

February 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

#### **Dates to Remember:**

#### **FEBRUARY DATES**

- February 13th and 20th—Girls BLAST Tryouts—MIS, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- February 14th—Deadline for Manager Background Screening
- February 16th—Draft Night—MANAGERS ONLY—MES, 6:30 p.m.
- February 27th and March 6th—Boys COYOTE Tryouts—MIS, 9:00 a.m.—12

#### **MARCH DATES**

- March 2—MBSA Board Meeting—OAKS 7:00 p.m.
- March 5—Burros Alumni Registration—MES 6:00 p.m.
- March 6th—Boys COYOTE Tryouts—MIS, 9:00 a.m.—12
- March 13—Managers Clinic and Equipment Handout—MIS, time TBA
- March 19—Burros Open Registration—MES, 6-8:45 p.m.
- March 20—Season Practice Begins
- March 27—Field Maintenance Day—9:00 a.m.—noon

#### **Topics in this Issue:**

- Manager Background Checks
- Sponsorship Update
- Sponsors of the Month
- Field Maintenance Volunteers Needed
- BLAST Tryouts
- COYOTE Tryouts
- Training Tip of the Month

## **Manager Background Checks**

If a MBSA Division Coordinator has notified you that you have been selected to be a manager of a team for the 2010 season, please submit a background check on the following link:

<http://www.sportssignup.com/mokenabsa.start>

Managers will not be allowed at draft night on February 16 if they have not completed a background check.

Background Screening must be completed annually. If you completed a background check for the 2009 season, please log in with your 2009 registration email and password as this will save you time.

Contact [secretary@mbsa.org](mailto:secretary@mbsa.org) with any questions.

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## INTERESTED IN SPONSORSHIP OF THE MBSA?

If so, please visit our website at [www.mbsa.org](http://www.mbsa.org) and click on link to the 2010 Sponsorship Agreement. MBSA relies on our sponsors to help fund our program. We hope that the great sponsors from last year will sponsor us again this year. If you are affiliated with a local business and would like to sponsor, or would like more information, please contact Sponsorship Coordinator Dan Schaaf at [sponsorship@mbsa.org](mailto:sponsorship@mbsa.org).

Levels of sponsorship include a Preferred Sponsorship for \$1,000; Basic Sponsorship for \$300.00, a Vinyl Banner for \$150, or a donation of your choice to the organization.

## SPONSORS OF THE MONTH



Since 1959

# C-A-T-C-H!

## TRAINING TIP OF THE MONTH

Here's a tip for the Pinto and Shetland level players. Play C-A-T-C-H! Similar to HORSE, split the players into groups of no more than four and a coach. Form a line or circle and have the coach throw the ball to each child in turn. If they fail to catch the ball cleanly, they get a letter. A player that misses 5 and spells CATCH, he is out. Play until you have one player left. You can adjust the difficulty of the throw (pop-ups, grounders, etc.) for the player skill level. The one winner from each group face off in "you miss and you're out" final. Make sure the coaches are throwing similarly. Also, be sure to instruct a proper catching technique and make sure the kids use the right technique in order to not get a letter. Good luck and have fun playing C-A-T-C-H!

Are you new to coaching at the Shetland level? Chris Hedges has several tips and drills that he would be happy to share. Send him a request at [vicepresident@mbsa.org](mailto:vicepresident@mbsa.org) and he will send them to you.

## BLAST TRYOUTS FEBRUARY 13 AND 20, 2010

The Mokena BLAST All Stars are a great venue for girls who want to play a more competitive game. It allows in-house players to keep playing after the regular season ends, but does not commit to full-time travel softball. If you have any questions regarding the Mokena BLAST or would be interested in managing a team, contact [girlsmetro@mbsa.org](mailto:girlsmetro@mbsa.org).

Tryouts for the BLAST will be held on February 13th and 20th for the 10u, 12u and 14u teams. It is not required to be at both tryouts, but it is encouraged. Most girls have not done much playing since last year and may be a little "rusty". The overall higher evaluation score will be used from both weeks. Please arrive 15 minutes early for check in.

10u—9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.  
12u—11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
14u—1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

These tryouts will be held at Mokena Intermediate School, 11331 West 19th Street, Mokena.

8u tryouts will be held May. Times and locations for tryouts will be announced at a later date.



# Train With the Pros

MBSA has teamed up with Future Stars Baseball Academy to provide a unique training opportunity for boys.

Training sessions will be run by Future Stars professional instructors, and will cover fielding and hitting. All players should bring a glove and a bat. In addition all players must wear a protective cup.

When: February 13  
 Where: Future Stars Baseball Academy (formerly Ballpark Sports Academy)  
 Time: Boys Pinto 7 and 8—10:00 –11:00 a.m.  
 Boys Mustang and Bronco—11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
 Cost: **FREE—Registration IS REQUIRED** (email [treasurer@mbsa.org](mailto:treasurer@mbsa.org))

Each session is limited to the first 20 players who register, so send your registration in now to [treasurer@mbsa.org](mailto:treasurer@mbsa.org).

## 9U COYOTE Tryouts

The Mokena Coyotes All Stars is a great venue for boys who want to play a more competitive game. It allows in-house players to keep playing after the regular season ends, but does not commit to full-time travel baseball.

The 9U COYOTES will be holding tryouts at Mokena Intermediate School on the following dates and times:

**Saturday, February 27th—10:00 a.m.—noon**  
**Saturday, March 6th—10:00 a.m.—noon**

Bring a bat, your glove, and gym shoes to the tryouts. NO SPIKES will be allowed in the gymnasium. Please plan on arriving a few minutes early.

If you have any questions regarding the Mokena COYOTES All Stars or would be interested in managing a team, contact [boysmetro@mbsa.org](mailto:boysmetro@mbsa.org).

More information is available on the COYOTE website at <http://www.leaguelineup.com/mbsaboyscoyotebaseball>.

## **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.

# **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.

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



## INCENTIVES

### Prizes

Each player that sells a flex pack will be entered to win an autographed ball, autographed jersey, autographed bat, a pair of season tickets and \$500. Winners will be named on MBSA Night.

### Pre-game Parade

Anyone who attends the league night with MBSA will have the opportunity to join in on the pre-game parade that will partake on the warning track prior to the game on "MBSA Night"

### Suite Night

If the league sells 100 flex packs it will receive one suite night rental (game TBD) \$700 value

### Baseball Buddies

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"

### First Pitch

One top seller from baseball and one top seller from softball will have the opportunity to throw out the ceremonial first pitch on "MBSA Night"

\*If the league sells 500 flex packs it will earn an additional \$1 for each ticket sold (additional \$6 per flex pack)

**815.726.BALL**  
**jackhammerbaseball.com**

**MBSA Night - June 25th**

Joliet JackHammers vs. Kansas City T-Bones  
7:10PM at Silver Cross Field

