

BATTER-UP

FALL, 2008

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2008 IN REVIEW

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Special points of interest:

- Thank You League Presidents and League Secretaries
- Have you honored/thanked your league coaches yet?
- Have you thanked your sponsors yet?
- NOW is the perfect time to charter for 2009. You can always add or subtract teams in the Spring.

IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR!! Yes, it was a very good year for Kansas Babe Ruth and Kansas Cal Ripken baseball.

As I tell the players and fans at the opening ceremonies of the 13-15 year-old state, we basically have NO problems with the kids. They are great.

The problems we have, seem to be from the adults. Sometimes adults seem to things certain rules apply to everyone but them. And that causes frustrations—but we get past that.

We continue to be one of the few programs in the USA that wants EVERY kid to get a chance to play America's greatest sport. And in today's society, many coaches and programs don't care about the "average" player. WE REQUIRE KIDS PLAYIN THE LOCAL LEAGUE.

We the local league season ends in Cal Ripken and

13-15 Babe Ruth, then our leagues pick their tournament (I don't like calling them all-star) teams. Hopefully you put 15 players on each tournament team so they can have that great experience.

In our 16-18 Babe Ruth program, the local league teams go intact to district tournament. Some states don't do it that way, but we have found that kids this age ALL want a chance to play in District tournaments.

And then we have the greatest "tournament trail" of anyone. If you are a chartered league (as you know) you don't pay anything to enter our District tournaments.

AND THEN YOU CAN'T BUY YOUR WAY INTO OUR STATE OR REGIONAL TOURNAMENT—you get there by winning the championship at the previous level.

Our program is unique from a lot of others as our program is all volunteer. The 16 people on our state board are all volunteers just like you league presidents and league secretaries who are reading the Batter-Up.

Continuing the "volunteer theme" mentioned earlier, it takes many volunteers to put on district, state and regional tournaments—but it is also a very rewarding experience AND we hope you league is taking its turn at hosting these various tournaments.

A lot of time, players and even parents in today's society don't seem to know the two simple words of THANK YOU. So we'll say it for them. We truly appreciate everything you do for your local program and want to say:

Thank you!

2009 Tournaments Awarded

When the State Board of Directors had their Fall meeting in late September they were able to award EIGHT tournaments for 2009,

Tournament awarded include the 16-18 year-old state to be in Independ-

ence, the 13-15 year-old state in Paola, the 13 year-old state in Ottawa, the 12&U(70') state in Fort Scott, the 12&U(60') state in Parsons, the 11 year-old state in Liberal and the 10 year-old state in Wellington.

Haysville will be hosting the 9 year-old 8-state regional. The state board felt very good about awarding those tournaments. Unfortunately some bids could not be awarded because there were too many bids for some of the ages.

****STATE LOCATIONS NEEDED****

The state is still looking for a few good tournament hosts.

We need locations for the 9 year-old state tournament and the 14 year-old state tournament.

We also need a location for our 15 year-old ALL-STAR CLASSIC in mid-August.

AND WE ALSO NEED A LOCATION FOR THE MID-WEST PLAINS REGIONAL TOURNAMENT FOR 10 YEAR-OLDS. IT WILL BE A 9 OR 10 TEAM TOURNAMENT INCLUD-

ING EIGHT STATE CHAMPIONS AND MAYBE A TEAM FROM CANADA TO SEE WHICH TEAM GOES TO THE CAL RIPKEN WORLD SERIES.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact your district commissioner or contact State Commissioner Gary Kuntz at Garykuntz27@sbcglobal.net.

We would like to have all of these tournament situated by October 10, so get

word to us quickly.

The cost for the 9 year-old state is \$1,200, the cost for the 14 year-old state is \$900, and the cost for the regional is \$2,250.

The only one of these tournaments that requires host-families is the 14 year-old state.

Hosting any of these events is GREAT for your community and great for your local league as the host team is automatically in that particular tournament. Think about it AND contact us.

Area-of-Draw

We keep mentioning Geographical Boundaries because they keep being a problem AND we just don't want them to become a HUGE problem.

Every league MUST have an "area-of-draw" approved by your District Commissioner, signed by the State Commissioner

AND on record with headquarters. **That then is the exact AND THE ONLY place you are allowed to get your players.**

If you know a player outside your boundary AND he is NOT in the boundary of any other league, **YOU CANNOT LET HIM PLAY IN YOUR**

LEAGUE.

If you are not EXACTLY sure of your league's boundary, you MUST get together with your District Commissioner.

The alternative is to have an illegal player, which could then make your whole league illegal for

HERE ARE THE DATES FOR 2009

Many of our tournament dates for 2009 are about a week later than last year, so that means you can let ALL your kids play in local league a little longer.

Here are the District tournament "must end by" dates although some districts might run them earlier. Also the report dates for state.

9&10 year-old districts must end by July 13 and report to state on the 16th.

12&U(60') districts must end by July 19 and 11's, 16-18, and 12&U(70') must end on July 20. The 60's then report to state on July 22 and the 11's, 16-18, and 70's report to state on July 23.

13-15 year-old districts

must end by July 26 and report to state on July 28. The 13's and 14's must end districts by July 27 and report to state on July 30.

These dates should help you plan "local league schedules to run a little later" AND should help parents planning vacations for next summer.

Learn about our
program from
national at
Baberuthleague.org
You'll
Learn
A
Lot!

State Tournament Hosts And Winners

A special salute from Kansas Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken to the towns that hosted our state tournaments in 2008. WE appreciate you stepping forward to help "our" program.

GARDEN CITY hosted the 16-18 state tournament which was won by Galena/Riverton as they defeated Wellington. The champions also won the sportsmanship award.

