

The Leader

A newsletter for benefactors, alumni, and friends of Saint Mary's University



SMUMN.EDU

Spring Issue, 2018

Baseball alumni go to bat for clubhouse at Saint Mary's University

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota will break ground this April on a new \$704,000 baseball clubhouse, made possible by a generous lead gift from an alumnus.

In honor of his experiences at Saint Mary's, both in school and on the field, particularly under the guidance of Hall of Fame Coach Max Molock, Marc Weisenburger '75 of Plymouth, Minn., made the lead gift toward the 2,500-square-foot facility, which will be located on the south side of the Gostomski Fieldhouse. The clubhouse will include:

- a locker room with 46 locker stalls
- a players' lounge with spaces for athletes to study, have team meetings, and enjoy quiet time
- big screen TVs, a ping pong table, and gaming area
- a coaches' space
- bathrooms and a shower facility
- a laundry facility
- storage

The clubhouse will be named "Pudge's Place" after Weisenburger's nickname from his playing days as a catcher with the Saint Mary's baseball team from 1971 to 1975.

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Weisenburger said he was inspired by the way benefactors supported the university's new Science and Learning Center. "People are willing to get behind something if they see others forging ahead," he said. "I wanted to see how Saint Mary's baseball program could have a difference maker. I wanted to see what we could create that would differentiate Saint Mary's baseball program from other MIAC baseball programs. This creates value around the baseball program, and it allows us to compete against larger schools with bigger budgets.

"In the end, when you see a student's excitement, it could be a difference maker for a student to want to be part of the legacy created by Max Molock during his 42 years of leading the baseball program," Weisenburger added. "That's always the foundation. It always gets back to Max and the foundation he created. That's what makes it special, but you have to continue to invest in the tradition."

Nick Winecke '07, associate athletic director and head coach of the Saint Mary's baseball team, called the new addition to Cardinal athletic facilities "a game changer."

"This clubhouse will help us competitively," Winecke said. "It will be something very special to Saint Mary's. The opportunity to differentiate ourselves in a positive way and give our athletes a space they can use year-round to study in, and to learn from one another in, and to grow in is a big thing."

Winecke is also proud that of the 46 lockers to be located in Pudge's Place, 37 have been funded, and 42 are reserved by Saint Mary's alumni athletes, many of whom have graduated within the past 10 years. The cost to sponsor a locker was set at \$2,000, but several alumni, Winecke said, have made gifts over the minimum sponsorship amount — further proof that Saint Mary's alumni cherish their experiences and want to help future student-athletes have the same great experience.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," Winecke said, adding that "the clubhouse is part of a bigger plan for enhancing Saint Mary's athletics, and another welcomed and visible example of what is possible on campus when generous benefactors contribute to athletic facilities and programs."

Ultimately, Winecke said, the clubhouse project is possible because of Weisenburger's passion for Saint Mary's. "Marc has been a big supporter of our program for the past 10 years," he said. "It's about developing people, and this is one way he believes he can help us develop strong leaders."

Anyone wishing to contribute to the baseball clubhouse is invited to contact Winecke at nwinecke@smumn.edu or 507-457-7231. They can also donate online at smumn.edu/giving.



Baseball alumni pay it forward with new clubhouse

Although separated by more than 40 years, their stories aren't all that different.

It's true that the team name has changed. Marc Weisenburger '75 played for the Redmen and by the time Willie Doll '16 donned a jersey, it was for the Cardinals.

And it's true that they had different majors and played different positions. Weisenburger was an accounting major and a catcher at Saint Mary's; Doll, a biology major and an outfielder.

But both players saw success in the classroom, and on the ballfield.

Weisenburger was part of the MIAC championship title in 1972, was team captain in 1975, and he earned All-Conference honors for three years.

Doll was a three-time All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference selection and earned All-Region and Third-Team All-American honors during his senior season.

