



KPB InfoLine
757.497.8838

a Note from
the KPB
President

HIGHLIGHTS

June 2009

- > Inaugural Season Success
- > All-Star Selection
- > Summer Camps at KPB

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June 9, 2009

To the KPB Family:

We're in a very active part of our year with our teams participating in our league tournaments. This is the chance for teams that have improved over the course of the season to take the field and show what they've learned. On any given day, a team that's peaking can knock off a team with a better win-loss record. Even if your team has played its last game, please come out and enjoy watching some tournament games.

This is also the time of the season that we receive some pointed feedback on the abilities of coaches and on the process we use to select players, managers, and coaches for our All Star tournament teams. We always welcome constructive comments on how we can improve the baseball experience at Kempsville PONY Baseball, but let me offer a couple of thoughts as you consider your input.

First, league officials -- particularly the league Vice Presidents -- routinely watch games and team practices to get a sense of the quality of play of the teams and the demeanor, sportsmanship, and coaching abilities of the managers and coaches. Sometimes, we're right there near the fans, where we often field questions or receive comments. Sometimes, we're way down the line so we can concentrate on the games and how they're being coached. The point is that we're regularly evaluating managers and coaches for their ability to balance the big three: Teaching Skills, Having Fun, and Trying to Win. We are probably aware of your concerns about particular managers and have probably spent some time during the season talking to them about how they might improve. We do this in a way that respects the time and effort that they have volunteered to give when they took a team.

I was a new member of the league as an assistant coach when my son was about to move up from Mustang to Bronco. I asked the League President what I needed to do to ensure that my son would not wind up on a team with a particular manager. His answer: "Take a team." I understand that not everyone has the time or, perhaps, the ability to manage one of our teams. But if that's the case, please respect the volunteer efforts of others and remember that no coach ever PLANS to go out there and do a bad job.

This is a good time of year to read the essay, "Neither Have I" that's posted as the last item on the [Parents](#) page of our website. It addresses just about everything that's important for helping a young player navigate the challenges of playing this game including the limits on a parent's ability to help.

This leads me to our All Star selection process, which I believe to be rock solid. Since there is often misunderstanding about how the process works, I'd encourage you to read about it in Section VIII of our by-laws, which are posted on the League Administration page of the website: <http://www.kpb.org/kpb-admin.html>. Basically, a vote of each league's managers establishes the core of each All Star team's roster and helps to determine the manager for each team. An All Star Committee made up of the League President, the Player Agent, and the individual league's Vice President must approve all player and coach selections. Our goal in setting the All Star team rosters and their coaching staffs is to ensure that the teams we send into high-level tournament play have the best chance to win and will represent our league in a way that makes us proud.

Since baseball is a sport that often rewards dedication and hard work at becoming a better player, we host two baseball camps over the summer that you should know about. Providence Park will be the site of the annual Kempsville High School/Tallwood High School Baseball Camp from Monday, June 22nd through Friday, June 26th. The camp is run by Coach Hilliard and Coach Cinnamond with assistance from their coaching staffs and current KHS and THS varsity baseball players. The camp is designed for players from 6 years old through rising ninth graders and costs \$100 per player. The proceeds benefit the baseball programs at Kempsville High and Tallwood High. To register, contact Coach Hilliard at 376-1624 or Coach Cinnamond at 621-4583. A camp flyer is posted on the home page.

We will also host a 7 Cities Sports Baseball Camp at Providence Park from Monday, July 27th through Friday, July 31st. This camp will be run by Tim Hummel, a star at Old Dominion University and a former player for the Cincinnati Reds. A flyer and camp registration form are posted on our home page.

Between the two camps, we will host PONY Baseball's Mustang District Tournament during the week of July 6th and the Pony Section Tournament during the week of July 13th. We will need volunteers to staff the concession stand, run the entrance gate, operate a hospitality room, prep the fields between games, and keep the score book. If you have been looking for a way to help the league with just the few hours you have available, this is it! Please reply to join the crew that will host two of the finest PONY tournaments our area has ever seen.

Finally, thank you to everyone for making our first season at a new location a success. While there's still work to be done, we have made a lot of progress. Most importantly, we have played a lot of great baseball -- nearly 400 games -- with a level of sportsmanship and player, coach, and fan behavior that we can all be very proud of.

Sincerely,
 Frank Alberio
 President, Kempsville PONY Baseball
president@kpb.org