Milwaukee Brewers Keep Winning With Sage Abra

What makes the Milwaukee Brewers one of America's favorite Major League Baseball (MLB) teams? "It's the way we play," the Brewers say in their slogan. But until recently, the team was having problems with "the way they paid"—processing their payroll.

"We were outsourcing our payroll to a local Milwaukee bank until 1995," says Brian Krueger, payroll coordinator. "Then the service was bought out by ADP. One of our staff members had worked with ADP in the past and advised us that it was both costly and inflexible. So we decided to look for a new solution."

Sage Abra Scores

The Brewers researched both outsourced solutions and in-house products. "Our payroll solution also had to be very flexible and give us the most bang for our buck," says Krueger.

The Brewers signed on Sage Abra Payroll. "It was fully loaded with features, and came at a very reasonable price," notes Krueger. "Nothing out there provided as much value."

Terrific Teamwork

Timing was good. The Brewers' reseller was running a special promotion, offering Sage Abra as a complete suite. So the Brewers added Sage Abra HR to manage its human resources operations at the same time as its new payroll system. "Although we would be one of the first ball clubs to adopt Sage

Abra, we trusted our reseller when they recommended implementing both Abra Payroll and Abra HR," explains Krueger. "Now we have a fully integrated system that does exactly what we want."

Abra Payroll Runs "Everything"

"Abra Payroll runs absolutely everything," notes Krueger. "Records for all of our full-time employees are maintained in Sage Abra, so their paychecks can be processed automatically. Efficiencies have been dramatic. "I'd estimate that Abra Payroll has cut a good 15 to 20 percent off the time we previously spent with outsourcing, particularly when it comes to data processing. In addition, we now get checks out faster. Outsourcing required that we submit data several days in advance. Now we can wait until the last possible minute before issuing a check." TimeStar Is an All Star

The Brewers adopted TimeStar from Galaxy Technologies, sophisticated enterprise-wide software that creates employees' badges with photo IDs that are then swiped into its timecard system. TimeStar integrates seamlessly with Sage Abra modules.

"Before, I had to monitor the time clock system, and then do a lot of double data entry," says Krueger. "I plugged in numbers, matched hours with the correct people, and verified time cards and sheets. It was very tedious."

CUSTOMER
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club

INDUSTRY
Major League Baseball team

LOCATION
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

NUMBER OF LOCATIONS
One

SYSTEM
Sage Abra
- Abra HR
- Abra Payroll
- TimeStar

CHALLENGE
Replace outsourced services with in-house HR and payroll, capable of integration with existing timekeeping system.

SOLUTION
Sage Abra with HR and payroll modules seamlessly integrated with timekeeping system.

RESULTS
Provided 20 percent reduction in time, improved vacation, sick time, and benefit tracking and reporting ability, while eliminating double data entry.

Now TimeStar tracks hours for about 350 Brewers employees, most of them part-time. "TimeStar captures their time in and out," Krueger notes. "The system provides a report for supervisors' approval. When it's time to finalize hours for each pay period, all I have to do is make sure that any corrections have been made. Then I simply download the information into the database, where Abra HR verifies social security numbers and other employee information."

Triple Play With Abra HR

Abra HR has been another valuable addition to the team. "We use Abra HR to maintain the overall database for all full- and part-time employees, as well as players and interns," notes Krueger. "Now we're beginning to use it more extensively, to track things like vacation, sick time, and other benefits."

"Because the payroll and HR modules are fully integrated, we only have to enter data for new hires once," he adds. "The two modules are essentially one system, sharing a single database. This gives payroll personnel access to all employee data, and HR personnel access to the payroll data they need. At the same time, access to data is carefully controlled, so unauthorized staff cannot view sensitive HR or payroll records."

Line Drive Reporting

"Sage Abra allows us to quickly generate reports needed for surveys, some of which contain government-mandated information," Krueger says. "It also lets us generate ad hoc reports whenever needed. From a payroll perspective, I can run deduction and 401(K) reports for each pay period, which is a real time-saver."

The Sage Abra modules are working so well that the Brewers are thinking of adding Abra ESS to give employees the ability to monitor their own benefits online. This will cut down on calls to the human resource group, and free up staff time for other important tasks.

Sage Abra: It's the Way We Pay

The Brewers may have been one of the first MLB teams to use Sage Abra, but they certainly won't be the last. "Sage Abra is such a winner for us that we recommend it frequently," notes Krueger. "Several other sports teams have followed our example,

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Brian Krueger
PayrollCoordinator
Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club

and now run with Sage Abra." Would Krueger classify Sage Abra as a heavy hitter? "Sage Abra is definitely an MVP in my book," says Krueger. "I challenge anyone to find a more cost-effective payroll and HR software package on the market today."

About Sage

Sage North America is part of The Sage Group plc, a leading global supplier of business management software and services. At Sage, we live and breathe business every day. We are passionate about helping our customers achieve their ambitions. Our range of business software and services is continually evolving as we innovate to answer our customers' needs. Our solutions support accounting, operations, customer relationship management, human resources, time tracking, merchant services, and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, healthcare, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries. Sage North America employs more than 5,000 people and supports nearly 2.9 million small and medium-size business customers.

The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 14,800 people and supports 5.7 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the Web site at **www.sagenorthamerica.com** or call **866-308-2378**.

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