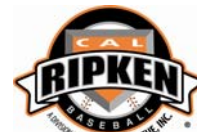




7th Inning STRETCH



Official Publication of Kansas Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc.

BOB WILLIS—STATE COMMISSIONER
PAUL UNRAU-CAL RIPKEN STATE COMMISSIONER



Volunteers Key to Babe Ruth Success

Kansas Babe Ruth experienced another great year with more growth in the 2011 season. The number one reason for our achievements is the volunteers who work tirelessly to insure that the Babe Ruth program remains the BEST youth program in the state. This front page and leading story is to recognize and thank the many volunteers who continue to make things happen in our program. Our volunteers are the BEST.

All of the Tournament Directors of the 2011 tournaments did an outstanding job of making sure their tournaments were first class events that will be remembered for years to come by all who participated in them. State Tournament Directors for the 2011 season were: Dan Fick

of Liberal (16-18), Gregg Dick and David Armstrong of Moundridge (13-15), Jared Rutti of Garden City (14 and 13), Bradley Venters of Scott City (12-70), Brent Julian of Independence (12-60), Justin Carlson of Council Grove(11), Jordan Irwin of Oswego(10), Jody Tom Robertson of Ft. Scott (9) and Aundrea Mastin (Rookie). The Midwest Plains 12(70) Regional Tournament Director was Russell Cain. Experience has shown that if volunteers know what the expectations are, they generally exceed those expectations. It is remarkable how the smaller towns pull together and make our tournaments "community events". So many memories were created that will last a lifetime, and so many new

friends were made that will result in long-lasting relationships. It bears repeating that the Babe Ruth Program is one big family which grows and gets better each year. Our volunteers are dedicated and rarely receive the recognition they deserve, but most don't do for the recognition—they do it because they love the game of baseball and the young people who participate in it, and they believe in Babe Ruth Baseball. Our District Commissioners and Assistant State Commissioners also work very hard and log in many hours during the entire year to make our program the best it can be. THANKS to all of our volunteers. YOU ARE THE GREATEST!!

KERMIT HAWLEY INDUCTED INTO KANSAS BABE RUTH HALL OF FAME



Several family members and friends gathered at the Water's Edge Restaurant in Hesston on September 10 to honor Kermit Hawley, the fifteenth member to be inducted into the Kansas Babe Ruth Hall of Fame. After an introduction by Immediate Past State Commissioner Gary Kuntz, Kermit shared some of his experiences and stories during his Babe Ruth Career. Having served under four State Commissioners in his 47 years, Kermit reflected upon the many changes that

he has witnessed and the various volunteers he has worked with. Kermit coached Babe Ruth teams in McPherson for over 20 years. During that span he had the opportunity to coach several tournament teams at a time when McPherson was regarded as one of the best programs in the State. Besides coaching, Kermit served on the local board as secretary/treasurer for many of those years and in 1971 hewas appointed as State Secretary. He relinquished that position to become the District Commissioner in

1972. After two years as District Commissioner, he became the State Secretary and has held that position since. Kermit served with the US Postal Service in McPherson for 42 years. After his retirement he has kept busy helping wife Susan operate their business, Nooks and Crannies and Floral. Their children Kathy, Christine, Sandy and Don and they were present to honor Kermit. Congratulations, Kermit, and thank you for your great example and volunteerism to our program.

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Kansas Babe Ruth Loses Family Member



Kansas Babe Ruth Leagues lost a great volunteer July 14, 2011 when Dallice Baumgartner passed away after a brief illness. Dallice had lived in Newton, where he had previously served as President of the Newton Babe Ruth League for four years and coached for many years. After that, he served as the Assistant State Commissioner at two different times. Dallice served as the Assistant State Commissioner-16 Year-Old Division for over ten years. When that age division was discontinued, he served as Assistant State Commissioner-At Large. After his wife died in 1977, Dallice helped fill that void by becoming active in Babe Ruth Baseball. Dallice served in the US Army during the Korean conflict and afterwards returned to his home town where he owned and operated D's Auto Service. He had been a member of the Eastside United Methodist Church for over 45 years..

and had great compassion for the less talented ball players. He wanted them to be involved in a summer activity rather than sitting idle in the summertime. He wanted to stay on the board after the 16 year-old program ended, and he felt like the Board was part of his extended family. He tried to attend all of our meetings when he could, and his last one attended was the February, 2011 meeting in Emporia.

