

Babe Ruth Classic VI

ULYSSES WEEKEND IS SPECIAL FOR 15 YEAR-OLD CLASSIC PLAYERS

August 14-15 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 Ulysses to participate in the sixth annual Kansas Babe Ruth Classic.

The event started with a group meeting conducted by State Commissioner Gary Kuntz. He welcomed the players, parents, other relatives and friends.

The players were told to relax and have fun. "You have nothing to prove to anyone. You already did that at the district tourney, or you wouldn't even be here."

It was now practice time and one team headed to the batting cage and one headed to the field for infield/outfield practice. After an hour the two teams traded

locations. The two hours did not prove to be the most difficult practice ever, but it did give the players a chance to get in a few swings, to take a few ground balls on the grass infield and it was also a chance for the coaches to become a little bit familiar with their players.

'13' IS MAGIC FOR THE WEST TEAM

Thirteen was the magic number for the West team as they won the first game 13-8 and the second game 13-11.

In the opening game, the East took an early 5-2 lead after the first three innings and led 7-5 after five. But the West squad took the lead for the first time with five runs in the top of the sixth and never looked back.



A GREAT symbol—A GREAT program.

In the second game, there was a similar pattern. The East grabbed a 2-0 in the first inning and led 6-4 after six innings before exploding for five runs in the 7th to lead 11-4. But the West team scored three in the bottom of the 7th and a half dozen in the 8th to claim the second game 13-11.

Hopefully many new friendships were created that will last for high school, college, and life after school.

Ulysses was a great host for Classic VI

The City of Ulysses should be very proud of the job that Grant Co. Recreation did with Classic VI.

After the Saturday evening practice players, parents, and officials descended on the Rec Center for a great barbeque dinner. Players as

well as coaches and family members were fed and it was FREE for everyone.

At the end of the dinner, the Ulysses people presented a special shirt to each of the players.

After team pictures on Sunday, there was a delay as

work on the field continued after a heavy rain Saturday night. During opening ceremonies, each player received a special plaque from Kansas Babe Ruth. Several board members from KBRL were present to recognize the players

- **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, PICNIC, 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 INCLUDE MCPHERSON IN 1999, PITTSBURG IN 2000, GREAT BEND IN 2001, LYONS IN 2002, WELLINGTON IN 2003 AND ULYSSES IN 2004.

A SPECIAL REWARD FOR MANAGERS AND COACHES

The managers for the Classic are individuals on the state board of directors and this is one way we can say thank you for all of their efforts for the program. The managers this year were State Secretary Kermit Hawley for the West and State Commissioner Gary Kuntz for the East.

Assistant coaches are either assistant district commissioners or local league people who have given years to Babe Ruth Baseball.

The assistants for the East this year were Jody Garrison of Paola and Ron Goins of Independence. And for the West the coaches were Jonathan Riebstatter of Peabody and Fred Kuntzsch of Scott City. Thanks for everything! You are very special and appreciated.

2004 CLASSIC VI ROSTERS

WEST

DISTRICT 1

Corbin Kuntzsch (Scott City), Arron Holmes (Hugoton), Johnny Sosa (Ulysses), Ryan Barmann (Scott City), Andrew Powell (Spearville) and Billy Rooney (Lakin).

DISTRICT 3

Darren Smith (Udall), Matt Mullen (Derby), Corey Conklin (Winfield), Ryan Herrig (Mulvane), Chris Salcedo (Ark City), Taylen Caudillo (Wellington)

DISTRICT 4

Will Choate (Lyons), Todd Woodruff (Peabody), Ryan Flood (North Newton), Michael Selby (Council Grove), Matt Patzner (Great Bend), Heath Patrick (Marquette).

EAST

DISTRICT 5

Jordan Gofourth (Edna), Trent Goins (Independence), Matt Guinotte (Chanute), Jarred Simmons (Galena), Sam Simpson (Columbus), and Keith Turner (Parsons)

DISTRICT 6

Andy Askins (LeRoy), Blake Draper (Osawatomie), Dillon Knopp (Fort Scott), Drew Lawson (Fort Scott), Jared Lickteig (Greeley) and Matt VanderLinden (Burlington)

DISTRICT 7

Aaron Owens (Paola), Seth Timpe (Paola), Corey Wells (Overbrook), Greg Nilges (Overbrook), Seth Roberts (Gardner) and Mitchell Green (Pomona).

A chance to share and "brag"

There is a further dream for the Classic beyond August 14-15. 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 gku@weblink2000.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 college scholarships, the professional contracts, the first game in the "bigs".

We would like to share in the joy of all of your successes this school year AND in the future.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thanks to several state board members (and wives) who share my "never say never" attitude

and because of that we got to play two full games at the Classic. Hard work can help dry a baseball field. Several others joined our efforts.

SPECIAL E-MAIL

**An e-mail from Jordan Gofourth said, "The Classic was an honor & a lot of fun with no pressure—that's what made it cool." He also said, "School started today, lots of fine girls."

Hits-Runs-Errors

"It's only a game." That was a big part of my message when I addressed the crowd at the opening ceremonies of the 13-15 state Babe Ruth tournament in Parsons last month. Several of you Classic players were there and heard that message.

You give it your greatest effort. You want to win real badly. But the fact of the matter is that it is only a game—which implies that there are other things in life that are much more important.

Early Sunday morning, discussions were held about moving the games to another location or canceling the games. But with the help of people from Grant Co. Recreation, some parents and several members of the state Babe Ruth board we were able to play the games as scheduled—just a little bit late.

Andy Askins (from LeRoy) hit a home run for the East team. This was

The second home run in six years of the Babe Ruth Classic.

Saturday night several players played "Texas Hold'em Poker" in the motel lobby. Had anyone heard of Texas Hold'em a year ago?

Remember the CLASSIC!!!!

Gary Kuntz—

State Commissioner