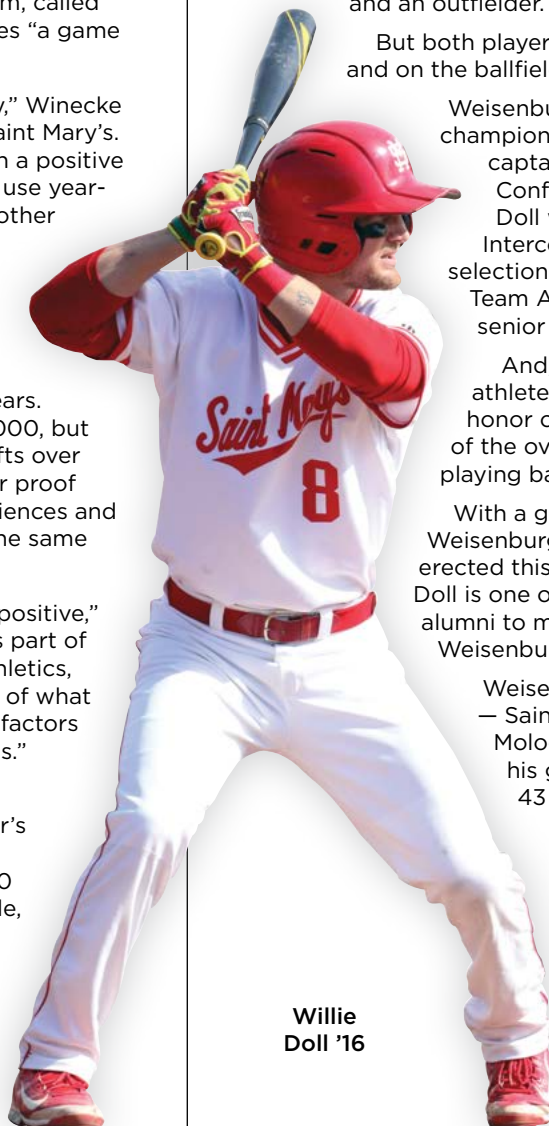
And, ultimately, both alumni baseball athletes have chosen to give back in honor of their coaches, and in recognition of the overall experience they both had playing baseball at Saint Mary's.

With a generous lead donation from Weisenburger, a baseball clubhouse will be erected this spring on the Winona Campus. Doll is one of approximately 40 young alumni to make generous pledges to further Weisenburger's dream.

Weisenburger's coach and mentor — Saint Mary's legendary coach Max Molock — was the major inspiration for his gift. Molock coached baseball for 43 seasons before retiring in 1983.

According to Weisenburger, Molock taught his players to work hard for their goals, to be frugal (yet spend the necessary money, time, and effort on things that matter most), and the importance of religion, family, and paying it forward.

"I have learned as much about leadership because of my involvement in baseball



Willie Doll '16



Saint Mary's baseball alumni including Marc Weisenburger '75 (front row, center left) are funding a new clubhouse.

as I have in business," Weisenburger said. Weisenburger went on to earn his CPA certificate and have a successful career as a chief financial

officer for Security Products Company, which was recently acquired by Convergent Technologies.

"I arrived at Saint Mary's as a boy and left a man ... my experiences as a Saint Mary's student-athlete shaped who I am and Max Molock was one of the most influential people in my life as a coach, teacher, and most importantly, a mentor," he added. "Fundamentals — whether in the game of baseball or in life — were the cornerstone of his teachings. My promise to Max the day I left school over 40 years ago continues to guide my life today ... to teach those same fundamentals he taught me to young men who wanted to learn the game of baseball. It is my hope that Max's legacy and the tradition of paying it forward will continue. For those he touched, we know what it means to 'do it the right way'."

Doll's sentiments echo Weisenburger's.

"The baseball program has done so much for me," Doll said. "I enjoyed my time there. I had a very special relationship with (Coach Nick) Winecke and all my teammates. I wouldn't change my four years at all. I know building this clubhouse would mean a lot to (Winecke) and the program. I definitely want to give back, and I'm glad I can do something to help the future of the program."

After graduating, Doll played professional baseball with the Santa Fe Fuego team, and he has since signed with the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks. He's also a lead generator with Bio-Teche during the off season.

Doll also said the skills he has learned on the field have helped him in his career, both by instilling an ethic of hard work, and by learning the true meaning of teamwork.

