

**Nominations for the 2011
Madison Area Service Clubs Olympics**

2011 OLYMPIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Olympian of the Year Award is presented to a person in the Greater Madison area who, over the years, has given freely of his/her time to further athletics in the Greater Madison area.

Criteria for consideration for the award should include:

- ✓ A person who lives in the Greater Madison area.
- ✓ What has the person contributed and/or given back to the community.
- ✓ What activities involving athletics has the person been associated with and what role did the person undertake with respect to these activities.
- ✓ What accomplishments were achieved.
- ✓ What time did the individual contribute, including span and quality of time.
- ✓ What was the impact of the Nominee's activities on youth.

Award Nominee's Name:	Robert Ruhland	
Nominee's Address:	5792 Lacy Rd. Fitchburg, W.	
Nominee's Phone / E-mail	Pinboster@charter.net	608-274-4857
Employer:	Retired	
Employer Address:		
Work Phone / E-mail		
Nominating Party: If Service Club, Name:	Breakfast Optimist Club of Madison Inc	
Contact Person:	Dick Anderson	
Phone Number / E-mail	608-233-6435	Kathryna5002@gmail.com
If former Award Winner, Name:		
Phone Number / E-mail		

Please complete this page and remainder of document, print off

and return by June 6th, 2011, to:

Award Nominee's Name

Robert "Bob" Ruhland

Address:

5792 Lacy Rd. Fitchburg, WI 53711

Home Phone:

608-274-4857

Cell Phone:

608-770-4857

Employer:

Retired (Previously worked for the State)
Transporter for Hertz - retirement gig

E-Mail

Pinbuster@charter.net

Contributions to the Community:

- Bob taught 8th grade CCD classes at St. Bernard's, Madison for several years.
- He headed the Liturgy Commission at St. Bernard's, Madison for 2 years.
- He has been a Commentator at St. Bernard's Madison and St. Maria Goretti for 46 years.
- In 1972, Bob was awarded the Optimist of the Year Award by Optimist International for Outstanding Contributions to his Community. He was a member of Optimist Club of Northeast, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Some of his contributions that year: Was actively involved with the Optimist Oratorical Contest where he worked with a High School Student (Roger Ebert) on writing and presenting a speech in the presence of an audience. Competition was against other service clubs. Roger advanced and placed second in the competition.
- Also, Bob was the Northeast Optimist Club representative for a Cub Scout Pack that the club actively sponsored. He attended several scout meetings to show support from the club.
- The club sponsored a little league baseball team which Bob and another member of the club coached.
- The club yearly sponsored the High School Cross Country Banquet which was held at the East Side Business Men's Association. Bob's job was to organize and get guest speakers. (Dan McClimon was speaker one year). He also was able to get another UW head coach (Bill Perrin) prior to Dan becoming the head coach.
- Also, during Bob's tenure with the club, he wrote the weekly news bulletin for the club and served as vice-president before leaving because of job responsibilities.

Description of the athletic activities and the Nominee's role with respect to those activities:

- For several years Bob coached the St. Maria Goretti grade school softball A team in the parochial softball league sponsored by Henry Busch.
- He took the team to Cleveland two consecutive years to watch a weekend of baseball.
- Bob coached little league baseball at McGaw Park in Fitchburg for 3 years.
- Bob also assisted with Junior Bowling Programs in the city of Madison, providing instructional help and running tournaments. He did this for 5-6 years.
- In 2010, he helped start a softball league for over 55 year-old adults known as the Greater Madison Senior Softball League.

What accomplishments were achieved as a result of the Nominee's involvement?

- His team won the parochial league softball tournament his last year of coaching.
- The young man Bob worked with placed second in the Oratorical Contest for Service Clubs in the area.
- When he coached baseball in Fitchburg, Bob had a Russian boy (Demetrius) on the team, who had never played baseball in his life. He would come by Bob's house and ask to go and practice. Bob and he worked on his catching of a baseball and hitting technique. One of the highlights of the year was when he caught a fly ball and got his first base hit. You could see flashing beams coming from his smile.
- Bob's own son, Matthew, is one of the top Adult Bowlers in the City of Madison, having recorded eight 300 games and four 800 series.

Summary of time period of involvement

- CCD classes at St. Bernard's Madison 1 hr a week for 7 months – several years
- Chair of Liturgy commission at St. Bernard's 1 hr a month – 2 years
- Northeast Optimist Club: 1971-72 4 hours a week
- Softball coach at Goretti: Practiced 3 time a week for 1 ½ months 6 hours.
Games played another 1 ½ hours 3 hours a week – 6 years
- Fitchburg Coach Practiced one a week/2 hours
Games/twice a week 3 hours. – 3 years

Quality of Time examples:

- Nominee's involvement was as total volunteer for all activities which was a time commitment.

What was the impact of the Nominee's activities on youth?

- Not sure what impact Bob had on youth, but he sees the parents of some of the youths he worked with who speak highly of Bob's influence.
- Bob will run into students he had in CCD classes. Bob indicates it is so nice to talk to them about their families. In fact, just the other night when he was having dinner one of his students recognized him. Bob hadn't seen her in 33 years.
- In Baseball and softball, Bob still sees several of the parents and asks on how their boys are doing. They often talk about the Cleveland trips. Bob indicated he has many precious memories of times spent with the boys.
- Bob's coaching and involvement with youth over the years has helped those youth to mature and grow by having a leader who taught them sports and life fundamentals.

Other Comments:

- Bob is a member of the Madison Bowling Association Hall of Fame, inducted in 1994. He has been on the Madison Bowling Association Board of Directors since 1994 serving on several committees and is the Director of Research for the MBA Hall of Fame. He does all the research, verifies all statistical data, and prepares Hall of Fame profiles for nominees.
- Bob has competed in 42 Consecutive United States Bowling Congress Tournaments, traveling to a different city each year. Currently, this is the longest streak among active Madison Bowlers.
- Bob is Co-Founder along with Raymond Blum of the Greater Madison Senior Softball which opened its season on May 19th of this year. 125 players, 8 teams
- He played competitive fast-pitch softball for Madison Carpets also known as the Farm Tavern in the 60's and 70's. Won a State Championship.
- Bob has been a High School WIAA baseball official for 21 years. This also includes the Legion programs during the summer as well as being a baseball official in the MSCR program for 22 years.
- He was selected to work WIAA Spring State Tournament in 1996 and 1997.
- Bob also assigns baseball officials for the Middleton, Edgewood, Sun Prairie, Madison West summer legion programs.