

2010 Mustang Team Selection Process

Many people have questioned how the teams were selected for the 2010 Mustang League. After much discussion, Mike Sabatine and I devised the following methodology:

- 1) Choose 18 managers
- 2) Allow each Manager to select one assistant coach
- 3) Distribute top, known pitchers across the teams evenly
- 4) Distribute top rated ten year old players across the teams evenly
- 5) Distribute top rated nine year olds across the teams evenly
- 6) Distribute remaining players evenly across the teams balancing how many 9s and 10s are on each team

As we moved through the different levels described above, we always made an effort to balance the teams based on the individual evaluations from the previous season. Evaluations are submitted by Managers at the end of every season. These are submitted to capture the skill level of the basic fundamental elements of baseball (hitting/fielding/throwing/running/field sense and pitching if applicable).

Here are some interesting facts about the process this year:



The mustang league has 200 players registered.

There are 172 kids who played in Fairport Little League last season in the Mustang and Cricket leagues, spread across 30 different teams.

Of the 172 returning players, 116 are on a team without any teammates from the previous season. 90 different kids made requests to play with one or more specific kid or coach. This involved over 120 kids in a request situation (60% of the league)

Pitching is far too an important factor to leave to chance when it comes to nine and ten year old players. In order to create balanced teams, it became obvious that we must ignore many requests at each level of the above defined process. We then realized that it would not be fair to honor some requests and not others. There were some special circumstances where requests were honored, but they totaled less than 5. There was no conscious effort to deny requests, they were just widely ignored, and the chips fell where they fell.

Coaches, parents and players are all feeling a little trepidation as we enter the season, as they ended up on teams with a whole lot of strangers. I share this feeling. I also embrace this as an opportunity to make new friends both young and old, discover new talent and learn something from different coaches.

The 2010 team selection process was based on the laws of the playground, where you pick captains and then pick sides. Teams were selected with the intent of benefiting all players, not just some players. We aren't so naive to think one team may not struggle to win this season, or one team may almost run the table, but we felt this process was necessary to preserve the spirit of Little League baseball. Please feel free to direct any questions to me or Mike.

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Mustang League Directors