

Hershey's STRIVE Award Program

Ron Komornik
Coach of the Year
Kempsville Pony Baseball
KHS Home Run Club
Virginia Beach, Virginia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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RON KOMORNIK RECOGNIZED AS HOMETOWN HERO IN NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

Dedicated coach making a positive difference in youngsters lives

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. (December 18, 2007) - Ron Komornik has given countless volunteer hours to youth sports and community involvement. For his efforts, Komornik is being honored by the National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS) as the 2007 Hershey's STRIVE Coach of the Year.

STRIVE stands for Sports Teach Respect, Initiative, Values and Excellence and the award honors adult leaders for their heartfelt passion, enthusiastic commitment and contagious spirit to help kids succeed in youth sports activities. This year, NCYS will present Hershey's STRIVE Awards to a national administrator, a volunteer, a coach, and two local administrators. Honorees were nominated by team members, parents or colleagues and judged by a panel of NCYS officials.

Komornik first began coaching boys basketball in 1998 for the YMCA. He also coached basketball from 1999-2006 for the Kempsville Recreation Department. Since 1999 he has served the Kempsville Pony Baseball leagues as coach, player agent, field and groundskeeper. Simultaneously, Komornik coached baseball for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Tidewater Drillers, the AAU Virginia Heat, the Larkspur Middle School and the Kempsville High School JV and Varsity teams. Presently, Komornik is an assistant coach for the Kempsville High School Fall Varsity baseball team and plans to coach Upward Basketball in Virginia Beach this winter.

He teaches baseball and basketball with respect, discipline and perseverance with the goal of improving a youngster's self-worth and self-esteem. Komornik's effect on others is warm, caring and infectious. His testimonials are a tribute to the positive difference one can make in the life of a child. "He treats every player as amazing individuals while leading each one to great achievements as a unified team," said team parent Janet Carter.

Ron Komornik has had an enormous impact on children coaching youth ages 7-17. He is a coach, a friend, a mentor both on and off the field. He literally brought along one young player from being the last one picked at the beginning of the season to the one making the winning hit and being presented the game winning championship ball.

Not only has Komornik been coaching youth sports for nearly 10 years, but he has also volunteered more than 5,600 hours to other community and church-related activities.

"I wouldn't trade these coaching experiences for any amount of money," Komornik said. "Also, I would not have been able to do any of this without the loving support of my wife, Terry."

Sally S. Johnson, NCYS Executive Director, noted that the lack of recognition given to outstanding adult leaders involved in youth sports prompted NCYS to create the STRIVE awards four years ago. "Honoring America's hometown heroes on a national scale gives them the praise they deserve," Johnson said. "It is awe-inspiring to pay tribute to these exceptional individuals who devote countless hours each week, all while juggling full-time careers, families, and other commitments."

Komornik will be honored on Tuesday, December 18th during halftime at the Kempsville High School basketball game. The STRIVE event presentation is hosted by the NCYS and The Hershey Company. During the celebration, Komornik will receive two checks totaling \$2,500 which he has announced will be donated to Kempsville Pony Baseball and KHS Home Run Club.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information about Ron Komornik, the Hershey's STRIVE Award or NCYS, please contact Sally S. Johnson, NCYS Executive Director at 772-781-1452 or youthsports@ncys.org.

