

THE ROUND TRIPPER

**QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER**
October, 2009



South Park Baseball Assn.
PO Box 240
South Park, PA 15129
www.spbaseball.org

WHAT'S NEW

SPBA 2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annual nominations and elections took place recently. Here's a look at the '09-'10 Board positions that are set – and how you can contact your Board members:

President: Mike Quirin
mike.quirin@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Deb Hawkins
dlynnhawk13@comcast.net

Player Agent: Kevin Mattis
kgmdam@comcast.net

Secretary: Greg Jena
jenafam@verizon.net

Commissioner: Dave Wagner
dehjwagner@comcast.net

Procurement Officer: Ted Hale
thalejr@verizon.net

Fall Ball VP: Steve Carr
carrfamily8@comcast.net

Instructional VP: Mike Brown
brownmay62000@verizon.net

American VP: Mike Lemansky
lemansky70@comcast.net

Minors VP: Jeff Bywalski
jeffb@typecraftpress.com

Majors VP: Bob Fareri
fareri7@comcast.net

Pony VP: Mark Thompson
markandbrenda2@comcast.net

Colt/Legion VP: Mike Monaco
roadtoruin65@aol.com

Co-Auxiliary Coordinators:
Scott Puglisi, steelcitypug@verizon.net
John Milanek, johnmilanek@comcast.net

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**Some
positions
still open.
See pg. 2
for details.**

CONGRATS TO THE SP BLUE PONY TEAM!

The South Park Blue team captured the South Hills Pony League Championship this season. It has been 7 years since a South Park team claimed the Pony League Championship. SP Pony Blue finished the regular season with a 14-4 record (3rd place).

They beat Elizabeth Forward in their first round playoff game, and defeated Brookline in the second round to advance to the best-of-three championship against Thomas Jefferson. South Park beat TJ two games to one to capture the title. The SP Pony Blue team was managed by Mark Thompson, and assistant coaches were Tom Barwatt, Mike Fetsko and George Loeffelbein. Team sponsor was the South Park Clubhouse.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

BE THERE!

Please take a moment to mark your calendar with the SPBA Membership Meetings scheduled for the rest of the year. All meetings are held at the Community Center on Brownsville Road... all are welcome... and your input is valued.

- Sunday, Nov. 8; 7pm
- Sunday, Dec. 13; 7pm

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

GET INVOLVED!

The SPBA is currently looking for individuals to fill open positions on the Board.

The **Events Coordinator (formerly known as Assistant Secretary)** is tasked with organizing all the SPBA events throughout the year, including: the Adult Social, the Night at the Wild Things, and Opening Day Festivities. He/she may also be asked to assist at the Membership meetings if the Secretary is unable to attend.

The **Information Officer** manages the league's official home page spbaseball.org, ensures that league rosters are maintained on the site, assigns administrative rights to league volunteers and teams, ensures that league news and scores are updated on a regular basis, collects, posts and distributes important information on league activities, serves as primary contact person for spbaseball.org regarding optimizing use of the Internet for league administration and for distributing information to league members, and more.

If you are interested, please contact a current SPBA Board Member and plan on attending the November 8th board meeting at the South Park Community Center.

You may have also noticed that there are some changes to the Board structure. There are now **Co-Auxiliary Coordinators**, whose main responsibility is operating the concession stand. Much work goes into the stand and this demonstrates SPBA's commitment to operating it smoothly.

Also, younger divisions have been realigned in a more sensible way. **Instructional** now covers 5-6 year old players; and **American** covers 7-8 year olds. This aligns with the rest of the league, allowing each division to cover two years, or ages.

SPBA FALL BALL UPDATE

ANOTHER SEASON IN THE BOOKS

The SPBA Fall Ball program had another fun season. There were five teams total this year – two teams in the 5-6 division and three teams in the 7-8 division. All players showed improvement since the start of Fall Ball and sharpened their skills for next spring.

Whether your child participated this year or not, consider Fall Ball in 2010. Fall Ball is open to all kids who will be 5, 6, 7, or 8 by April 30 of the following year.

Have you seen **THE ALL NEW** www.spbaseball.org? Check it out!

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BASEBALL QUOTE

"If you don't think baseball is a big deal, don't do it. But if you do, do it right."
-- Hall of Fame pitcher Tom Seaver

BASEBALL FACTS & FUN

DID YOU KNOW?

