

Beatrice Daily Sun

Bruins program heading for final at-bat

By Jane White/Daily Sun sports editor
Monday, Jul 13, 2009 - 09:42:48 am CDT

After 40 years at the helm of the Beatrice Bruins summer collegiate baseball team, manager Bob Steinkamp has decided to retire and will be disbanding the team at the completion of the current season.

Steinkamp made the official announcement this weekend, but said he's been thinking about quitting for some time.

"I've put in 40 years and my time is done," Steinkamp said. "I have other things I want to do...I have a wonderful family and I want to spend more time with them."

Steinkamp said running the program is time consuming with a lot of work necessary during the off-season, as well as during the summer.

"The thing I still enjoy is the actual coaching of the game," Steinkamp said.

Over the past 40 years, Steinkamp had coached more than 250 players who have gone on to play professional baseball, including 18 who have made it all the way to the Major Leagues.

"It's been a great, great ride," Steinkamp said, "but I made the decision and I'm going to stick with it.

"There won't be a Bruins team in the future."

Steinkamp said the Bruins' home game Tuesday night will be the final appearance for the team at Christenson Field.

"We're hoping to see a lot of friends and neighbors out for the final home game," Steinkamp said.

The Bruins are to play long-time rival the Clarinda, Iowa, A's in a regularly-scheduled game at 7 p.m.

Action, however, will begin Tuesday with completion of last Thursday's suspended game between the Bruins and A's.

The game Thursday was tied at 8 in the bottom of the 12th inning when the lights at Christenson Field went out and the game had to be called.

A final farewell banquet will be held for the Bruins in December, Steinkamp said, with former players invited to come back.

"We're hoping to get Joba Chamberlain and a number of our other former players to attend," Steinkamp said.

Chamberlain, who is currently playing for the New York Yankees, played for the Bruins during the 2004 postseason and the entire 2005 season.

Money raised for this year's banquet will be donated to the Christenson Field lighting fund, Steinkamp said.

Christenson Field has served as the Bruins home since its completion during the 1974 season.

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