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to receive the prestigious Jerome Holtzman Media Award at this year’s Pitch and Hit Club Banquet,” Bedella said.

“Chicago and the Midwest region have some of the most passionate baseball fans in the country. Comcast SportsNet is proud to deliver more than 200 games a year for the Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs to more than four million homes across Chicago and the Midwest.”

But Bedella also points to additional content well beyond daily play-by-play broadcasts.

“It is the expanded baseball coverage that truly sets us apart from all others,” he said. “CSN delivers more than one hour of pre-game and post-game coverage before and after every White Sox and Cubs game and our digital baseball beat writers, Dan Hayes and Patrick Mooney, travel with the team and deliver year-round coverage. In addition, our original content department takes long-form baseball storytelling to another level with documentaries that include ‘5 Outs,’ ‘Believe,’ and now, the unique stories of Jose Abreu’s trip to Cuba and Joe Maddon’s charitable efforts in his hometown of Hazleton, Pa.

“On behalf of everyone at Comcast SportsNet Chicago, I would like to thank Dr. David Fletcher, George Castle, and all the members of the Pitch and Hit Club of Chicago for



**Schererville's John Mallee, the Cubs' hitting coach, is being honored with the Major League Coach of the Year Award.**

this tremendous honor and for all the work they do to expand and grow interest in America's pastime."

Fletcher, president of the Chicago Baseball Museum, is pleased that CSN Chicago goes with the flow of past leading in the present and beyond in the baseball timeline.

"The Comcast SportsNet Chicago continues to excel in producing program content that is rich in historic content that would please the late Jerome Holtzman, who was fittingly MLB's first historian," Fletcher said. "From the gripping drama of 'Believe' to the cutting-edge coverage of baseball's pioneering trip to Cuba in December, CSN Chicago is a leader in honoring both Chicago's baseball past, as well as charting Chicago's baseball future."

Bob Vorwald, production director of WGN-TV, won the Holtzman Award in 2015 for his Wrigley Field 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary special.