That in 1999, a panel of experts assembled by Major League Baseball and sponsored by MasterCard, selected the one-hundred greatest players. More than two million baseball fans worldwide then voted to determine the top players by position from this elite group. A Blue Ribbon panel then added five legends to create a thirty-man "**All Century Team.**"

These are the kinds of lists that are sure to cause much discussion and debate:

- Pitchers:** Nolan Ryan, Sandy Koufax, Cy Young, Roger Clemens, Bob Gibson, Walter Johnson, Warren Spahn, Christy Mathewson and Lefty Grove.
- Catchers:** Johnny Bench, Yogi Berra.
- First Base:** Lou Gherig, Mark McGwire.
- Second:** Jackie Robinson, Rogers Hornsby.
- Shortstop:** Cal Ripken, Jr., Ernie Banks, Honus Wagner.
- Third:** Mike Schmidt, Brooks Robinson.
- Outfielders:** Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Ty Cobb, Ken Griffey, Jr., Pete Rose, Stan Musial.

The #10 ranked outfielder who just missed the cut: Roberto Clemente.

TRIVIA QUESTION

Ken Griffey and Ken Griffey Junior were the first father-son tandem to play for the same Major League team at the same time (Mariners, 1990). Can you name the *second* father-son combo to achieve this milestone – along with the team and year it happened?

Answer on page 4

WHAT HAPPENED ON... OCT. 4TH ?

The Pirates last game for '09 was Oct. 4th What else happened in baseball on that date?
(from *NationalPastime.com*)

- 2005** – Jim Leyland is named manager of the Detroit Tigers.
- 1992** -- At 22 years, 11 months and 19 days, Rangers slugger Juan Gonzalez becomes the youngest home run champion to date, in baseball history, with 43 dingers.
- 1969** – In the first ever League Championship Series playoff game, the Mets beat the Braves 9-5 in Atlanta.

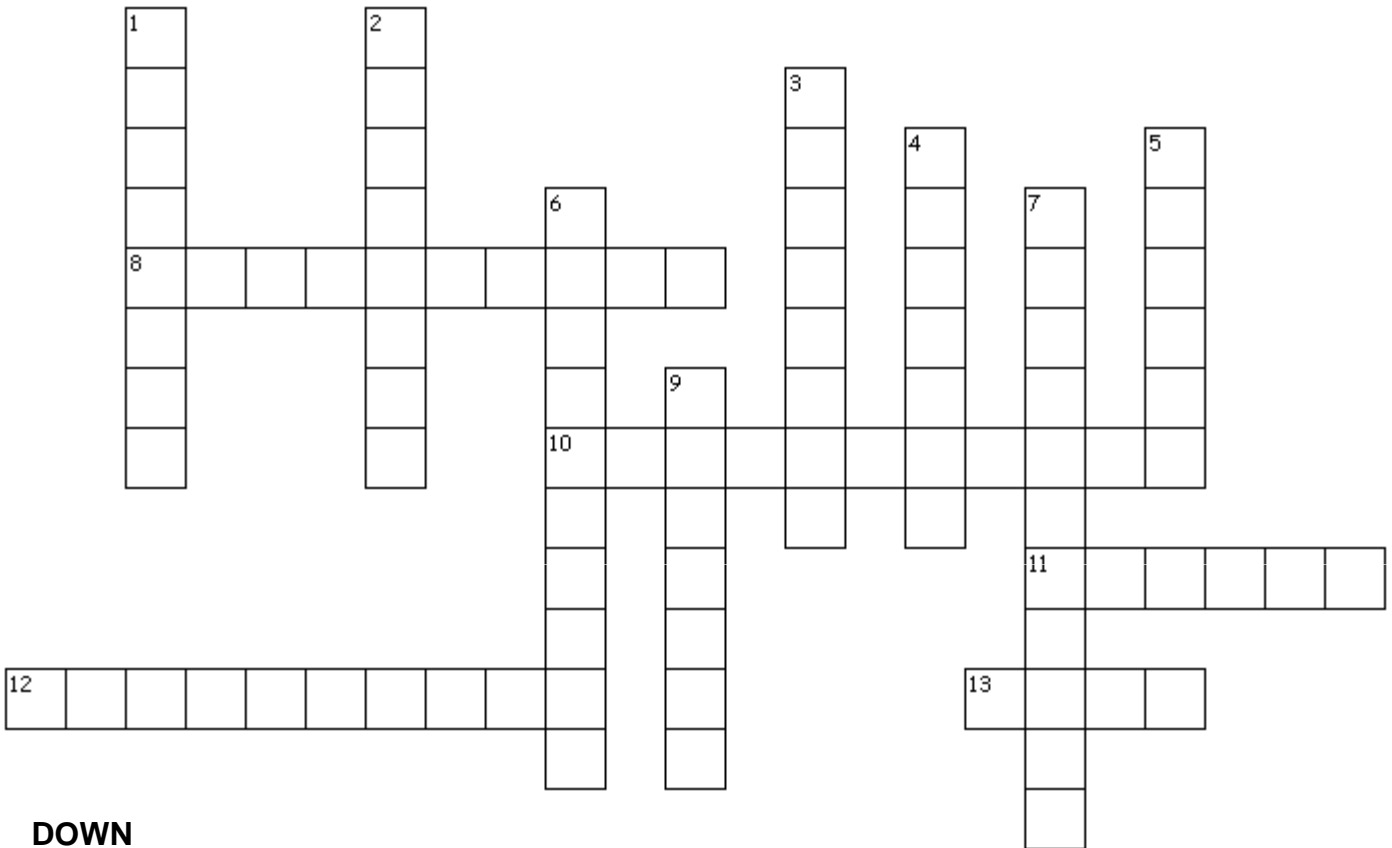
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BASEBALL PUZZLE

