

**Tom Spika**  
**Head Coach**  
**Spikes 04**



Coach Spika has been coaching youth sports for over forty years at various levels. He currently is the Head Coach of the Spikes 12U—04 fastpitch team and is also employed by the WAA as its Director of Fields & Facilities. A graduate of George Williams College with a BS degree in Parks and Recreation Management he was the past Director of Parks & Recreation for the Village of Riverside and the City of Berwyn.

His first time coaching fastpitch softball was in the late 1980's, coaching his oldest daughters team in the Stickney Little League. Instrumental in organizing one of the first softball programs while working for the City of Berwyn he later helped organize Travel softball teams in Plainfield, IL where he and his family moved to. Those teams were the Plainfield Thunder and the Plainfield Edge at a time when very few travel teams were around. Coach Spika was an Assistant softball coach at North Central College in Naperville for a number of years helping his longtime friend Jim Kulawiak. Even after his daughters graduated college and now have families of their own he continues to coach. Many athletes have benefited from his coaching skills not only in softball but also in other sports. His youngest daughter and her classmates had a tremendous high school basketball team partly due to his efforts, organizing them at a young age. Recently that team was inducted in the Plainfield Central HS Hall of Fame.

Past and present athletes have played at Grand Valley State, Kankakee CC, Northern Illinois, Bradley Univ., University of Tenn—Tech, Univ. of Indianapolis, Univ. of ILL—Springfield, Western Ill, Elmhurst College, Millikin College, St. Francis College, Lewis Univ., Indiana Tech, Milwaukee School of Engineering, Univ. of Pittsburgh to name a few.

Coaching fastpitch is a passion of his but more important is his desire to see every player develop into a productive and respectful adult. Softball is played only for a short time in one's life but LIFE SKILLS are forever!