


LANCASTER / DEPEW *PONYTAILS* NEWSLETTER

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The Presidents Pen:

Hello everyone,

Well, it's time to start thinking about softball again, at least for some of us anyway. Your Board of Directors has been very hard at work in the off-season. 5 new members have joined the Board of 18 total members. Many projects have been completed and many are still in the works.

Within the last year or so, with the help of fees and fundraising, the Lancaster-Depew Ponytails have been able to pay off the batting cage facility, complete the cage wall project, finish cement pads and put up protective fencing in front of diamonds 1A through 3, build dugouts for every diamond in Walden Pond Park, purchase newly designed and updated uniforms for the Tournament Travel program, have a successful 30th Anniversary year in which every Ponytail member received a commemorative 30th Anniversary medallion, to have many teams that won season championships be different from teams that won playoff championships and many other things that all equates to everyone having fun with the Ponytails.

This year there are many more things planned as well. We started off by having our Annual Fall Clean-Up of the batting cage facility which brought over 25 volunteers from around our league together to lend a hand. We have voted to eliminate the Lottery fundraiser for 2010 which will save parents \$30 right off the bat at registration. We have voted to not require any Tournament Travel players to play House ball except for the players on the 10U 1st year developmental squad. However, any Tournament Travel player can still play House ball voluntarily if they choose to do so. We have voted to bring back player pitching to the Ponytail age level of House ball which is the way the Ponytail age level used to be not that long ago. To what extent this will be done, is still being worked out by the board and the Ponytail Coordinator David Gadd. To help in this process, Bob Zaidel (Clinic Coordinator) is working on forming clinics to help girls who are interested in pitching, to prepare themselves. This is something that may partially take place even before registration in January. We have purchased a new pitching machine to replace one of the current machines which is starting to be in disrepair. We will be looking to replace the blue tarps

in the cages. We are also looking to put some drainage in front of the main door to the cages to prevent any further flooding we've been experiencing. We are also purchasing throat guards for all our catcher's masks to be proactive in preventing player injury. We are also looking into the possibility of purchasing pitchers masks for each team to prevent any injuries as well. This, however, is still being looked into.

Finally, we are going to change our rainout policy to try to accommodate as many people as possible. If there is a rainout on a weekend game, we will look to make it up the following Friday or Sunday, whichever is more conveniently available to us. If there is a rainout during a weekday game, again, we will look to make it up the following Friday or Sunday, which ever is more conveniently available to us.

There are many other things on the horizon too numerous to mention but rest assured, our volunteers are here to do everything we can to make you and your daughter's experience with the Lancaster Depew Ponytails the best you can get. We are a top notch organization and will continue to strive to be the best for you now and for many years to come.

Thank you all for your time,

John Raab

President

Important Dates

Registration Jan. 9th, 16th and 30th

Draft Night Feb. 18th

Mandatory Managers/Coaches Orientation - Feb. 23rd

Batting Cage Assignments begin for teams - March

HEAT Spring Fundraiser - Apr. 17th

Opening Day - May 8th

Friday Night Bash - June 25th

ASA Qualifier Tournament Series:

Coca-Cola Classic 12U & 14U June 4th-6th

Coca-Cola Classic 16U & 18U June 11th-13th

Coca-Cola Classic 10U July 9th-11th

High School Division: Be aware that in the High School Division, there are three age level Divisions - 14u, 16u, and 20u. The most notable is the 20u for all former players past the age of 18 who still want to enjoy the sport for fun and friendship.

Joe Abati

High School Coordinator

Update your info: Please be sure to keep your information up to date on the Ponytails website. Keeping your phone numbers, e-mail address and home address current will ensure you receive any important communications.

John Faltisko

Publicity Coordinator



Lancaster/Depew Heat,

As the 2009 season fades into a memory, and we begin practicing and preparing for the 2010 season, I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge the accomplishments of many of our squads. So without further ado I will attempt to list them, forgive me if I miss

anything. In the 10U division the first year squad led by Al Dirschberger continually improved, by the end of their Metro season they became a solid team that advanced to the semi-finals. Todd Madison's 10U team won the NFL Championship, certainly a job well done. The 12U division last year had two first year squads. Dan Prenoveau's squad played in the highly competitive NFL and finished the year playing in the semi-finals. The other 12U team led by Chuck Donofrio had a rocky start but finished the year strong and played their best ball at a number of local tournaments. In the 14U division, Paul Cumbo's team started the season with a tournament win in Orchard Park and never looked back. They continued their strong play all season long and claimed the NFL 14U Championship. Not to be out done, John Raab's 14U squad played solid ball all year in capturing the 14U Metro League Championship. The 16U teams led by Larry Blas and Dan Steck, while playing good solid ball, were unable to bring home the hardware. Dan's squad, played in the championship game at the West Seneca Magic tournament and finished a strong 5th at our own Lancaster Tournament.

A great many of you don't realize the amount of time and effort our Travel managers and coaches put in to field good competitive teams, as well as instilling in them good solid values that we hope will stay with them forever. I would like to personally thank each and every one of you, as well as the parents who make sure their girls are at practice, gym times as well as Sunday's at the Sahlen's Center. With all that said, I offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to all that made the 2009 a rousing success.

Sincerely,

Larry Mentel

T&T Coordinator

Thank you! What a great turnout of volunteers we had for the fall clean-up at the batting cages in September. These efforts help keep the cages, building and grounds looking super.

Dave Rouse

VP and Building Maintenance

Equipment: The league is always concerned about safety for our kids. We were one of the first Leagues in WNY to mandate face masks with helmets. We also inspect our equipment and update with new models. The league is upgrading the catcher's equipment with neck protectors. We recently purchased new first aid kits and cold packs. The league has sponsored dugouts at all diamonds. Also, it is recommended parents purchase heart guards & face protectors for pitchers.

Frank Moll

Equipment Coordinator

Pitcher clinic: Ponytail, Junior and Middle School Divisions, Ages 7-13 have already begun. Lancaster Boys & Girls Club Gym, Broadway near Central Ave. Saturday mornings 9AM-10AM. It will run for 5 weeks (11/21 thru 12/19 (10 player min; 20 max). Wear your gym clothes and sneakers and bring your glove. FEE→ \$10.00 gym fee (that's only \$2.00 per session). Each pitcher should have there own catcher. This clinic will focus on the basics of pitching for the beginners and intermediate level and run for 5 weeks each week building on the week before. Do not worry if for some reason you cannot make one or so of the weeks. If you already pitch in house or travel, this will be great for working on those fundamentals. The league will be re-introducing pitching to the Ponytails Division and this is a great way to begin. Special Note, If you are a catcher with your own gear and want to get in some catching time, you are always welcome to attend. For more information, contact:

Bob Zaidel

Clinic Coordinator

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