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Around The Horn

News for the Middle Atlantic Region

Volunteer Spotlight

This month's spotlight is on Dennis Ewing. Denny retired as Western New York State Commissioner in 2007. During his 42 years in the Babe Ruth League he was active in many ways.

Denny started coaching in 1965 and began managing the next year in Jamestown, New York. In 1978 he became President of the Jamestown League. It was also around this time that he began to serve as the WNY District 5 Commissioner.

In 1984 he was recruited to become an Assistant State Commissioner. At that time New York was only divided into two states – Metro NY and Upstate NY.

Ewing was elected Upstate New York State Commissioner in 1985. When the state was split a few years later he became the Western New York State Commissioner. This was the position he held until his retirement.

In addition to his state duties, Ewing served as the first V.P. in the 13 year old World Series in Jamestown in 1980. He was also involved in the 1984 Series which was held in Jamestown.

Ewing received numerous awards for his contributions to the youth of his area and the

many hours he freely devoted to them. Among these honors were the Joe Mason award in 1978, the Ray Angel award in 1979 and the Masonic award.

Even though he has given up the office of State Commissioner, Denny still keeps an interest in the league and serves as an advisor to the new commissioner, Larry Newberry ♦



Regional Spring Meeting Held

The annual regional spring meeting was held on April 5th. There were numerous topics of discussion relating to the state of the region and the upcoming tournaments.

One of the main points under discussion was how to penalize teams that don't show up for the regional tournaments. It was agreed upon by vote that a monetary fine of \$250 will be paid by the team that doesn't show or pulls out. That fine will go to the host of the particular tournament.

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Another topic of discussion was the pool play format and tie-breaker rules. Every year there are problems with applying the tie breaker rules because at each level the current wording is interpreted differently. The main sticky point is a three-way tie.

Remember – it is possible for a three-way tie to be broken with the head-to-head criteria before you apply the fewest runs allowed.♦

How Important is Your 16-18 League?

Another big topic of discussion was the 16-18 tournaments. Every year there are problems getting hosts for this age group for both the 16 year old and the 16-18 year old tournaments.

When HQ dropped the 16 year old World Series there were discussions about whether or not we should drop the regional as well. But at the regional meeting the State Commissioners stated that if there is no 16 year old tournament they will lose their 16-18 year old leagues?

So why is no one willing to host it? Even in a state that last year had 31 leagues charter in the 16-18 division, not one was willing to host a tournament this year. In fact, one of those leagues asked their state commissioner if it would be held against them if they played in another tournament.

The biggest reason given for not hosting a tournament is that the league can not make any money from it. The parents do not come out to support these players because they are old enough to drive themselves, etc., etc.

What kind of message does this send to the players? Money is more important than the opportunity to let these kids play? We're willing to commit our time to travel to a game somewhere else now and then but not give up five days to host a tournament?

If these are the feelings that adults in your league have than ask yourself - how important is our league and the young people in it? ♦



Who Is A Great Competitor?

A great competitor is not always the best player on the team. Having raw talent does not always make for a great competitor. So what does?

A great competitor is the player who knows what he is supposed to do and does it correctly all the time, not just when the coach is watching. This type of player knows the value of practice and challenges himself

to become the best he can be, not just to get better.

In games the great competitor is the player who is mentally prepared for every at bat and every situation in the field. He is someone the coaches know they can count on.

What's most important is that the ultimate competitor is also the ultimate team player. He doesn't care who the hero of the game is and wants all of his teammates to do well. The great competitor is the player who is going to do everything he can to help his team win, not do everything he can to make himself the hero.♦

Baseball Quote

“My dad would have bopped me on the head when I was a kid if I came home bragging about what I did on the field. He only wanted to know what the team did.”

-- Ken Griffey, Jr.

Mini Trivia Quiz

1. In the routine “Who’s On First” what is the only position not mentioned?
2. The name of every Major League Team ends in the letter “S” except for two teams. Name them.
3. How many consecutive pitches can a batter take in one official at bat without swinging the bat?

2008 TOURNAMENTS

Regional Tournaments

Cal Ripken Div. 10 year-old

Site: Troy, NY

Dates: July 24 – 28

Cal Ripken Div. Major/60'

Site: Bridgewater, NJ

Dates: July 24-28

Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'

Site: Edison, NJ

Dates: July 24-29

13-year-old

Site: Washington Twp., NJ

Dates: Aug 1-6

14-year-old

Site: State College, PA

Dates: July 31-Aug 5

13-15 year old

Site: North Syracuse, NY

Dates: July 31- Aug. 5

16-18 year old

Site: Chester, PA

Dates: July 24-29

Invitational Tournaments

8-year-old

Site: TBD

Dates: Aug 8-11

9-year-old

Site: Hamilton, NJ

Dates: Aug 7-13

11-year-old/ 60 ft.

Site: Clifton Park, NY

Dates: Aug 8-12

11-year-old/ 70 ft.

Site: Washington Twp., NJ

Dates: Aug 7-12

16-year-old

Site: TBD

Dates: Aug 1-4

World Series

Cal Ripken 10 and under

Site: Abbeville, LA

Dates: Aug. 8-15

Cal Ripken Div. Major/ 60'

Site: Martin, TN

Dates: Aug. 7-14

Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'

Site: Aberdeen, MD

Dates: Aug. 9-16

13-year-old

Site: Jamestown, NY

Dates: Aug, 16-23

14-year-old

Site: Quincy, MA

Dates: Aug. 16-23

13-15 year old

Site: Van Buren, AR

Dates: Aug. 15-22

16-18 year old

Site: Newark, OH

Dates: Aug. 7-16

SOFTBALL 12U

Site: Luzerne County, PA

Dates: Aug. 7-14

SOFTBALL 16U

Site: Pittsfield, MA

Dates: Aug. 1-8



Trivia Quiz Answers:

1. Right Field –

Pitcher	Today
Catcher	Tomorrow
First Baseman	Who
Second Baseman	What
Third Baseman	I Don't Know
Shortstop	I Don't Give a Darn
Left Fielder	Why
Center Fielder	Because
Right Fielder	(not mentioned)

2. Chicago White Sox & Boston Red Sox

3. **Eleven (11)** – Batter comes up with two outs and a runner on base. The count goes to 302, still no swing. Then the runner is thrown out while trying to steal and the inning ends. At the start of the next inning, the same batter comes up again with not count – but it is still considered the same at bat – and he goes to 3 and 2 again. That's ten pitches and still no swings. The next pitch is the 11th – either it is strike three, ball four, or the batter makes contact.

