

Bend, Ind. 3. Sure Things Indianapolis/Louisville/Atlanta 4. Homeboys - Barcelona, Spain 5. Weasels – Indianapolis 6. Blue Ribbon Babies - Bloomington, Ind. 7. Looney Wiffles – New Carlisle, Ind. 8. Dream Team II - Mishawaka, Ind. 9. Mike’s Meatheads - North Vernon, Ind. and 10. Fight the Power - Annapolis, Md. The World Wiffle®Ball Championship holds its 25th annual tournament on July 31. The silver anniversary milestone again marks Mishawaka’s sports institution as the world’s oldest Wiffle®ball tournament. Dick Bottorff again sings “Back Home Again in Indiana,” this time changing the words from “along the Wabash” to “along the ole’ St. Joe.” Ben Downey is the 23rd (and second youngest) player named to the World Wiffle®ball Hall-of-Fame. Playing in his 30th tourney (including regional events), Mark “Gator” Waumans, the all-time mythical homerun champ, hits his 400th homerun. ‘Club Ripped’ of Munster, Indiana wins the 25th Annual World Wiffle®Ball Championship, defeating the ‘Funky Plastic Offspring.’ After 25 years, the directors of the oldest and largest Wiffle®ball tournament in the world

turn the event itself over to Rich Carrasco and the Children’s Campus of Mishawaka, Indiana’s Family and Children’s Center. Some of the organization’s highlights to date include:

- 1980 - The first World Wiffle®Ball Championship is held in Mishawaka, Indiana.
- 1987 - *Sports Illustrated* staff writer Franz Lidz plays in the 8th Annual tournament.
- 1990 - Hall of Fame established (see bottom of “History” page). Regional tournaments begin breaking out nationwide.
- 1994 - The first regional tournament is held west of the Mississippi, in Eugene, Oregon.
- 1998 - Barcelona, Spain hosts the first World Wiffle®Ball Championship–Europe.
- 2002 - The Championship hosts a record 63 teams at Mishawaka, Indiana’s Rose Park.
- 2004 - *ESPN the Magazine* features the tournament in its August 2 issue.
- 2004 - The tournament celebrates its 25th Anniversary.



2005

Commissioner Rich Carrasco successfully runs Wiffle®Ballin’ for Kids, a huge new charity tournament for the Children’s Campus of Mishawaka, Indiana’s Family and Children’s Center. The ‘Blue Ribbon Builders’ take a record seventh world championship.

2006

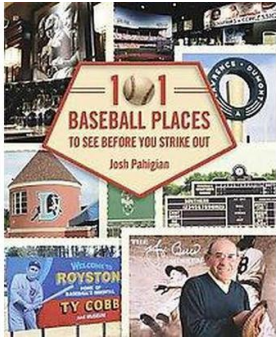
‘Club Ripped’ wins their second world title, defeating seven-time champion, the ‘Blue Ribbon Builders.’ Forty-nine teams compete in the charity event.

2007

The ‘Funky Plastic Offspring’ of Mishawaka take the 28th Annual World Wiffle®Ball Championship, rolling through the 50-team, two day tournament undefeated, knocking off Elkhart, Indiana’s ‘Whiff This.’ The ‘Offspring’ carry fifth man and captain Mike Schuster, 46, to his second world championship in twenty-three years (see 1985).

2008

John Arndt of New Carlisle, Ind., is the 24th player named to the World Wiffle®Ball Championship Hall-of-Fame. After 29 tournaments, co-founder Larry Grau hits a home run in his last at bat and promptly retires. Grau won three World Titles, ran the 1984 tournament and is a charter member of the Hall-of-Fame. Mishawaka’s ‘Balco Boys’ successfully run the gauntlet on Sunday, finishing the day by knocking off three former world champions in a row to take the 2008 World Championship. The Commission partners with the Skokie Park District (in Illinois) to form the National Wiffle®Ball Championship. The Chicagoland Wiffle®Ball Championship is held in September 2008, followed by the National



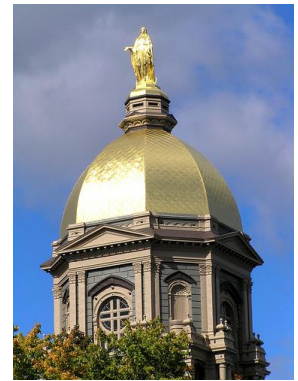
Championship tournament in the summer of 2009. Josh Pahigian's book "101 Baseball Places to See Before You Strike Out" is published by Lyons Press. The book, widely available at bookstores and online, features legendary Rose Park and the World Wiffle®Ball Championship at number 20, along with such places as the baseball hall-of-fame, the field of dreams, the green monster and Wrigleyville.

