

NATIONAL NEWS

Team Spirit

Team Spirit means different things to different people. I coached many kids who had team spirit in spades, and I will tell their stories, so you too can see what qualifies as team spirit.

Brad broke his leg, but that didn't stop him from participating. We had a skills training clinic and Brad showed up on crutches and wanted to take part. I had him instruct the batters, and he was amazing. He came back later that season and never missed a beat as he won the Jerry Hale award.

Jonathan broke his nose during warm ups as he was distracted at first base and the ball hit him point blank on his nose. I brought him to the dugout, but he refused to leave, as it was an important game. I put him back in the game in the third inning at Center field. After the game he went to hospital and sure enough his nose was broken. He never missed a game after that.

Alex and Brin both got injured mid season and were going to miss a few games. They didn't do that, although they couldn't be on the field, they sat in the stands together and cheered on the team. These two amazing young players never missed a game. And when they recovered, rejoined their teammates.

Justin, nicknamed Sparky, because he was the sparkplug of our team. Sparky had a physical disability with his feet. This didn't stop him or slow him down as he gave it everything he had, every time he was on the field. He hadn't had a hit all season, until our final playoff game. He finally got a hit, although it was a fielders choice. He made it to first and his reaction drew a standing ovation from both bleachers which were full to capacity of family and friends. These stories epitomizes what team spirit is all about. Being there to support your team, never giving up, trying your best despite your limitations and having fun, because before you know it. You graduate from Little League, move on to other adventures and hopefully you remember to take some of this team spirit with you.

70 years of memories

Volume 1 Issue 3



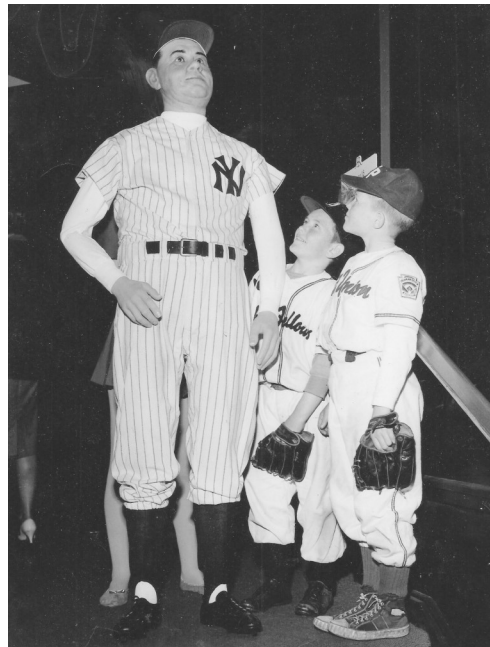
Doug Hudlin doing what he was so good at, taking an interest in one of our young players, Connor in 2003

.....

Thank you

To our sponsors who make it possible for us to continue running a program for our players

Congratulations to one of our recent graduates, Cassius, who was accepted into the Lambrick Park Baseball Academy. Well done Cassius, I know that you will do us proud.



Roy Scott and Billy Williams visiting the wax museum in 1960

Congratulations to another former player, Wyatt Lacey, who after a stellar performance at assessments, was invited to play this season with the 13U-AAA Seawolves. Way to go Wyatt. Cassius and Wyatt worked hard, and earned these opportunities

Well done boys!

The way a team plays as a whole determines it's success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

Babe Ruth

Coaching Blast ball is a blast

Last season, I had the pleasure of Coaching my grandson Archer in Blast ball. I had coached his dad Shawn 28 years ago, but it was nothing like I had experienced during the forty five minutes every Sunday Morning. It was a team of three and four year olds, supported by their coffee fuelled loving parents. The kids would throw to the moms and dads, and on many occasions these parents would be chasing balls that missed the target by quite a margin. I introduced a step and throw, and these toddlers, being as amazing as they were caught on very quickly and the throws got a whole lot better. We started throwing grounders,, including the ready position and although the kids waited for the ball until it was in their glove, they understood and would do it without being instructed to every time. Batting was the clear favorite as each player took their turn on offense and defense. They loved the squeaky bag at first base. I had as much fun as the players and I want to thank the moms and dads who play an integral part of any Blast ball season.



Published by Coach Don

Coach Reece's Tip of the month

Sometimes in games, the innings can drag on for a variety of reasons. It is important to remember, though that with every pitch, the ball can be coming your way and you need to be focussed to make the play that needs to be made depending on the situation. This can be done by taking a couple of steps forward anytime the pitcher is pitching the ball. This will not only help you to be focussed with every pitch, but it will also give you momentum in the event the ball is hit to you, as your feet will already be moving. It's important to remember to get yourself reset and back in position before the next pitch and continue to repeat this process with every pitch that is made. In other words don't take pitches off!

Every pitch has the potential of being a play, and every pitch, players need to be focussed and aware of what play needs to be made if the ball comes to you. At the same time, how can you help the other players on your team if the ball is hit to somewhere other than to you. Should you be a cut off, or can you go somewhere on the field to cover a throw? Keep your focus every pitch for the entire game.

Player Profiles

Jerry Liang has played at National for 3 years and prior to that played in a rival league. His favorite position is short stop, because there is a lot of action. He also likes Centre field because it is a very important position, and he likes the pressure. Favorite memory was a comeback victory against the other National team. Jerry's advice to any player who wants to play majors. "it can be difficult, but never give up, work hard and you can achieve results."

Matthew Poeschek's Great grandfather was one of the founding fathers at National Little League. The Legendary Don Wakelyn coached the North Kiwanis team to the league championship in the first two years. Matthew has played at our park for 5 years. His favorite position is catcher, because he is in the game every pitch. He also likes right field. His favorite memory is getting silver in the may long weekend tournament. His advice for players who want o play majors is. "Have fun, but work hard"

Best wishes to these two hard working players, Jerry & Matthew as they graduate,

