



HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT CHICAGO  
HAS MADE TO AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIME

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## BERNARDONI NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 JEROME HOLTZMAN AWARD



(CHICAGO, IL – December 21, 2009) The **Chicago Baseball Museum and The Pitch & Hit Club of Chicago** is pleased to announce this year's recipient of the **Jerome Holtzman Award** is **Brian Bernardoni**. Each year, the Award is presented to the person who reflects the values and spirit of its Hall of Fame namesake and who has made what is deemed to be the most significant contribution to the promotion of Chicago baseball and the preservation of its history and tradition. The Award was established in 2008 and its recipients are recognized each year at the annual **Pitch & Hit Club of Chicago Awards Banquet**.

The Pitch & Hit Club, founded in 1942, holds this annual banquet to honor baseball people at all levels, including players, coaches, umpires, executives and media. It is the longest running and only industry-wide winter baseball banquet in the Chicago area. Proceeds from the dinner benefit worthy baseball causes including Cubs Care, White Sox Charities and the Professional Baseball Scouts Association. This year Hall of Famer Ferguson Jenkins will be the featured speaker and Ryne Sandberg will join Fergie atop the list of baseball royalty at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet on **Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** at the **Donald E. Stephens Convention Center** in Rosemont, IL. WGN radio's Dave Kaplan will emcee this year's dinner and many Major League celebrities will be on hand for autographs prior to the dinner, including: Billy Pierce, Ron Kittle, Eric Soderholm, Bill Campbell, Randy Myers, Dave Otto, Gene Hiser and others. For more information or for tickets, **visit [www.pitchandhitclub.org](http://www.pitchandhitclub.org)**.

"Brian's diligence and leadership in increasing awareness of the rich history of West Side Grounds and its legacy in Chicago baseball history as the site of the Cubs last and only two World Championships with a marker on these hallowed grounds fits the mission of the Chicago Baseball Museum," said Dr. David J. Fletcher, founder and president of the Chicago Baseball Museum and the first recipient of the Jerome Holtzman Award.

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“The West Side Grounds marker on Woods Street in the Medical District is way out in left field—the actual left field for the West Side Grounds—and sits in front of the neuropsychiatric unit of University of Illinois. His creation of the “Way Out in Left Field Society” honors the cultural impact of Chicago Baseball on our nation with the lexicon of ‘Way Out in Left Field’.”

Bernardoni, along with his colleague Michael Reischl, worked tirelessly to make sure history was remembered when they coordinated efforts and successfully achieved a historic marker at the location of the West Side Grounds, where the Chicago Cubs played (1885-1915). The location of West Side Grounds was forgotten to all but the most diligent researchers until earlier this decade when the Way Out In Left Field Society sought out to mark its location. On a regular basis, you will find Bernardoni telling the colorful story of the development of Wrigley Field to fans as a Wrigley Field tour guide, as he has for the last 11 seasons. He has contributed his knowledge to several books including: The Cultural Encyclopedia of Baseball, Haunted Baseball, Classic Cubs – A Tribute to the Men and Magic of Wrigley Field, Hoodoo: Unraveling the 100-Year Mystery of the Chicago Cubs and Living the Dream – An Inside Account of the 2008 Cubs Season; as well as in the film “We Believe”. Brian seeks to continue his efforts with the remaining “lost ballparks” of Chicago.

Bernardoni serves on multiple community and business committees and boards, including the Chicago Baseball Museum Advisory Board. He is a resident of the City of Chicago in the Little Italy community and is regarded by many as a powerful voice on real estate matters in Chicago; serving as the senior director of governmental affairs and public policy of the Chicago Association of REALTORS®. At his side cheering for the Cubs, you will find his wife Carrie and their three daughters Genevieve, a sixth grader; Cecilia, age 2, and Olivia, age 1.

## **ABOUT THE CHICAGO BASEBALL MUSEUM AND JEROME HOLTZMAN MUSEUM LIBRARY & RESEARCH CENTER**

The Chicago Baseball Museum and Jerome Holtzman Museum Library & Research Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that will collect, preserve, document, and interpret artifacts and events that are associated with the legacy, evolution and contemporary life of Chicago baseball. The Jerome Holtzman Library & Research Center will serve as the focus for Chicago baseball history in the Museum. The CBM will strive to become the central network for baseball in Chicago to celebrate and promote baseball. The CBM is poised to become the home base of Chicago baseball for kids and adults.

The Museum is soliciting endowment funding for the building of the Chicago Baseball Museum and the Jerome Holtzman Museum Library & Research Center. Please visit the Museum’s website for more information or to offer your support.

For more information, visit [www.chicagobaseballmuseum.org](http://www.chicagobaseballmuseum.org) or call (708) 907-5301.

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