



By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

A father-son team well-known in Imperial were selected to umpire the state class B Junior Legion baseball tournament in Holdrege, July 24-28.

Marc Mroczek of Imperial and his dad, Ron Mroczek of Alma, teamed up with three other umpires for the 15 double elimination tournament games in late July.

It was the first state Legion baseball tournament for Marc, but the second for his dad, who umpired last year's Class C Junior tourney in Ravenna.

Marc said it was a great experience, with some great baseball games.

He was behind the plate for the championship game July 28, when Beatrice beat Gretna, 2-0

"There were some real good ball games and good support from the fans," Marc said.

He said they had no confrontations with the fans or players.

The Mroczek pair was teamed up with another familiar umpire to Imperial fans, Matt Goosey of North Platte, who worked in Imperial for KADL a couple years ago and also umpired games in the area back then.

Rounding out the five-person umpire team were Tom Allberry of North Platte and Roger Cox of Lincoln.

In order to be considered for umpiring at the state level, Marc said an umpire must be Legion-certified and worked at least three years as an umpire.

A Legion committee then selects each five-man team for the Class A, B and C Junior tournament and the Class A, B and C Senior tourney.

Both the Mroczeks have been umpiring for nine seasons. Nine years ago, both umpired here when Imperial hosted the area Legion tournament.

Ron Mroczek said that was the first summer he umpired after undergoing heart surgery. He was told he should get away from the stress of coaching at that time, so upon encouragement from his sons, got into umpiring.

Marc and his dad were also back together in Imperial last weekend as they umpired all three Nebraska Baseball Association wood bat district tournament games at Campbell Park.

They also paired up in Alma earlier in July for the area Junior Legion tournament.