Dallice will be missed by all of us. He will be lauded as a great example of a volunteer whose dedication and love of baseball's young participants made our world a better place.

Dallice had a heart of gold



2011 State Babe Ruth Tournament Results

Age Division	Location	Champion	Sportsmanship Award
13's	Garden City	Cimarron River	Garden City
14's	Garden City	Ottawa	Parsons
13-15's	Moundridge	Humboldt	Osawatomie
16-18's	Liberal	Columbus	Junction City

2011 State Cal Ripken Tournament Results

Age Division	Location	Champion	Sportsmanship Award
Rookie	Haysville	Haysville	Labette County
9's	Ft. Scott	Fort Scott/Cimarron River	Cimarron River
10's	Oswego	Ft. Scott	Independence
11's	Council Grove	Paola	Oxford
12(60')	Independence	Independence	Belle Plaine
12(70')	Scott City	Ottawa	Marion

Midwest Plains Regional Tournament

Marion hosted the 12(70) Midwest Plains Regional tournament July 28-August 2. The eight team, double-elimination tournament was played in humid 100 degree + temperatures during the day and delayed on the first day by thunderstorms, but finished

on time. Waite Park, MN was the champion defeating the Mineral Area Longhorns 14-0 in the Championship game. Waite Park advanced to the World Series in Aberdeen, MD. The Norm and Colleen Travis Sportsmanship Award was presented to Gering, NE.

Tournament Director Russell Cain and his many volunteers ran a first class tournament and many memories were created because of the utilization of the host family program. Many people were impressed by the friendly and hospitable citizens of Marion.

The Babe Ruth publication "Bullpen" is a GREAT source of information for leagues, coaches, and all volunteers. It includes stories about Babe Ruth happenings on national and state levels, drills, conditioning tips, umpiring information and much, much more. Go online to www.baberruthleague.org Click on the Bullpen icon and enjoy reading all the latest Babe Ruth news. The World Series Edition is now available. Check it out.

If you have a smartphone, you can download a free barcode reader app. and scan the QR code below to access the Bullpen archives.



Cal Zone by Cal Ripken Commissioner Paul Unrau

It's Not Whether You Win or Lose: Teaching Good Sportsmanship

One danger of playing competitive sports is that kids and adults begin to think that if they don't win, they're failures. By teaching sportsmanship and modeling sportsmanship we can all become better competitors and appreciate the competition no matter the outcome. In Kansas we emphasize sportsmanship. At each and every one of our Kansas district and state tournaments we talk about sportsmanship, we read the Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth League before every game, and we reward sportsmanship by presenting a sportsmanship award that honors the participants that best exhibit the ideals of the code. We want to become better at being true "sportsmen".

This past summer at the two Cal Ripken state tournaments that I attended, I was pleasantly surprised at how well some of the participants knew the wording of the Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Code. The words of the code were becoming a part of them. But knowing the wording of the code and demonstrating its ideals can be two different things. So do we really know what the Sportsmanship Code of Babe Ruth League is proposed to be? Let's look more closely at the code and concentrate on what it stands to promote.

DEVELOP A STRONG, CLEAN HEALTHY BODY, MIND AND SOUL. Living one's life in a wholesome manner.

DEVELOP A STRONG URGE FOR SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT. Learning to be accountable for any action that may be deemed detrimental to either the safety of play or the safety of anyone present.

DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING OF AND RESPECT FOR THE RULES. Knowing the rules so that the game can be played and enjoyed to its fullest. Knowing the rules makes for better players, coaches, and spectators.

