

BATTER-UP

KANSAS BABE RUTH BASEBALL---KANSAS CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL

2009-A GREAT YEAR FOR KANSAS BABE RUTH AND KANSAS CAL RIPKEN

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The Summer of 2009 was a very good year for Kansas Babe Ruth and Kansas Cal Ripken Baseball.

We gained several new leagues/teams and we lost a couple (generally the losses are because of a loss of adult leadership or coaches who think traveling teams for the "select" kids is better for their needs).

Thousands of young people across our state got to participate in a local league program regardless of their abilities. And many or most of them had positive experiences PLAYING AMERICA'S PASTTIME.

Then in our 13-15 division and in our Cal Ripken program, the leagues select tournament teams and we had participation in

NINE tournament trails in 2009.

In our 16-18 division, each team goes intact to the tournament trail.

In the Babe Ruth division we had tournament trails in the 13 year-old age bracket, in the 14&U age and in the 13-15 age.

In the Cal Ripken division we had FIVE tournament trails including the 9's, 10&U, 11&U, 12&U (60') and 12&U (70') divisions.

It was a GREAT tournament experience for a couple thousand kids playing in the Kansas Babe Ruth/Kansas Cal Ripken program.

It takes many volunteer coaches, sponsors, and others to put on a local league pro-



Kansas Babe Ruth/
Kansas Cal Ripken
"A REAL HIT IN 2009"

gram that separates us from many other programs AND YOU ARE THE MAIN PEOPLE WE WANT TO THANK.

You are very special and very much appreciated.

BOB WILLIS TO HEAD KANSAS BABE RUTH/CAL RIPKEN IN 2010

Bob Willis was recently elected to be the new State Commissioner for Kansas Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball.

Willis has been a District Commissioner for nearly 20 years serving District 3.

He has also been the person

who started our state website at Kansasbaberuthleagues.com and has developed it into one of the best Babe Ruth websites in the country working at this job twelve months a year.

Bob was elected last month by the District Commissioners and

the election if for a two-year term.

Willis lives in Wellington with his wife Sherry when he has had a dental office for many years.

BOB WILLIS WILL DO A GREAT JOB FOR YOU. By GK

Special points of interest:

- Thanks to you and your local supporters for a great effort in 2009
- A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW STATE COMMISSIONER BOB WILLIS.
- A very special thanks to the towns who hosted tournaments in 2009.
- And a very special thanks to the towns who have agreed to host tournaments in 2010.
- Make sure you thank everyone who helped your local program be successful in 2009.

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ALL SIX DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REELECTED FOR ANOTHER TWO-YEAR TERM

The SIX District Commissioners of Kansas Babe Ruth/Kansas Cal Ripken Baseball were all reelected a couple of months ago for another two year term.

These six included: Eric Jantz from Holcomb serving District 1, Bob Willis from Wellington for District 3, David Branson from Marion working in District 4, Daryl Spear from Columbus serving District 5, Dan Welch of Osawatomie working in District 6 and Joey King of Louisburg in District 7.

State Secretary and Election Commissioner Kermit Hawley sent ballots to each Babe Ruth

and Cal Ripken League President in July for them to vote on their District Commissioner. Those results were announced in early August and then officially announced at the Fall meeting.

As witnessed by their reelection, these six guys did a very good job of working with their leagues, representing their districts at the three state meetings and conducting the district tournaments within their districts to determine which leagues would represent their particular district at the various state tournaments.

A very special CONGRATULATIONS to

these six district commissioners for their reelection for another two years AND a special thanks to them for all of their efforts in 2008 and 2009.

As announced on Page one of Batter-Up, one of their first jobs after being elected is to select the State Commissioner and last month they selected one of their own—District Commissioner Bob Willis to be the new State Commissioner.

A new District Commissioner representing District 3 will be selected in the near future as Willis vacates that position.

BABE RUTH'S DATA CENTER WILL BE GREAT FOR EVERYONE WHEN THE PRODUCT IS FINISHED

The new Data Center at headquarters gave many of us headaches in 2009 with all kinds of problems. But.....Everyone could get a "taste" of what it will be able to do when the product is finished.

Almost all of our leagues in Kansas did their chartering "online" in 2009. For the most part, there didn't seem to be many problems with that process.