Crosswords: "PAST & PRESENT BALLPARKS"



DOWN

1. The Dodgers' home was Ebbets field when they were in this city.
2. Where you'll find Tropicana Field.
3. This PA team plays at Citizens Bank ballpark.
4. Jim Leyland and Comerica Park are here.
5. This NY team played at the Polo Grounds.
6. Houston park named for Orange Juice.
7. Site of Maz's '60 Series homer.
9. Chicago's landmark field.

ACROSS

8. Kauffman Stadium is in this midwest city.
10. Stargell hit some upper deck bombs here.
11. Home to Boston's Green Monster.
12. It's where you can visit Great American Ballpark.
13. Citi Field is home to this NY team.

BASEBALL FACTS & FUN

TRIVIA ANSWER

Question: Name the second father-son combo to play for the same Major League team at the same time?

Answer: Oriole outfielders Tim Lincecum and Tim Lincecum Jr., 2001

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TIP OF THE QUARTER: OFF-SEASON BATTING PRACTICE

From active.com/baseball

Whether you're on the diamond or inside a batting cage, batting practice should always be done with a plan and a purpose. Here are some tips to make the best out of every batting practice session:

1: Track the Ball

Each and every pitch, work on picking the ball up early, to identify pitch and location. Follow it with your nose, so you're looking at the ball when you swing. It is so important to practice this and make it a habit. The return on your investment can be staggering if you just put a little effort into this. Almost no one does this on a consistent basis during practice. Those who do are usually the top hitters.

2: Work on Your Strengths

But don't you mean work on your weaknesses? We'll get to that in a minute, but chances are your strengths are a big part of your make-up. Continue to develop your bread and butter while you bring up the rest of your game.

3: Fix Your Weaknesses

Can't bunt? Learn how. Can't hit to the opposite field? Work on it. Get a good, honest assessment of your strengths and weaknesses and then act to improve.

Certainly you can't work on everything at once, but if you commit to a certain time frame to work on each, you will improve drastically over time. For example, lay down 20 sacrifice bunts before you take a swing. It only counts if it's a quality bunt of a strike. Work on hitting to the opposite field for 20 swings. It only counts when you are successful.

4: Know What You're Looking For

Before a pitch is ever thrown at you -- both in batting practice and a game -- you should know what you goal for that pitch is. It may change three times in a single at-bat, but you need to know each and every pitch.

No one on base and looking for a pitch to drive? Then only swing at that pitch. Hit and run is on and you need to get the bat on the ball? Well, you better be ready. Man on third, one out and you are looking for a ball waist-high or slightly higher to drive? Don't swing at a pitch at your ankles. You get the idea. Just doing this can raise your average significantly and help you be more productive for your team.

5: Stay Mentally Strong

Batting practice is the time to think. When it's game time, you want the work you put in to take over. If your practice is high quality, you give yourself a much better chance to succeed.

EVANS PARK IMPROVEMENT

SPBA THANKS SOUTH PARK TOWNSHIP

Late in the summer, South Park Township Public Works crews paved the Persons with Disability (PD) parking spaces behind the D Field left field fence. In addition, the path leading from that parking area to the concession stand (between D field and E&F fields) was also paved, providing a smooth pathway into our upper complex. SPBA appreciates the township's efforts in making the Evans Park complex accessible and family friendly.