

Dates to Remember:

MBSA Board Meeting
Tuesday 11/2/10
7:30PM – Mokena
VFW Lower Level

MBSA Informal Meeting
(Board Members
only)
TBA

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Visit us on the web! WWW.MBSA.ORG
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 572, Mokena, IL 60448

Board Meeting Report

It seems like it takes much more time to organize and administer a season of baseball and softball than it does to play it. And this past fall ball session just flew by.

Now that the fall season has ended, it is time to thank the many board members, volunteer managers, coaches, parents and players for a job well done. This program exists for our children because we take the time to provide it for them. Thanks to all who contributed.

With fall ball ending, we now shift gears and start preparing for the big Spring 2011 season. We have many new board

members in place to handle the tasks ahead.

Please note that registration will open on **October 15, 2010**. Registration is online only, and it is very quick and easy. I suggest registering before the holidays to avoid having an additional bill to pay when the bills come due from all the other holiday spending!

There is a new twist to registering this year, as we have readjusted our divisions to be aligned with the school age groupings. Your 3rd grader will now be playing with his/her classmates. We know this will be a welcome change.

Our Girls Division Coordinators and Boys Metro Coordinator have proposed massive changes and additions to providing winter clinics. These clinics will be for our young players and will definitely be hands on. Look for information on these clinics soon.

MBSA welcomes feedback and comments and would love to hear from you! Feel free to contact us at our website www.mbsa.org

Have a great October and enjoy the fall!

Chris Hedges
MBSA Vice President

New Winter Clinics Coming Soon!

If your young player is looking to keep the rust off in the winter, look no further! Winter indoor clinics are in the planning stages and coming soon. Preliminary planning is to provide hitting and pitching, with the possibility of also working on fielding techniques and game situational tactics.

Planning the clinics are our Girls Division Coordinators and Boys Metro (Blaze) Coordinator Sean Hussey. If you would like more information, our would like to help out please contact us at boysmetro@mbsa.org, girlsmetro@mbsa.org, or board@mbsa.org and we'll make sure the info gets passed along.

Training Tip of the Month

Did you know?

The following teams made the 2010 MLB post season. Here is the number of championships for each team:

YANKEES – 27

RAYS – 5

TWINS – 3

RANGERS – 0

GIANTS – 5

BRAVES – 3

REDS – 5

PHILLIES – 2

Preparing to Take Your Turn at Bat

Being prepared and knowing what to expect from a pitcher can be a big advantage when coming up to bat. Getting ready for your turn at bat usually takes place in the on deck circle, but you can ready yourself even more if you pay close attention to the pitcher while sitting in the dugout. Watch how he pitches other batters to get a sense of his routine.

While on deck, pay attention to how hard he throws, and how many of his pitches are fastballs and whether he throws anything off-speed.

When it's your turn to step into the box, find a comfortable place to stand. Fix any areas that have bad footing. If you are a late swinger, or the pitcher throws fast, take your spot near the back of the box to give you some extra time to hit the pitch. If your pitcher is a slow thrower, move up in the box.

Lastly, don't try to guess whether the pitch is going to be a ball or strike. Rather, think if the pitch is 'hittable'. Taking batting practice as if it were a real game will help you learn the strike zone well, and whether the pitches you swing at are hittable. Good Luck!

MBSA Spring 2011 Registration Info

The Spring 2011 Registration will open October 15, 2010

Registration will be conducted ONLY via the MBSA.org website, there will not be a "walk-in" session.

This season's registration will align players by enrollment grade. Below is a summary of the alignment:

- The last year of Pre-K and Kindergarten shall be known as Shetland Division.
- 1st grade shall be known as Pinto 1 Division*.
- 2nd grade shall be known as Pinto 2 Division*.
- 3rd and 4th grade shall be known as Mustang Division.
- 5th and 6th grade shall be known as Bronco Division.
- 7th and 8th grade shall be known as Pony Division.
- 9th and 10th grade shall be known as Colt Division**.
- 11th and 12th grade shall be known as Palomino Division**.