Over 50% of our leagues did their local league rosters online. That's when some problems developed and several leagues tried to do

online rosters, but had some problems. I believe those problems will all be gone by the 2010 season.

The leagues that did online rosters found it very easy to do their tournament team rosters online. Again, that process will be easy for everyone next year.

WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE LEAGUES TO CHARTER EARLY—VERY EARLY—FOR 2010—especially if there will be new officers. The reason is that headquarters will continuously be com-

ing out with new information for the Data Center and we want everyone to be informed.

New State Commissioner Bob Willis and the District Commissioners will be more informed on how everything works so they will be much better prepared to help you in 2010.

The whole purpose of the Data Center is to make your job as league president or secretary easier AND you will see that happening starting in 2010. Thanks for hanging with us as we grow the system.

*** 2010 Tournament Locations Announced ***

When the State board-of-directors met in mid-September, they went through the tournament bids and awarded most of the tournaments for 2010.

PAOLA was awarded the 9 year-old state tournament for 2010 while the 10&U state will be at **WELLINGTON**. **MARION** will be the host for the 11&U state tournament next summer.

The 12&U (60') state will be in **SPEAR-**

VILLE while the 70' division will be in **HILLSBORO**.

The 13-15 year-old state will be in **ULYSSES**. In the time since the state meeting, **LIBERAL** was awarded the 16-18 year-old state tournament.

Most of the above listed winners had one or two other towns in the bidding for that particular tournament. We really appreciate all the bids which were received and acknowledge

the tough decision in selecting the locations.

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR LOCATIONS FOR THE 13 AND THE 14 YEAR-OLD STATE TOURNAMENTS AND ALSO FOR THE CLASSIC.

If you are interested you should contact State Commission Bob Willis at rwillis@sutv.com. They will be awarded on a first-come basis to locations that he believes will do a good job with the tournament.

*****STATE TOURNAMENT HOSTS AND WINNERS*****

A special salute from Kansas Babe Ruth/Kansas Cal Ripken to the towns that hosted our state tournaments in 2009. We appreciate you stepping forward to help "our" program.

INDEPENDENCE hosted our 16-18 year-old state tournament. The tourney was won by Galena with Columbus getting first runner-up. Hillsboro won the team sportsmanship award.

The 13-15 year-old state was played at PAOLA. The championship game was won by Independence as they defeated Lakin with Cottonwood Valley winning the sportsman-

ship award.

OSAWATOMIE hosted the 14 year-old state which was won by Ottawa as they defeated the host team. Southwest League won the sportsmanship award.

The 13 year-old state was at OTTAWA and saw Cottonwood Valley defeat Stevens County for the title with Cimarron River winning the sportsmanship award.

In the Cal Ripken division, LAKIN hosted the 9 year-old state as Paola defeated Cimarron River. Fort Scott won the sportsmanship

award. WELLINGTON hosted the 10&U state as Ottawa defeated Cimarron River for the championship and Wellington won the sportsmanship award.

The 11's played at LIBERAL and saw SPIAA defeat Buhler. Fort Scott won the Sportsmanship award.

The 12&U(60') state was at PARSONS and Parsons defeated Coffeyville for the title with Gas Capital winning the sportsmanship award. The 70' was at FORT SCOTT and Ottawa defeated Wellington with Cimarron River winning the sportsmanship.

*****REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS-2009 AND 2010*****

HAYSVILLE hosted their first-ever regional tournament this past summer as they put on a very good tournament in the 9 year-old division.

LIBERAL again hosted a regional tournament as they hosted the regional for the 10&U division. Liberal has hosted several regional and state tournaments in the past.

Both of these communities did an excellent job of hosting the tournament and displaying their city to the teams from the Midwest Plains regional that came in for the tournament. We

really appreciate the year-long efforts by both towns and the excellent job they did representing Kansas in the process.

Again in 2010, Kansas will be honored to host TWO regional tournaments. Bids were accepted and tournaments award at the Fall State Board of Directors meeting.

WELLINGTON will host the 16-18 year-old regional tournament and LYONS will host the 11&U regional tournament. We are excited to have Lyons and Wellington hosting these tournaments as both cities are very ex-

THANK YOU to Liberal and Haysville for a GREAT job in 2009. Wellington and Lyons we know you be great regional hosts in 2010!!!!

perienced in hosting BIG regional tournaments and have always done an excellent job. We know they will do GREAT in 2010. Thanks for stepping forward.

