



May 1, 2010

Newsletter from the Commissioner of BYB, John Oroni

Play Ball! The Batavia Youth Baseball (BYB) Board Members and I would like to welcome you to the 2010 baseball season. For returning families and players, it will be great to see you out at the fields again. For families new to the BYB, we welcome you. I have personally been part of this organization for over 10 years and proud of what we do for our children as well as the community. As your children develop their skills and knowledge of this great sport, you will likely develop both friendships and fond memories that will last a lifetime.

So, who is BYB? We are an all-volunteer organization that has been providing the boys and girls of Batavia with baseball programs for over 54 years and includes summer and fall leagues; in-house and travel programs and a Power League for challenged youth. Our 2010 goals include:

- 1.) Complete another great season: To teach players the skills and knowledge of the game of baseball, develop good sportsmanship, encourage teamwork, and create a safe and healthy (physically and emotionally) atmosphere for our players, umpires, and coaches.
- 2.) Growth and development: To develop and maintain fields as well as long-term plans to ensure that we can accommodate future needs of the youth baseball community, and
- 3.) Operational Excellence: To build, manage and operate the all-volunteer organization using a zero-balanced budget to meet the annual needs of the organization.

While I shared our goals for the seasons, I would like to take a minute to highlight a couple of specific accomplishments of which we are particularly proud. We are very excited about our newest field located at Alice Gustafson School (AGS). We partnered with the School District and using our Fields for the Future Fund we developed this field for the Minor and Major Leagues. You can check it out while over at AGS for the annual Pancake Breakfast on May 22. This is just one example of the ongoing focus on development and maintenance of all of the BYB fields.

Second, we are excited to bring you a week-long summer camp, called the "Sandlot Camp", that will enable more focused baseball skill and knowledge development for players ages 5-11. We have partnered with the Batavia Park District to organize this for June 14-18 at Piron and Bollow Fields. You can learn more about it and register for this through the Park District. As always, we have many other activities planned for the season too. You can find a list on our website at www.bataviabaseball.com. Your coaches will also provide you with a list of the upcoming activities for the players and the entire family.

As a "seasoned" parent, coach, and board member, I would like to share a final message as we kickoff the season. I strongly encourage you to be an "educated consumer" during the baseball season – especially if you are new to baseball. What does that mean and what can you do? First, read the packet of information that your coach provides at the beginning of the season.

Second, get involved and stay involved. Help the coach and the team. Please don't just drop your player off and pick him/her off at the field. Third, if you do not understand the game, watch it, learn the league rules, and ask questions. Fourth, "cheer" for the players - they are young and appreciate your positive support. Lastly, if you do have some questions for or concerns with the coach or the team, address them appropriately. We suggest that you follow the simple guidelines described below. The goal of this is to facilitate a good discussion between you and the coach. Here's how it works:

Step 1: If this is an issue with your coach, discuss it directly with him/her. Please schedule a time with coach that will not interfere with a game or practice. If you are not comfortable discussing with coach, contact the President of the League in which your child plays. There is a drop-down list in CONTACT US on home page or use the list below. Please do not contact a Board Member with which you have an existing relationship to discuss the situation. Contact the League President.

Step 2: If you discuss the situation with the Coach, and there is no resolution, then contact the League President. He will determine the next steps.

In closing, thank you for participating in the BYB 2010 season. Have fun and be safe out there!

