

# The Gazette



**Volume 20, No. 1**

**Delano, Minnesota**

**Friday, July 29**

## Banquet kicks off 91st Legion Baseball tourney

The 2016 Division I American Legion State Baseball Tournament kicked off Thursday night with a banquet at the Tiger Activity Center in Delano.

Over 500 were in attendance and heard featured speaker Mike Maxx, television and radio sports announcer, talk about what it takes to be a winner.

“Baseball gives you a skill set you can use the rest of your life. You fail so much, and it’s so grueling, you can’t be good at it unless you’re tough.”

Maxx, who played Legion ball as a teenager and continued

to play baseball into his 40s, said players need to focus on what they can control.

“It comes down to attitude and effort. If you master those two, you will have success no matter what you do. And here’s the good news, you can control both.”

Maxx paid tribute to The American Legion and to veterans who have preserved our nation, and its national pastime.

The banqueteers also saw three individuals go into the Minnesota Legion Baseball Hall of Fame: State Baseball Director Mike Perry of Minnetonka,

Vice Director Mike Gort of Marshall, and Carl “Red” Wyczawski of New Ulm.

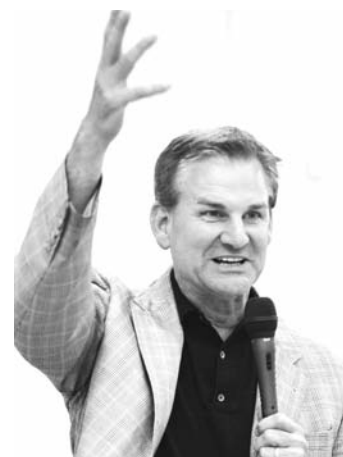
Wyczawski, 90, predicted that two or three players in the room would make it to the Major Leagues.

Luther Door accepted a plaque noting Princeton Post 216 as Post of the Year.

Greg Nesbitt of Prior Lake was named American Legion Coach of the Year.

The Polish White Eagle, Dick Jonckowski, was the emcee.

Rev. Al Eilen gave the invocation.



**Mike Maxx**

## Division I tourney play begins today at 4 sites

Sixteen teams have gathered in Delano to compete to be one of two teams that will advance to the American Legion Baseball Regional next week.

The teams will play a double-elimination format with the championship games on Monday at Delano’s Municipal Field. Games on Friday will also be played at Zitzloff Field

in Delano, Arnold Klaers Field in Loretto and Irish Stadium in Maple Lake.

The sixteen contenders are: Waconia, Rochester Patriots, Edina, Woodbury Blue, St. Paul Hamline, Little Falls, Fairmont, Wayzata, Champlin, Eastview, Bemidji, Forest Lake, Princeton, Grand Rapids, Maple Grove and host Delano.

The Regional will be played in Bismarck, N.D., and the winner of that tourney will advance to the World Series in Shelby, North Carolina.

The Division II Tournament is being played at LeSueur-Henderson, also this weekend.

Minnesota has the largest number of teams on any state in American Legion Baseball with

326.

The largest schools participate in Division I and the smaller school in Division II.

Last year’s state champions were Wayzata in Division I and Foley in Division II. There is also a junior program for younger players.

This is the first state Legion tournament held in Delano.



The Soul Sisters belted out the National Anthem at the opening ceremony on Thursday afternoon in Delano.



Big (6-3, 200 lbs.) Joe Bernard of Princeton won the home run derby with 19 blasts. Grand Rapids won the skills contest.