*****TOURNAMENT DATES FOR 2010*****

Many leagues like to know the tournament dates early so they can works on schedules and so parents and coaches can plan vacations and other camps.

HERE ARE THOSE DATES FOR 2010:

State tournament report date for the 16-18 is on Thursday, July 8 after the districts end by Monday, July 5.

FIVE state tournaments share a report date of Thursday, July 15 including the 9 year-olds,

10 year-olds, 12&U 60', 12&U 70', and the 13-15's. All five of these have a Monday, July 12 deadline for finishing their districts.

The other three tournament trails including the 11's, 13's and 14's have a State tournament report date of Thursday, July 22 after their districts end by July 19.

The starting date for District tournaments is determined by the District Commissioner and is based on the number of

teams that he has in the particular tournament trail.

The District Commissioner will probably not be able to give you those dates until Spring time when he knows of any new leagues coming into his district and how many leagues are returning from 2009.

The information in this article should be of benefit to all of our leagues as they plan and as they answer questions from parents.

KANSAS BABE RUTH BASEBALL-- -KANSAS CAL RIPKEN BASEBALL

AREA-OF-DRAW MAP/DESCRIPTION

With a new State Commissioner, your District Commissioner will be working with you to do a NEW "area-of-draw" map/description for your league. In most cases, it will simply be copying the old geographical boundary on a new form that will be signed by the LEAGUE PRESIDENT and then forwarded to the **NEW STATE COMMISSIONER** for his signature. He will then forward a copy on to headquarters.

Because the State Commissioner is charged with enforcing this very important rule, it is important that his signature be on the paper. We would hope that all leagues and District Commissioners will work to get this job done early in the "off-season."

www.kansasbaberuthleagues.com

From the "retired" State Commissioner:

It has been my honor to serve you in this position for the last 20 years. It has been a very rewarding time of my life as I have met many great people and friends during this time.

Sometimes it has been challenging because in this position a person has to make decisions. I have always tried to do what I thought was fair and in the best interest of the entire state program. When you have to make decisions, it will almost always upset someone. But you do the best you can and then you move on. AND after 20 years in the position and 40 years with the program, I decided that it was time to "move on" and let someone else have a turn so in early September I announced my retirement plans to the state board. . I will continue to help anyway I can when my help is needed or requested.

I so much admire you and all the other volunteers in our great program. I wish you nothing but the best. Bob Willis will do a very good job as our State Commissioner and you will be very happy with his efforts for you, your players and your league. . You will enjoy working with him. Thanks for your support through the years and thanks for the memories. Sincerely,

Gary Kuntz

*****WELLINGTON GREAT HOST FOR CLASSIC XI*****

August 15-16 was a great weekend for 36 of the best 15 year-old Babe Ruth Baseball players in the state of Kansas as those selected players and their families converged on Wellington for Classic XI.

After a short meeting on Saturday late afternoon, the East and the West had a couple hours of light practice on the field and in the batting cages.

After practice, Wellington Babe Ruth with special efforts by Linda Metzen along with her husband Ron and league President Chris Craig

and others put on an awesome banquet for the players and their families at Wellington High School that was free for everyone.

On Sunday there was a picture session for everyone to get pictures and then infield practice followed by very special opening ceremonies.

The East team won the first game 6-5 by scoring three runs in the bottom of the sixth and then after trailing 4-1 after two innings of the second game, the East came on strong to claim a 12-8 victory.

BUT THE SCORES

REALLY ARE NOT IMPORTANT AT THE CLASSIC. What is important is the group of players being honored and their families and it was indeed a very special Sunday afternoon.

The East squad was managed by District Commissioner Dan Welch and he was assisted by Brent Julian (Independence) and Greg Bogina (Arma). The West team was managed by Assistant State Commissioner Larry Gerwick and he was assisted by Pat Lemmons (Haysville) and Kerwin Spencer (Wellington).

A very special thanks to these six coaches for helping make the weekend special AND A VERY SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to the players who were selected at District Tournaments as CLASSIC PLAYERS FOR THE 2009 CLASSIC XI.

THANKS WELLINGTON FOR A GREAT JOB WITH CLASSIC XI.