"Coach Winecke wanted us to become good people, not just good baseball players," he said, adding, "You can't expect to be great at something without putting in the work. That's how I live my life and that's what I've learned from baseball. If you want something, you have to go after it."

Grateful alumna gives back

For Julianne Bartosz '13, giving back to her alma mater comes in many forms. For the past five years the Chicago-area native has been generous with her time, talent, and financial gifts. As the manager of public relations for Major League Baseball's Chicago White Sox, she says she'll always be grateful for the opportunities and the career preparation Saint Mary's offered her.

"Saint Mary's helped prepare me for the real world more than I could have ever imagined. I couldn't have been as involved at any other school," said Bartosz. "I could try new things and have new experiences. But I knew if I failed or started to drown, I had such an incredibly supportive community behind me that would help me bounce right back."

It was the opportunity to play both Cardinal softball and hockey that brought her to Saint Mary's, and helped get her to where she is today. Bartosz started in public relations with the Sox in 2013 as an intern, was hired as coordinator less than a year later, and was just recently promoted to manager.

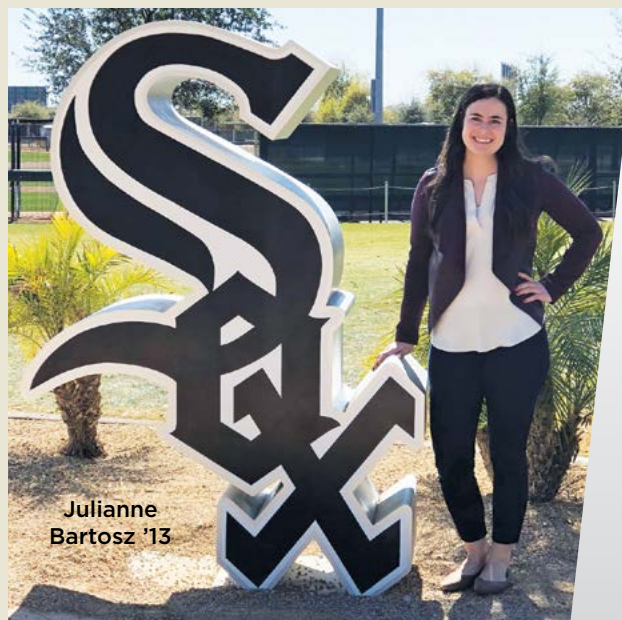
Bartosz explained that public relations and media relations are split with the Sox. Public relations covers all things "off the field" (charity efforts, new food at the ballpark, ticket initiatives, corporate partners, events, theme nights, appearances, multicultural community outreach, etc.), while media relations covers what happens on the field (player statistics, trades, acquisitions, injuries, etc.).

"I love how every day is different. We have recurring programs each year but each one has its own stories, focuses, and challenges," said Bartosz. "I love the fast-paced environment and the wide range of responsibilities."

Bartosz says it can be a challenge to keep all the balls in the air. But she has a proven track record of staying on top of things. While at Saint Mary's, Bartosz excelled at a long list of activities, including athletics and academics. She double-majored in Spanish and public relations and double-minored in English and business.

One way Bartosz stays involved with her alma mater is through her position on the Saint Mary's Alumni Board. She will soon start her third year as an alumni board member, and is wrapping up her first year as chair of the engagement committee.

"Being on the alumni board is really interesting," Bartosz said. "I feel like a lot of alumni don't have a direct tap into Saint Mary's, so it's fun getting to be that messenger and keeping them informed about what's happening in a more casual way."



Julianne Bartosz '13

Alumni board members meet in-person each quarter. They help brainstorm new ways to fundraise, spread the word about events, engage alumni, share job and internship opportunities, work with the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, arrange speakers and panels, and much more.

Bartosz will forever be grateful for her Saint Mary's experience. She knows that every dollar donated and every minute spent volunteering counts. She recently donated in honor of her upcoming five-year class anniversary.

"I know whether it's time or money I'm contributing, it's being used to make a difference," said Bartosz. "Hopefully, a difference in a student's life like Saint Mary's did for me."