

# Umpire follows in grandfather's footsteps

By Greg Kleven

Bryant Broderick's grandfather Emmet "Red" Ormsby became a legendary American League baseball umpire from 1923 to 1942.

So, it seemed only natural for the 54-year-old grandson and longtime Bloomington resident to offer his services as a Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) baseball umpire after he was done coaching his daughter Natalie and son Brendan in youth softball and baseball programs.

Bryant Broderick is enjoying every minute of his umpiring career. And he knows his maternal grandfather would be supportive of his decision to make umpiring a part of his life.

Red Ormsby was known as the umpire with 12 children by American League players. Ormsby got to know Major League Baseball Hall of Famers such as Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb. In fact, Red Ormsby once threw Cobb out of a game after the Detroit Tigers star argued that one of his long drives should have been ruled fair and not foul. Thus, Cobb was deprived of a home run by Red's decision.

And Ormsby treasured a photo of himself taken with the Babe "The Sultan of Swat" Ruth before an American League spring training game in Florida.

"My grandfather loved baseball," said Broderick. "He was a pitcher who developed a strong arm after throwing many grenades during World War I.

"He was well-known and respected around the American League by players and coaches. Red was good enough to be named a umpire for a couple of World Series. He also did a lot of public speaking after his umpiring career ended. I guess my interest in umpiring started with my grandfather."

Broderick enjoyed coaching his daughter and son in youth sports but decided to follow in his grandfather's footsteps.

"I wanted to say involved with the game of baseball after my coaching career and BAA gave me the chance to learn the game from a different angle in 2006," said Broderick. "I umpire about four games per week and that is about how much my sore knees can handle.

"I like umpiring and getting to know the kids. It's fun to see them develop their skills. I do what I can to help them learn the fundamentals."

Umpiring at any level of competition has its challenges. Umpires don't always feel a lot of love from disgruntled parents or fans. But Broderick's experiences with parents has been pleasant.

"After one game, I was headed to the parking lot and saw a woman running towards me trying to get my attention," said Broderick. "My first thought was that she had a complaint on the way I called the game.

"But instead, she told me that whatever I get paid is not enough. She also wanted to let me know that I do a wonderful



Bryant Broderick of Bloomington has been a Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) baseball umpire for eight seasons. He has also coached girls softball (nine years) and baseball (eight years).  
(Submitted photo)

job and must really enjoy umpiring.

“Her words made my day and reinforced my decision to serve as an umpire.”

Broderick finds time to umpire in the BAA baseball program while working for Andrew Tool and Machining in Plymouth. He has held that job for 24 years.

Broderick was born and raised in the southern suburbs of Chicago. He met and married Bloomington resident Teri Chadwick in 1986. The Brodericks have been Bloomington residents for 27 years.

“I don’t have any desire to umpire above the BAA level,” said Broderick. “I do it for fun and the kids.

“I hope more people get interested in serving as BAA umpires. Grant Gartland is the BAA’s chief umpire. I encourage anyone interested in umpiring to go online at [bloomingtonumps.com](http://bloomingtonumps.com) for more information.”

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Babe Ruth of the New York Yankees posed for a photo with Bryant Broderick’s grandfather Emmet “Red” Ormsby before a spring training game. Ormsby umpired in the American League from 1923 to 1942. (Submitted photo)