

April 2010

MBSA Newsletter

# **MOKENA**

## **BASEBALL / SOFTBALL**

### **ASSOCIATION**

Visit us on the web! [WWW.MBSA.ORG](http://WWW.MBSA.ORG)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 572, Mokena, IL 60448

### **Upcoming Dates:**

April 17—Spring  
Season Begins

May 5—MBSA  
Board Meeting  
8:30 p.m. VFW

May 15—Colt and  
Palomino  
Season Starts

May 16—8U All Star  
Tryouts

### **In This Issue:**

- Letter from the President
- Annual Parade and Picnic
- 2010 Fundraiser
- Sponsors of the Month
- Training Tip
- Scholarship Announcement

### **From Our President**

Hello MBSA Families,

Spring is here and it is time for another season of softball and baseball. As you have seen from the practices, the fields are in great shape thanks to the coordination of Bob Swafford, our field maintenance coordinator. He and many other board members and parents did an incredible job on field maintenance day getting most of the fields ready.

The regular season starts on Saturday and there are some things always to keep in mind:

- Respect the umpires. Many of our umpires are young kids. They are doing the best they can to officiate a game fairly but they may make a mistake now and then. Please treat them nicely. As the rules state, it is acceptable for a manager of a team to question a call and to talk to an umpire, but anyone other than a manager should let the manager do the work.
  - Play catch with your kids. The board is always trying to address the limited practice time before the seasons starts but it is important for the kids to get some "baseball/softball" time away from their coaches and teams. Our managers and coaches do a tremendous job teaching the kids this great game but there are not enough days for them to spend time with the kids.
- HAVE FUN!!! There is a reason why they call baseball (and softball) our "national pastime". It is a great sport for the kids to learn about sportsmanship, hard work and respect.

I will try to be out as much as I can to see the games. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach me at [president@mbsa.org](mailto:president@mbsa.org).

PLAY BALL,  
Alex Vecchiet

# 2010 Scholarship Recipients Selected

This spring, the MBSA begin the inaugural year of its scholarship program. We asked High School Seniors living within School District 210 boundaries and who will be attending a university, college or trade school next year how the MBSA touched their lives. The replies we received were surprising and made us proud as an organization.

At the MBSA meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>, one boy and one girl were selected to receive a \$500.00 scholarship. Because all of the participants this year were students at Lincoln Way East, we have been asked to withhold announcing the winners until the Presentation Ceremony in May. The winners will also be announced on the MBSA website after the ceremony.

We would like to share with the community some excerpts from the scholarship essays.

- *MBSA allowed me the opportunities to make every year of my life a great experience whether I was playing the game or umpiring it.--Cole*
- *Being a part of the MBSA has touched my life because it inspired me to never give up.--Kiersten*
- *It is not about the competitiveness of baseball that is important to me, but rather the memories it created that will last the rest of my life.--Andrew*
- *Throughout the years I have learned that winning isn't everything. I have learned to be a good sport when coping with losses and to be a gracious winner.--Paige*
- *Some of my best childhood memories have taken place at a Mokena baseball field.--Matthew*
- *I learned dedication, determination, and how to be a part of a team while accepting successes and failures.--Alyssa*
- *Playing baseball with MBSA has taught me a sense of dedication and a passion for not just baseball but the work I do as well.--Dillon*

## SPONSORS OF THE MONTH



[www.chicagofastener.com](http://www.chicagofastener.com)

## 8U All Star Travel Team Tryouts

May 16th

The Mokena Boys All Star Travel Team 8U travel to other towns in the area playing in 2 or 3 all-star tournaments during the month of July. There will be a cost of approximately \$125.00 per person to play on the team for uniforms and tournament fees. There will be only 12 players picked to lay on the team after tryouts are competed. Depending on try-out results we may add a second team.

Players are picked by the highest scores from the evaluating coaches. Players who make this team will not be eligible for the end of the year in-house all-star game. Please contact Sean Hussey with questions at [boyspinto8@mbsa.org](mailto:boyspinto8@mbsa.org)

Where: Willowview Park

When: Saturday, May 16 (rain date May 23)

Time: 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

### JUNE 6, 2010 ANNUAL PARADE AND PICNIC



MBSA Picnic/  
Parade is  
scheduled for  
Sunday, June  
6. Planning is  
underway.  
Anyone interested  
in helping, please  
contact Andrea  
Espinosa at [mbsatpc@yahoo.com](mailto:mbsatpc@yahoo.com). See  
the last page of this newsletter for more  
information.