The 13-15 state was in **WELLINGTON** and Salina defeated Wellsville for the title with Cottonwood Valley claiming the team sportsmanship award.

Salina defeated Wellington in the 14 year-old state tournament at **HILLSBORO** and Lakin won the sportsmanship award.

The 13 year-old state was at **OSAGE CITY** and Ottawa defeated Parsons for the title. Cimarron River was the sportsmanship winner.

The 12&U(70') state was at **LYONS** and the hosts defeated Osawatomie for the title. Stevens County won the sportsmanship plaque.

The 12&U(60') state was at **COLUMBUS** and Labette

County defeated Independence with Gas Capitol getting the sportsmanship.

The 11 year-old state was at **PEABODY** and Ottawa defeated Wellington. Fort Scott won the sportsmanship award.

The 10 year-old state was at **FORT SCOTT** and Emporia defeated Cimarron River. Fort Scott won the sportsmanship award.

The 9's played at **HAYSVILLE** and Ottawa defeated the hosts with Belle Plain winning sportsmanship.

****CONGRATULATIONS****

Many leagues were mentioned in the story above.

Nine were mentioned for hosting our state tournaments AND that is so very important. Obviously, we couldn't have state tournaments if no one agreed to do the work and all nine towns did a great job in

2008.

Obviously congratulations to the state champions AND to the teams that got first runner-up. That is a great way to end the season.

And a special congratulations to the leagues that won the team sportsman-

ship awards. We believe that sportsmanship is very important and that's why we award such a plaque at every district and state tournament in the state of Kansas.

So congratulations to all the leagues mentioned above and to the other leagues in the state tournament.

Coach's Certification

2008 was the first year for the national coach's certification course.

The results as teams checked in at the District and State tournaments were very impressive and the results were very pleasing to the State Board of Directors.

With an announcement from headquarters, all

coaches who completed the course in 2008, are now okay to coach forever.

All new coaches to your program for 2009 or any local league coaches who did not get certified this past season need to get the course

GET YOUR NEW COACHES CERTIFIED EARLY FOR 2009—AVOID THE SPRING RUSH!!!

completed and the sooner the better so you don't have to worry about it in the Spring.

Get information at [Babe Ruth League.org](http://BabeRuthLeague.org).

Thanks to all the leagues who worked with us in the first year of this program.

Keep up-to-date with our state program by checking things out at Kansasbaberuthleagues.com

A special thanks to **Bob Willis** for his dedication to our state website.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARION

Marion hosted the 2008 regional tournament for 12&U(70') division. And every indication is that they did an excellent job.

Hosting a regional which requires host families is a year long process and requires the efforts of many people.

The City of Marion should be very proud of everyone involved with putting Marion, Kansas on the map of the Midwest Plains Region of Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken Baseball. Congratulations

KANSAS BABE RUTH BASEBALL AND
KANSAS CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL

Get your District Commissioner's phone number at Kansasbaberuthleagues.com and give him a call if there is anything we can do to help you in the off-season as you start preparing for 2009.

Your District Commissioner can also help you get involved in ALL THREE of our programs—Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball and Girl's Softball.



**Kansas Babe Ruth-
Cal Ripken**

Join us—be part of the best!!!

Kansasbaberuthleagues.com

A special WELCOME to Dennis Nevin of Parsons who has accepted a position as Assistant State Commissioner for 12&U(60'), which means his main function will be to supervise that state tournament. Dennis is a long-time Babe Ruth person and continues as an Assistant District Commissioner for District #5.

Fort Scott does a GREAT job with Classic X

Fort Scott hosted CLASSIC X and did a GREAT job as Kansas Babe Ruth honored 35 of the best 15 year-old Babe Ruth players in the State of Kansas.

Tom Robertson, Fort Scott Recreation Director, did a super job of organizing the whole weekend.

Players were selected by the District Commissioners as they watched the 15 year-olds perform in district tournaments. The players were selected for ability, but also on their hustle and attitude.

Players reported on Saturday late afternoon for a two-hour practice. Then Fort Scott hosted a picnic

for the players and their families.

On Sunday late morning, the players reported for team and individual pictures followed by infield practice.

During opening ceremonies, the players were presented special awards from Kansas Babe Ruth.

Then two seven-inning games were played with each team winning once.

The WEST won the first game 10-3. The west had seven hits and scored in four different innings while the East had eight hits.

The EAST team won the second game 10-5 as they

crossed the plate eight teams in the top of the fifth.

District Commissioner Daryl Spear from Columbus managed the East squad while he was assisted by Vic Colvin (Cherokee) and Ricky Roth (Ottawa).

Assistant State Commissioner Mark Brooks from Council Grove managed the West and he was assisted by Terry Millard (Great Bend) and Chris Craig (Wellington).

Several Babe Ruth Board members attended the event to help honor the outstanding young men who were selected for Classic X.

FROM THE STATE COMMISSIONER'S DESK

Who is MOST important to our program? Obviously it's the young people who play the GREATEST game in America. Who is the MOST important adult in our program? That's more complicated. Its probably the coaches because we have seen kids want to play the game, but there was no adult to coach them. BUT what about the League President? We have seen leagues collapse when a League President quit or moved away. We couldn't have our GREAT tournament trail without some of the BEST District Commissioners in the whole country right here in Kansas. They have to have assistants because we have so many tournament trails and then we have some excellent Assistant State Commissioner who run our nine state tournaments. AND all of the adults mentioned above get paid the same thing that the kids get paid—absolutely ZERO. **A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE ADULT VOLUNTEERS IN KANSAS WHO MAKE KANSAS BABE RUTH/CAL RIPKEN A GREAT PROGRAM.**

Thank you, Gary Kuntz-State Commissioner