

Umpire dies on diamond he loved

Muskego man collapses on the field while getting ready for game

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Muskego — To the wide-eyed 7- and 8-year-old players in Muskego's pee-wee baseball league, he will always be their favorite umpire, the one they lovingly called "Low Ball Harry."

Harry Udvare, who made a habit of arriving at the ballpark early to arrange the equipment, collapsed on the field and died Friday while getting things ready for another game.

He was found unconscious at his regular diamond, the equipment meticulously assembled nearby. He was pronounced dead a short time later of an apparent heart attack.



Udvare

"It was quite fitting that he died on a baseball field," friend and colleague Glenn Kozicki said. "That's what he loved."

Udvare, 58, had been president of the Muskego Athletic Association for 14 years and a board member for even longer. But it was his work as an umpire that left a lasting impact on hundreds of young ballplayers.

Good-natured critics hung the "Low Ball Harry" nickname on him because of his tendency to award pitchers with strikes on deliveries that were pretty far down in the strike zone.

Jeanie Meinen, whose son played many games umpired by Udvare, said the young competitors appreciated that he was consistent with his calls, and that they knew to



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Memorials are placed on the backstop Monday at a Bay Lane Middle School baseball diamond for Harry Udvare, former president and umpire for the Muskego Athletic Association baseball league. He died Friday.