



## Jorgensen Wins MVP

Unlike first two awards, this voting not close

Mishawaka 11/1/2005

TJ Jorgensen, designated hitter and first baseman, won the Zolman Tire/Street Kids Softball team Most Valuable Player award Monday, taking in 74% of the total votes. Randy Krill finished a distant second with 12% of the votes while Dan Garey, Joe Richard and Robbie Hurt all tallied 4% each.

"It's nice to be honored by your teammates," said Jorgensen. "When you're known for basically being a DH, it's hard to get the attention a lot of players who also stand out defensively get. The other voters who read the web site or have played with me or our team on other nights probably voted mainly on stats, but when your teammates vote for you, it feels nice."

Jorgensen, who began his first full season of softball with the Street Kids in 1997, led the team this season in batting (.659), home runs (37), RBI's (102), walks (22), hits (91) and games (43).

"His stats speak for themselves," says Joe Richard, a teammate since 2000. "He's the heart and soul of our offense and when he is on defense he is a key mouth piece."

"His powerful offense offsets his somewhat defense," added Tony Hardiman. "I thought it could go to Randy or TJ, but I'm glad TJ won. He deserved it."

"I know that Jorgensen's glove has more holes than swiss cheese," said a comical Bill Hayes, a teammate of Jorgensen's for nine years and friend of over 20 years. "but the offensive numbers are hard to discount. How many games would have been won without him in the lineup? Not too many."

Other people felt it would be difficult to award Jorgensen the MVP because he is primarily a one dimensional (offensive) player.

"I felt Robbie was a good MVP candidate," said team owner Xave Creary. "I had TJ in my David Ortiz category, where it's hard for a DH to win MVP. Robbie played consistently all season, never complained no matter where he batted in the lineup or on the field. But we do play an offensive game, and TJ is a major part of our offense."

"If we played in the majors, I think it would be hard for TJ to win the MVP," said a teammate that wanted to remain anonymous. "Baseball is such a complete game where one man cannot make a major difference. I've seen TJ knock in 10-12 runs a night at times, and single handedly defeat a team. From a softball standpoint, he's our MVP."

"Honestly, I think Robbie had the MVP locked up until the final two weeks of the season," Jorgensen said. "He and I battled all season for the batting title, and with three weeks remaining, he actually took the lead. He had my vote. But he struggled down the stretch and if it was not for guys like Dave Morrical, Ryan Harlacher, Chad Doan and myself, we may not have pulled out that undefeated season."

Hurt indeed was one of the most consistent players this season, earning a nomination for the Comeback Player of the Year award, eventually won by Dave Morrical. His ability to play multiple positions put him in the same class as Krill, who stepped up big in the fall session as pitcher and helped lead the team to the fall league championship.

But when all the hoopla and hollaring is done and the season is wrapped up, it still comes down to a team effort. Every person on the team played a role at one time or another. Winning the MVP, in Jorgensen's eyes, does not mean anything except respect.

"I appreciate the respect from my teammates, but I can remember all season where someone on this team stepped up and had a huge hit to win us a game or give us the lead at some time. We're all MVP's at one time or another."

Jorgensen will be honored at this week's banquet.



Jorgensen dominated the offense for the Zolman Tire/SK team this season, winning the triple crown while drawing a team high 22 walks.

