

# 2008 Gopher State Instructor Bio

## MINNESOTA YOUTH ATHLETIC SERVICES

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**Shawn Vellek**, our keynote speaker for the 2008 clinics, will begin his fourth year as the NSIC Coordinator of Baseball Officials. Vellek has been involved in officiating college baseball for over 20 years and has umpired in more than 26 states throughout the country. As an official, he worked 12 years on the Big Ten umpire staff, and is currently in his third year as a Big Ten conference observer. Working collegiate post season tournaments since 1988, Shawn has umpired 18 conference and 16 regional assignments at the NAIA, DIII, DII and DI levels. Vellek also worked five national championships at the NAIA, DIII and DII levels. Shawn has coordinated collegiate umpire clinics throughout the five state area over the years, and currently is the committee chair for the NWU Inc. Collegiate Umpires Association.

**Jeremy Barbe**, Director of Umpires at the MYAS, will direct the 2008 Gopher State Umpire Training Clinics. Barbe has 20 years of umpiring experience which began when he was 12 years old. In 2000 he graduated from Harry Wendlestedt's Professional Umpire School where he went on to work for five years at professional level before stepping down in 2005. Jeremy had the pleasure to work three championship series in three different leagues (GCL, PL and MWL). Before, during and after professional baseball, he has umpired at the college level (11 yrs), high school (13 yrs), and amateur (seven yrs) levels, covering 19 states throughout the country. In 2005 and 2007 he worked the Class A State Amateur Championship game in Minnesota. Barbe is currently a member of Northwest Umpires.

**Andre Lanoue**, Director of Umpires for St. Paul Municipal Athletics, will assist in our umpire training this season. Lanoue has 19 total years of umpiring experience including college (eight yrs), high school (14 yrs), and amateur (19 yrs) levels. In 1990, Andre graduated from Joe Brinkman's Professional Umpire School. He has since worked two Division III National Championships, one Division II and three Division III Regionals and two MSHSL State Tournaments. Lanoue has been a member of Northwest Umpires since 2001.

**Brandon Jackson** will be another great addition to the umpire training staff. Jackson began his umpiring career in 1992 at the age of 14. With his 16 years of baseball experience, Jackson's umpiring resume includes attending the Jim Evans Professional Baseball Umpire Academy in 2001, umpiring high school baseball (12 yrs), working seven high school state tournaments between Nevada and Minnesota, amateur baseball (13 yrs), with six state tournaments, collegiate baseball umpire (seven yrs), which includes five conference tournaments, three DIII Regionals and one DIII National Championship. Jackson has been a member of Northwest Umpires since 2001.

**Mike Cantone** will join the clinic staff this year. Cantone has been involved in umpiring for over 22 years. In 1988 he graduated from the Joe Brinkman Umpire School where he received a job in professional baseball. He worked for 2 years in the New York Penn League, followed by 12 years of NCAA DI baseball umpiring experience (ECAC, MAAC and the Atlantic 10). Cantone has 14 years umpiring with the High School League, which includes state tournaments and sectional finals. He served four seasons as the Coordinator of Umpires for Roberto Clemente All-Stars in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

