

Babe Ruth Classic XI

AUGUST, 2009

CLASSIC HISTORY

- *The Kansas Babe Ruth Classic brings 36 of the Best 15 year-old Babe Ruth players together for a FUN weekend of practice, banquet, photos, ceremonies AND two ballgames.*
- *The Kansas Babe Ruth Classic started in 1999.*
- *Each district gets a number of selections based on the 13-15 leagues/teams in their district.*
- *Players are selected by ability/attitude/sportsmanship/hustle during District tournament.*
- *CLASSIC HOSTS HAVE INCLUDED: McPherson, Great Bend, Pittsburg, Burlington, Ulysses, Lyons (2), Elkhart, Fort Scott and Wellington(2).*

WELLINGTON WEEKEND IS SPECIAL FOR 15 YEAR-OLD CLASSIC PLAYERS

August 15-16 was a very special weekend for a very special group of young men from around the state of Kansas.

It was a weekend when 36 of the BEST 15 year-old Babe Ruth Baseball players in the Kansas Babe Ruth program converged on Wellington to participate in the 11th annual **Kansas Babe Ruth Classic**.

State Commissioner Gary Kuntz started with a 5pm meeting on Saturday to congratulate the 36 players for being selected for this great honor and also complimenting parents, grandparents and other relatives who were present.

A 90 minute practice followed so the coaches could get to know the players and the players could get to know each other.

The evening concluded with a special banquet made possible by Ron and Linda Metzen and other Welling-

ton Babe Ruth officials. It was a special meal which was followed by Wellington presenting each player with a special shirt as a souvenir of the weekend event.

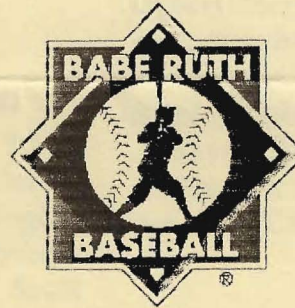
District Commissioner Bob Willis and League President Chris Craig were very instrumental in all of the weekend's activities.

Many attended a special breakfast sponsored by the Knight's of Columbus. At 11 am the day started with team and individual pictures followed by infield practice.

During opening ceremonies, each participant was presented with a very special plaque from Kansas Babe Ruth Leagues.

The Classic continues to be a GREAT conclusion to another GREAT Babe Ruth Baseball season in Kansas.

CONGRATULATIONS to all 36 players and the six coaches!!!!



WELLINGTON A GREAT HOST IN 2009

Wellington is one of the best towns in Kansas Babe Ruth in having a class program at the local league level and always taking their turn at hosting tournaments or the Classic.

Everyone was very impressed with their new "practice" facility and then their "showcase" Hibbs-Hooten Field for the games is always special.

Thanks Wellington for stepping forward and doing a GREAT job—as always!!

A SPECIAL REWARD FOR MANAGERS AND COACHES

The managers for this year's Classic included Assistant State Commissioner Larry Gerwick for the West and District Commissioner Dan Welch for the East.

The assistant coaches are from local programs and are given this honor as a special "thank you." This year's assistants included Pat Lemmons from Haysville and Kerwin Spencer from Wellington for the West AND Brent Julian of Independence and Greg Bogina of Arma for the East. **CONGRATULATIONS GUYS and thanks for everything!**

Both games were close, with the East winning both contests

The two games were very well-played contests with the East winning the first game 6-5 with three runs in the bottom of the sixth and then winning the second game 12-8 stopping a four-run rally by the West in the bottom of the seventh.

The doubleheader featured some timely hitting in both games. But the highlight was undoubtedly some tremendous defensive efforts including diving catches in both the infield and the outfield and two runners being thrown out at home plate

trying to score on a base hit.

The games were fun for everyone, but almost secondary to the other ceremonies and just the honor of being selected to participate in this very special annual event. **GREAT GAMES PLAYERS!!**

*****2009 CLASSIC XI ROSTERS*****

WEST

Player(High School)

Bryant Miller(Lakin), Colby Hamel(Lakin), Cody Frederick(Hugoton), Moises Andrade(Liberal), Ty Herman(Hugoton), Bryce Meuli(Abilene), Cooper Brown(Salina South), Josh Locke(Sedgwick), Isaac Ellison(Hesston), Tyler Mullins(Chase Co.) Jordan Rosales(Lakin), Bryan Hellman(Medicine Lodge), Dillon Cypert(Wellington), Garrett

Jones(Campus), Levi Gurley(Wellington), Matthew Hiebert(Peabody-Burns), Logan Fessler(Salina Central), Ryan Jenkins(Wellington).

(Neodesha), Wes Krull(Parsons), Drew Needham(Osawatomie), Jeremiah Daniels(Paola), Austin Ohlmeier(Paola), Jake Rowe(Jayhawk-Linn), Derrick Kueser(Osawatomie), Dustin Oliver(Independence), Tanner Staats(Paola), Grant McMillan(Chanute), Colten Stanley(Columbus), Travis Jones(Columbus), Joel Collins(Parsons), Quinton Schooley(Chanute).

EAST

Player(High School)

Easton Julian(Independence), Joey Claffey(Northeast), Austin Bogina(Northeast), Jacob Wertz(Labette Co), Jake Scott

A chance to share and "brag"

We would like to be able to follow YOU after the Classic (in baseball AND other sports AND other successes).

Players are invited to send an email to Garykuntz27@sbcglobal.net.

Let us know about the good things you do:

*The games you win

*The touchdowns

*The field goals

*the high school home runs and no-hitters

*the straight A honor rolls

*The college scholarships, the professional contracts, the first game in the "bigs."

WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IN THE JOY OF ALL YOUR SUC-

CESSES THIS SCHOOL YEAR AND IN THE FUTURE.

See team pictures, scores and rosters at Kansasbaberuthleagues.com

*****HITS-RUNS-ERRORS*****

It was fun sharing the story of a couple of CLASSIC players from 2002. DANIEL DELLASEGA of Pittsburg and TANNER RINDELLS of Hugoton were playing in the NBC national tournament in Wichita a couple weeks ago and playing against each other in the semi-finals of the 36 team-tournament.

It was also fun sharing a story of a

CLASSIC player from 2007. JACE MOORE of Moscow led his high school to second place in the state 2A-1A baseball tournament in 2009 and was featured in the "FACES IN THE CROWD" section of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED dated June 29, 2009.

TYLER YBARRA of Wellington and a CLASSIC player from 2005 is currently playing baseball in Flor-

ida with a minor league team of the Toronto Blue Jays and is having some excellent success.

I'm sure there are other successes of former CLASSIC players that we have not heard about. That's why we encourage the "share and brag" story just above this one.

These two pages are just some rambling thoughts to help you remember CLASSIC weekend.

Gary Kuntz-State Commissioner