It is imperative parents confirm the player's school grade in the player's Participation Information section. If this information is not accurate, the player will not be eligible for the appropriate division. **First time players with MBSA must provide a copy of the player birth certificate.** Registration will close January 9, 2011, so don't delay!

* Girls Softball will comprise of a single Pinto team and will be inclusive of players in grades 1st and 2nd.

** Girls Softball will comprise of a combined Colt/Palomino team and will be inclusive of players in grades 9th through 12th.

To register visit www.mbsa.org

MBSA Newsletter

Mokena Fall Baseball Boys Program has been a Grand Slam Success!!

We had over 143 boys participate at the various levels in our Fall Baseball Program. The boys had a chance to learn skills that will help them to be better baseball players in the future. Look out for these guys in the Spring 2011 season! The boys also had an opportunity to see how they matched up with boys in Frankfort, Frankfort Square and in our community. Here are some comments from the coaches about the Fall Season:

Broncos Green Team: After suffering a loss on opening day to the Mokena Blue team, the Mokena "Green Machine" heated up quickly and powered through their next seven opponents. They outscored the opposition 84 to 31 on their way to a 7 and 1 record. On Sat., Oct. 9, the Battle of Mokena was held as the Green team faced the Mokena Blue in an attempt to avenge their earlier loss. When the dust settled, after what most fans agree was the most thrilling game of the season, the Green Machine emerged victorious by a score of 8 to 7. Congrats to the following team members on their current 8 and 1 record, with two games remaining - Brando Behringer, Brendan Farrell, Frankie Flynn, Andy Holm, Josh Holm, Dominic Harper, Trevor Kelly, Jared Lawlor, Danny O'Donnell, Wyatt Patras, Josh Perch and Ian VanWitzenburg.

Broncos Red Team: We are 5-2. All the boys are doing great and learning a lot. The boys benefitted from extra coaching on pitching techniques. Players who have never pitched have had the opportunity as well as others to play positions they have never played before. The coaches have received several accolades from parents regarding the attention and the manner in which we teach and run the team. Overall, a very successful year!

Pony Team: We're 9-0 including beating The Mokena Yellow Jackets with 4 Scoreless Innings by Grant Leonard... This fall ball team, equipped with players from 7th grade to 9th grade, some with experience and some without, has "gelled" together to impress several teams. They beat a few teams that were comprised of all travel baseball players. Most of all they are having a blast by learning and prepping for Spring Ball.

Mustang Team: The boys are learning skills and techniques that will help them play good baseball in the spring season.

I especially want to thank Alex Vecchiet; Cindy Vecchiet; Jamey Behringer; Jim Sherwood; John Joyce (Boys Fall Ball Mustang Manager); Adam Perch (Boys Fall Ball Bronco Green Manager); Ron Skolek (Boys Fall Ball Bronco Red Manager); Steve Spangler (Boys Fall Ball Bronco Navy Manager); Tom Crohan (Boys Fall Ball Pony Manager); Dan Joyce (Boys Fall Ball Pony Manager); Joe Rajca (Boys Fall Ball Pony Manager); and the MBSA Board members for all their assistance in making this a fantastic Boys Fall Baseball Season. I want to thank the Boys; their families; and all the other people that I failed to mention who played a role in this successful season. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be your Boys Fall Baseball Coordinator.

Dan Lachat

2011 Sponsor Drive

As you know, MBSA relies on many local area businesses to sponsor our program and help fund baseball and softball in Mokena. We realize that times are tough in the current economic climate. However, we are hoping that our wonderful past sponsors, and our future sponsoring partners will continue to help provide for playing opportunities in Mokena.

If you are a business owner, or know of a local business that would like to be a sponsor for our 2011 season, we'd love to hear from you. Becoming a sponsor is easy! You can register to be a sponsor at our website by clicking on this link:

<https://leagueathletics.com/UserForm.asp?RegID=71670&snid=548667629&org=mokenabaseballsoftball.org>

Basic sponsorship is \$300 per one baseball or softball team, and includes your business name on a team jersey, your business name listed in our monthly newsletter and posted on the MBSA website. Please consider sponsoring! Thanks!

www.mbsa.org