DEVELOP COURAGE IN DEFEAT, TOLERANCE AND MODESTY IN VICTORY. Success is embodied in lots of athletes who don't win or come in first place. (Why is the team that loses the World Series viewed as the big loser, when it was a good enough team to make it to the World Series in the first place?) Can we find the good aspects of play even when we come out short on the final score? Do we applaud when the other team makes a mistake? Are we congratulating teammates and opponents for their good play even in defeat? Do we give credit to our opponents for giving their best and playing us tough? Are we humble in victory and looking to improve on our own baseball skills and emotional outbursts?

DEVELOP CONTROL OVER EMOTIONS AND SPEECH. Learning to respect our umpires, coaches, players, and spectators. If it's not a positive comment, it's probably not a good one. Do we put profanity, degrading remarks, acts of violence or any form of intimidation off limits? It's communicating a respectful attitude on and off the field.

DEVELOP SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND TEAM PLAY. Play with our best effort, striving to make one another better. Working as one unit for a common goal. Being willing to acknowledge successes of others even when your personal efforts weren't producing the best results.

DEVELOP INTO REAL TRUE CITIZENS. By working to improve in each of the first six areas of the code, we can become a better citizen. Sportsmanship includes integrity, hard work, honesty, and cooperation. All of these together make for better citizens. We can all agree that our goal should be working together to promote sportsmanship and then expect to see acts of sportsmanship as we participate in Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken Baseball. Because of our efforts on the field we will also see the elements of sportsmanship demonstrated off the field in everyday life.



We now have a tournament trail for the Rookie (8U) division in Kansas. In 2010 this program was begun to allow those younger players the opportunity to travel and participate in a post-season tournament. Contact your District Commissioner for more details about participating in the Rookie Division.

In June, Kansas Babe Ruth Secretary, Kermit Hawley conducted a survey to determine interest in receiving the 7th Inning Stretch by email instead of having it mailed. Many preferred having it mailed, but some indicated they would like to receive it by email. If you would like to receive the publication by email, contact Kermit at hawley505@sbcglobal.net Receiving it by email will help cut costs by eliminating postage and it will give you the full color version of the publication rather than the black and white version. If you have a smartphone, you can download the free app, bar-code reader and scan the QR code below for access to the 7th Inning Stretch online.



Grace Unrau Volunteer Award Winners

Beginning in 2010, those volunteers who stood out for their dedication and unending efforts were presented a certificate recognizing their contributions to our program. In memory of Grace Unrau, the award was implemented to recognize meritorious contributions to the Kansas Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken program. Grace Unrau was an ardent baseball fan. Her love for the game was evident, as she dedicated many hours each summer volunteering and promoting the Babe Ruth program. Grace possessed an astute knowledge and expertise

in game scoring and statistics. However, she contributed in many other ways as well, such as assisting in fundraisers, serving on state and regional tournament committees and promoting participation. If there was a need, Grace would do her best to rise above and beyond the call of duty to fulfill that need. Those receiving the award in 2011 were: **Charles Wilson and Tod Palmer**, Haysville, Rookie State Tournament; **Brad Horton**, Council Grove, 11 YO State Tournament; **Amy Irwin and Brad Wilson**, Oswego, 10 YO State Tourna-

ment; **Connie Kaufman and Kolene Sugars**, Moundridge, 13-15 YO State Tournament; **Jody Garrison, Joe Auten, and Chris Partezana**, Paola, 9 YO District 7 Tournament. Congratulations to these volunteers who go the extra mile and unselfishly strive to make Kansas Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball the best that it can be. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, DILIGENCE AND FOR MAKING KANSAS BABE RUTH/CAL RIPKEN THE PREMIER PROGRAM THAT IT IS!!**

YOU MAKE THE CALL

Test your knowledge of Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations

Each *7th Inning Stretch* publication will feature a section on rules and regulations. Here's your challenge for this issue.

Fourth ball hits batter.

With a 3-and-2 count on the hitter, the base runner takes off from second base and steals third. The pitch, high and in-

side, nicks the batter's helmet and bounds to the backstop and the runner from second races home while the batter goes to second. What should the umpire rule?

Foul two-strike bunt caught.

A runner is at second base when the batter, a weak-hitting hitter

bunts foul with two strikes. The ball is popped down the third base line and is nabbed by the third baseman. Meanwhile, before the catch, the runner had reached third base. What is the ruling?

