

BASEBALL MEETING NOTES
March 14, 2010

Those in Attendance

Jeff Rustom
Nick Vetter
J. Rumpca
Jim Kiecker
Mike Hierlinger
Jennifer Geiselhart
Tricia Olson
Rob Germinaro
Brian Jachymowski
Dale Wippler
Jim Hauge
Dale Brumbaugh
Shelly Sieben
Becki Boldt
Cliff Rowe
Shane Pribyl
Randy Barker

Equipment Director

- Jim just ordered about a dozen catchers' gear (gloves and masks) and he also ordered the needed pitching machines. We are not ordering helmets any longer; trying to phase them out. The equipment will probably be handed out over four nights. The In-House age group coordinators need to give a list of teams to Jim so he can start getting the bags ready. Dale Brumbaugh will get the traveling numbers to Jim as well.

New Business

- We are at 750 registered for baseball this year. This is about the same as last year so the program remains strong even with Lacrosse starting.

- All kids that made traveling teams have been posted on the website. April 12-15 will be when we do outside practices for the levels that have enough for two teams. The coaches will meet immediately after the practices to form the teams. We will then also need to decide who the B Team coaches will be. For the 15 year olds they have high school baseball games going on during the week fo April 12th so J. Rumpca was thinking of just going out to watch their games instead of making them come to a tryout practice. If there is a kid that tried out for traveling but is not on the high school team they most likely would be placed on a B Team anyway.

- Tryout Process: we discussed how the tryouts went this year and what could be improved upon. For the 13s, 14s and 15s they seemed to really want to use light bats so we may want to require them to use an appropriate weight bat to keep it fair. For fielding Jeff Rustom felt the ball was coming too fast. If we slow it down we could maybe see what the kids would do with the ball better, look at their feet positioning, etc. It was also mentioned if a ball went to the left or right too far the kid was suppose to get another ball to field but we realized this was not done for the 15s. The Booster Club mentioned may be we should add a section of astro turf to the floor next

year. It could help make the balls more consistent but it would also protect the floor. Brian Jachymowski asked how much we would need as he has connections with the Twins at the Dome and he could look into getting us some. J. Rumpca thought 20 x60 would be good.

Jeff Rustom also brought up that all kids aren't pitchers but we make them pitch for the tryouts and he worried it would bring their overall score down. J. Rumpca indicated we only score the arm speed at this station. We don't score whether they pitched strikes or not. We want to know the arm strength. We also discussed possibly having a volunteer next year sit behind the batting section for all levels to help keep the kids organized. We could also use someone at the pitching station to tell the kids when they can chase balls, when to stand on the mound, etc. The pitching radar seemed to score consistently at each level but sometimes it did skip. Maybe we should put the money into it next year and buy a new pitching radar for more accurate readings. Shelly Sieben said her volunteer sign-in sheet from the last weekend went missing. She will check with Pete Walbolt to see if he possibly grabbed it with his stuff. We did have a few no-shows for both weekends. We also had an issue with the second weekend having the check-in volunteers handing out the 500 numbers already assigned to someone else the first week. We were able to catch it in time though before any data entry was entered. Overall the volunteers did pretty well. Shelly does still need to track down families that will need to turn in volunteer checks. Jeff Rustom has had a few parent calls mentioning there were parents talking to the people doing the data entry and hanging out by the tables. They felt it was a little suspicious. Shelly mentioned the data entry is done for the previous team so when parents are there for their kid's tryouts the scores being entered at that time by the data entry volunteers are from the group before.

- There have been more cuts at the Park Board this year. The City of Anoka has also cut jobs and combined departments so more work is going to be put on us. The City of Anoka will be mowing only every other week but they will still chalk and drag our fields like last year. We need open communication from our coaches to make sure the fields are still getting done because we are paying the City to do it. They did raise our fee by \$1.00 per team (this comes to .30 per player increase). The City of Ramsey will finally be cutting Alpine 1 for us. We need to get them the specifics. 10U and 11U will then be able to play on that field.

- If need end up having to chalk our own fields in the future we may want to purchase a new chalker. The one we have dumps a lot of chalk.

- We need to get bids again for fencing fields 1 and 4 at Alpine. We are hoping the price has come down a little since the last time we received bids.

- Reminder, Coaches Clinic is on April 10th at 7:30 a.m. at Extra Innings.

- Reminder there is the Twins Coaches' Conference also on April 24th 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and include speakers, breakfast, lunch and gift bag. One coach per traveling team can go for free, it is part of our registration fee.

- Also for traveling teams, if the coach puts the roster information on the Gopher State website the team can go to a Sunday afternoon game for free.

- Nick Vetter will begin selling ARAA apparel and will do three orders this season; the first on April 7th, then April 30th and the last on June 11th.

- It was mentioned to try and do team pictures this year for In-House at the Opening Weekend on May 21st or 22nd. All the teams will be there so it could be a good time to get everyone done. Shelly will look into this and see if it can happen.

- Jennifer Geiselhart brought up again the idea of having traveling baseball players run concessions for In-House's opening weekend tournament. They could use the money then to

offset their tournament costs. Rob mentioned other sports allow teams to do this but then do a 50/50 split, half to the baseball team and half to the organization.

Fundraiser Director

- Becki spoke to two golf courses about doing a fundraiser for us. Norfolk is willing to charge us \$66 per person but that will include golfing, a cart, \$5 for their gift shop and a cookout. Rum River will charge \$44 and includes everything that Norfolk does but not the cookout. We will need to decide which one we would like to do. May 1st will be our Twins Game. They have set aside 200 tickets for us.

- Becki also wanted to tell the board about a fundraiser she is doing through her non-profit organization for Dylan Witchen. Dylan's cancer is unfortunately progressing. The fundraiser will be on April 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Anoka High School. Ed has coached a couple years of baseball and also served as the football commissioner for ARAA. She is also doing a \$1500 Scholarship in Dylan's name, "Dylan Witchen #7 Football Scholarship" for a senior football player at Anoka High School. Dylan has picked out seven characteristics he wants the applicants to have. There are two kids in the main running to get the scholarship right now. Becki has been receiving \$300 donations from companies to help with the scholarship. Dale Wippler indicated we do have funds in our budget that are not spoken for at this time. We have received about 20 applications asking for baseball fees to be reduced but he believes we could also make a donation to this good cause. Rob Germinaro made a Motion to donate \$300 to the Dylan Witchen #7 Football Scholarship; Jeff Rustom seconded the Motion, everyone said "I", there were no nay votes so it was carried.