2009

2008 World Champs Balco Boys defeat two-time World Champion Club Ripped, 3-1 in the first National Wiffle®Ball Championship in Skokie, IL. The Commission names seven new players to its Hall-of-Fame. Inducted are game pioneers Mark Obren, Tim Obren, Tom Obren and players Chris Montgomery, Nathan Barcus, Mike Baniak and Nate Hansen. Finally shaking off the stigma of his famous serving up of the tournament's first female homer (see 1995), Hansen is also named the Player of the Decade for the 2000s. In honor of the tournament's 30th annual event, Marvin Gaye's version of the national anthem makes a comeback after a five-year hiatus. Led by its two new hall-of-famers, Club Ripped defeats NWL Stars of Lake Villa, IL to win their third World Wiffle®Ball Championship over more than 50 teams from around the world.

2010

Amongst the images of Joe Montana, Notre Dame's Golden Dome and Studebaker automobiles, the Barnes and Noble at Mishawaka's University Park Mall features a giant Wiffle®ball tourney image on its wall mural. The Balco Boys take both the National Wiffle®Ball Championship outside of Chicago and the World Wiffle®Ball Championship in Mishawaka, both for the second time. More than 55 teams play in the 31st Annual World Wiffle®Ball Championship, with teams representing 17 states including Texas, California, Georgia and Kansas.



2011

The Funky Plastic Offspring win their second World Championship, after also taking the National Title in Skokie, going 18-0 for the year.

2012

The Funky Plastic Offspring run their win streak to 25, while winning the National Wiffle®Ball Championship. Club Ripped takes their fourth World Championship in Mishawaka three weeks later, making them only the third team in the 33-year history of the tournament to win four or more world championships. Mishawaka's Children's Campus is purchased by another agency, and after eight years, turns the tournament back over to founder Jim Bottorff.

2013

The World Wiffle®Ball Championship moves just north of Chicago, leaving its home in Mishawaka after a grand 33-year run. In those years, thousands of players made the pilgrimage to Indiana's "Center of the Wiffle®Ball Universe" to test their skills, bond with wifflers worldwide and enjoy their favorite childhood pursuit. The Illinois tournament offers a return to pre-2005 rules and a tournament run by Bottorff, the event's original Mishawaka founder and director since 1980, in a partnership with the Skokie Park District. On June 30, the Funky Plastic Offspring win the 34th Annual World Wiffle®Ball Championship at Skokie's Channelside Park (from 2008-12 the home of the National Wiffleball Championship.) It is FPO's third title, with the team's Dan and Randy Schuster going into the Hall-of-Fame during the tournament's opening ceremonies. Also elected to the Hall: organizer Chad Miller, and players John Premetz and Joe Stratton.



2014

Funky Plastic Offspring take their fourth title over Maple City Magic of LaPorte, Ind., on the tournament's 35th Anniversary . Thirty-two teams from 16 states play at Channelside Park, braving two days of mud and rain on July 12-13. A Bob DeLeonardis home run puts him in a tie with Chris Montgomery as the oldest player to go yard, at age 54. [The tournament is featured on ESPN's SportsCenter on July 18.](#)

2015

South Bend, Indiana's Clutch Players end the decade-long dominance of the Big Three (Funky, Balco and Ripped) beating Funky Plastic Offspring in the final, 5-2. Thirty-seven teams from 15 states play at Channelside Park. Eric Wodrich of the Balco Boys and Joel Cyrier of Funky Plastic Offspring are inducted into the hall-of-fame. A Mike Schuster home run puts him in a tie with Bob DeLeonardis and Chris Montgomery as the oldest players to go yard, at age 54. Margaret & Katie Nagai sing a killer version of the tournament's first live rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. The Skokie tournament makes the second edition of "101 Baseball Places to See Before You Strike Out," featuring Channelside Park and the World Wiffle®Ball Championship at number 27.

2016

Forty-two teams from Florida, to New Mexico, to Minnesota, play at Skokie's Channelside Park. The 'Cult West Warriors' beat four-time world champs 'Funky Plastic Offspring' in the final, 4-3. Glenn Duddleson of South Bend, Indiana is inducted into the World Wiffle®Ball Championship Hall-of-Fame on the strength of his six world championships from 1987 to 1993.

2017

The Cult West Warriors defeat the Granger (Indiana) Panthers for their second straight world title. 48 teams from 15 states played in the 38th annual championship in Skokie. A Bob DeLeonardis home run makes him the oldest players to go yard in a tournament, at age 57.