

September 2010
MBSA Newsletter



Visit us on the web! WWW.MBSA.ORG

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

Dates to Remember:

MBSA Board Meeting
Tuesday 10/5/10
7:30PM – Mokena
VFW Lower Level

MBSA Informal Meeting
(Board Members
only)
Tuesday 9/21/2010
7PM – Mokena VFW
Lower Level

Topics in this Issue:

Board Meeting
Report

New Board Members

Website and
Facebook

Training Tip of the
Month

Blaze Part-time
Travel Tryouts

Board Meeting Report

It took two years of volunteering as a manager before I got the nerve up to volunteer as a board member with MBSA. It took me another seven before I got the nerve to sit in front as vice president and look out at everyone else! Boy have the faces changed in that short time, but the enthusiasm recently has been through the roof!

We have welcomed quite a few new board members this year and I'm sure they will bring new and fresh ideas to make MBSA the best area baseball and softball organization around.

The board has been very busy addressing the issues that have become important to many of you.

One issue that has been a problem for several years has been the registration age cut-off for the boys. The PONY mandated change split many kids in a way that they had to play with a grade below them and miss out on playing with their own classmates. We are in the process of changing the division groupings so that your son will play with his school class. We hope this will eliminate the need for you to request your child to play "up."

We are also working on many other issues, such as continued field

improvements, draft rules and metro programs.

Fall Ball registration is now closed and we have teams set and ready to play games. MBSA is glad to provide a fall playing opportunity for those who love to play baseball and softball.

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 month and enjoy the fall!

Chris Hedges
MBSA Vice President

MBSA Welcomes New Board Members!

Chris Springer – Boys Pinto 7 Coordinator
A.J. Jones – Boys Pinto 8 Coordinator
Amanda Santay – Girls Mustang Coordinator
Dan Lachat – Boys Fall Ball Coordinator
Keith Weglarz – Field Maintenance Coordinator
Matthew Straight – Web Coordinator
Dennis Muczyaski – Girls Pony Coordinator

MBSA is in need of a Communications Coordinator. Responsibilities include creating the monthly newsletter, distributing info regarding our league, registration, tryouts, and promoting MBSA through local newspapers. For more info about joining MBSA, please contact us at board@mbsa.org

Did you know?

Hall of Famer Ted Williams was known for not getting along with reporters. They didn't like him either. They snubbed him for league MVP in his triple crown winning seasons of 1942 and 1947!

From

<http://home.pon.net/hunnicutt/ballworst.htm>

Join us on Facebook!

Our new website coordinator, Matt Straight, has been working hard learning the ropes and implementing new ideas. MBSA can now be found on Facebook. If you are on Facebook, make sure to join us! Go to www.mbsa.org and click on "Find us on Facebook". We hope to add discussion pages soon.

Also, if you would like to be notified of recent updates, subscribe to our RSS feeds and have them sent straight to your email address.



Training Tip of the Month

Two Ball Catch

Playing catch can get a little boring sometimes, and boring leads to poor technique. I like to liven up a simple game of catch by playing "Two Ball Catch." This is a drill that is most suited for the older player (i.e. 10 or older), or a player that has demonstrated good catching ability.

Each player starts with a ball. It is best if both players throw with the same hand. Both players raise the ball in a throwing position and throw simultaneously. There will be a few missed balls at first, but they will quickly get it. To add some extra difficulty, speed the throws up gradually. To add some variety, have one player throw a grounder or easy fly, while the other throws directly to the player. You will see a big increase in the players' level of concentration. Give it a try!

Fall Check of Equipment

Fall is a good time to inspect your young and growing player's equipment. With the holidays approaching, a new glove, bat or helmet under the tree might be a welcome gift.

If you are shopping for a new bat one of the most important considerations is overall weight vs. length. Bats nowadays are manufactured with a drop number printed on the barrel. This number is the difference in the weight and length of a bat. For instance, a 31inch long bat that weighs 22 ounces will be listed as a -9. A higher drop number generally will mean a lighter bat, and that will translate to a quicker swing.

If you have a favorite drill or have tried a drill that is effective, we'd love for you to share it! Send your tips to communications@mbsa.org.

MBSA Newsletter



Next Season, the part-time Blaze travel teams (formerly Coyotes) will play in the I-80 League or Chicagoland Sunday Baseball League against other local teams as well as participate in local and out of state tournaments.

Players from the surrounding area including but not limited to Frankfort, Frankfort Square, New Lenox, Orland Park and Tinley Park are welcome to tryout. However, all players must be registered for and participate in the Mokena Baseball and Softball Association's in-house program.

Blaze 8u Tryouts

Sunday September 19th: 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. @ Willowview

Call Back/Rain Date: Sunday September 26th: 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. @ Willowview (if necessary)

Blaze 9u & 10U Tryouts

Sunday September 19th: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. @ Grasmere

Call Back/Rain Date: Sunday September 26th: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. @ Grasmere (if necessary)

Blaze 11U Tryouts

Sunday September 19th: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. @ Grasmere Park

Call Back/Rain Date: Sunday September 26th: 11:30am to 2:00pm @ Grasmere Park (if necessary)

Blaze 12U Tryouts

Sunday September 19th: 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 pm @ Grasmere Park

Call Back/Rain Date: Sunday September 26th: 2:00pm to 4:30pm @ GrasmerePark (if necessary)

Blaze 13u & 14U Tryouts

Sunday September 19th: 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm Grasmere Park

Call Back/Rain Date: Sunday September 26th: 4:30pm to 7:00pm @ Grasmere Park (if necessary)

Please arrive 30 minutes prior to tryouts to register. All tryouts will begin promptly at their scheduled time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sean Hussey at 312-804-6327.