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### FIELD MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE 2010 SEASON

The MBSA is looking for volunteers to work with and assist the MBSA Field Maintenance Coordinator throughout the 2010 Season.

Work includes checking equipment boxes and replenishing chalk, checking base plugs and condition of bases and other duties as needed.

Contact Bob Swafford at [fieldmaintenance@mbsa.org](mailto:fieldmaintenance@mbsa.org) for more information.

## ONLINE TRAINING IDEAS

Online resources for baseball and softball training are numerous. The trick is finding the great websites that offer drills without all of the ads, links to other advertiser sites, etc. Just typing "softball drills" in a search engine will yield many good sites. If you are looking for something in particular, try typing the subject in the search box, such as "baseball throwing drills" or "how to bunt." Also, there are some really great videos on YouTube that will also provide you with more than just the written drill.

Here are a just a few that we found with just a basic search:

<http://www.coachtips.com/> - A t-ball coaching website.

<http://www.qcbaseball.com/> - Loaded with drills.

[http://www.juniorbaseball.com/skillsclinics/AS\\_GoodMechs.shtml](http://www.juniorbaseball.com/skillsclinics/AS_GoodMechs.shtml) - A great magazine directed toward kids with a website offering coaching tips.

<http://www.webball.com/> - Another good site that has a lot of easy to understand drills.

<http://eteamz.active.com/baseball/instruction/tips/> - A popular website for team sports. <http://www.weplay.com/youth-baseball/drills/skills/throwing> - A video supported website with many great ideas.

Try the above, and experiment on your own. Good Luck!

## ZERO TOLERANCE

As we near the beginning of another baseball and softball season, MBSA would like to remind everyone that we will not tolerate any verbal or other abuse of our umpires at the games. These umpires are often teenagers, and although they have trained well and passed a very tough qualifying exam, it is still inappropriate for anyone to berate an umpire. Only the manager has the authority to approach or address an umpire, and shall do so in a respectful manner. Umpires have the authority to eject anyone who does not adhere to our code of conduct. Please review the code of conduct for your players and let's remember to set good examples for our children at the games.

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## 2010 Fundraiser

The Joliet JackHammers are teaming up with the MBSA and offering a great fundraiser for the league. You can purchase a 6 ticket flex pack for only \$50 with \$20 from each flex pack sold going back to MBSA. The flex tickets can be used for any game during the JackHammers 2010 regular season. If paying by check please make checks payable to Mokena Baseball & Softball. Each player that sells a flex pack will be entered to win an autographed ball, jersey, and bat, a pair of season tickets and \$500. Winners will be names on MBSA Night.

MBSA Night will be June 25th for the Joliet Jackhammers vs. Kansas City T-Bones at 7:10 p.m. at Silver Cross Field. Incentives for the fundraiser also include participation in the pre-game parade, if the league sells 100 flex packs it will receive one suite night rental, the team that sells the most flex packs will have the opportunity to take the field with the JackHammers during the National Anthem on MBSA Night, and one tope seller from baseball and one top seller from softball will have the opportunity to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

If you have any questions please contact Jim Rice at 815.774.2860.



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## **JUNE 6, 2010 ANNUAL PARADE AND PICNIC**

**12:00 Parade Line-up in South Metra Station Parking Lot**  
**12:30 Parade Kicks off, down Mokena Street to Main Park**

**\*\*\*Parade Marshals will include: Mokena Fire Dept, Mokena Police Dept, Hammer from Joliet Jackhammers, and MDA-Muscular Dystrophy Assoc\*\*\***

- ~Players should wear their team uniforms and hats. They may carry team signs, banners and/or balloons.
- ~Parents are welcome to walk with their children.
- ~**SAFETY FIRST: Candy throwing, skates, skateboards, or bikes will not be permitted. Please stay off tracks and cross only at the properly marked crossing areas!**
- ~Picnic will follow the parade and closing ceremony.
- ~MBSA will provide hot dogs, pop, water, popcorn & sno cones.
- ~It is optional to coordinate any other snacks or sides amongst your own team.

**Afternoon activities will include:**

**\*\*Skills Competitions-Hitting Contest, Around the Horn, Home Run Contest, Golden Arm & Road Runner (More info to follow)**

**\*\*Inflatable Bouncers**

**\*\*Red vs. Blue Game @4pm**