Answers on page 6

Meet your State Board of Directors

This column will appear in each issue and feature two members of the board



Dennis Nevin is the Assistant State Commissioner-12(60) Division, a position he has held since 2008. Dennis is also the Assistant District 5 Commissioner and has held that position since 1992. Dennis is very active in his district promoting Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball. He works overtime during the tournament trail to insure that our 12 (60) State Tournament is full with eight teams.

Dennis graduated from high school in 1966 and after that received his BSE degree from Pittsburg State University in 1995. He taught algebra until his retirement. He also attended the School of Locomotive Engineers in 1972.

As a youth, Dennis played baseball in the 12U age group for two years and then played in the 13-16 age division for 4 years. He also played baseball for Pittsburg State University from 1967-1970, and played semi-pro baseball for the S.E.K.

Dennis and his wife Gloria make their home in Parsons and have two grown daughters, Hallie and Jessica. One of their favorite pastimes is spending time with their grandchildren.



David Branson serves as the Assistant State Commissioner-12(70) Division and as the District 4 Commissioner, positions held for 12 and 4 years respectively.

David graduated from Newton High School in 1948 and attended Phillips University in Enid, OK, receiving a BA degree in 1953. He then attended the Phillips Graduate Seminary until 1957 and then attended Drew University, Madison, NJ, where he received his Doctor of Ministry degree in 1987.

David's involvement includes coaching, umpiring, President of Marion Athletic Commission, President of Cottonwood Valley League and his current duties as District Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioner. David and his son Ty worked many games together umpiring Babe Ruth games in the Marion area until health issues caused David to give up umpiring.

Besides serving his community as a minister, David substitute teaches and drives a school bus for the Marion School System.

David and his wife Diane have resided in Marion for many years.



If you know of any new leagues that are interested in Babe Ruth Softball, please have them contact Mark Donley, Kansas Softball Commissioner at (316)655-8113 or by e-mail at markdonley@hotmail.com



Log on to the Kansas Web Site (kansasbaberuthleagues.com) for a wealth of information about Kansas Babe Ruth Baseball, tournament information, schedules and scores, and links to other sites.

Classic XIII a Huge Success

Players, coaches and fans cruised into the Orlic Cox Sports Complex in Ottawa August 13 to participate in the 13th annual Classic for outstanding 15 year-olds. After two hours of practice and a delicious picnic on Saturday, one of the largest crowds ever assembled to watch the double-header Sunday as the East and West teams split. The West team won the first game by a score of 10-7 and the East won the second game 12-10. Kerwin Spencer, District 3 Commissioner, managed the West team with assistance from coaches Randy Kistler of Udall and Larry Kirkhart of Lyons. The East team was managed by Developmental Commissioner Pat Lemmons, and he was assisted by coaches Joe Meyer of Wellsville and Trey Thompson of Altamont. Making this "Classic" special was the first pitch ceremony where Immediate Past State Commissioner Gary Kuntz was honored. Gary started the Babe Ruth program in Ottawa. Also special was the fact that East coach Trey Thompson was a player in the first Classic contest in 1999. Kudos to Paula Willford and her many volunteer helpers who organized and ran the event. GREAT JOB OTTAWA!!!



2012 Tournament Dates Announced

	District Ending Date	State Tournament	MWP Region Tournament	World Series (includes travel)
Rookie (8U)		Oswego July	NONE	NONE
9 Year-Olds	TBA	Garden City July	Dickinson, ND July	NONE
10 Year-Olds	July 9	Liberal July 12-16	MN July 26-31	Bentonville, AR August 8-17
11 Year-Olds	TBA	Parsons July	MN July	NONE
12(60")	July 9	Labette County July 12-16	ND July 26-31	Winchester, MA August 7-16
12(70")	July 9	Paola July 12-16	MO July 27-31	Aberdeen, MD August 9-19
13 Year-Olds	July 16	Garden City July 19-24	NE July 31- Aug 1	Kitsap, WA August 13-22
14 Year-Olds	July 16	Haysville July 19-24	CO August 3-8	Murray, UT August 19-25
13-15 Year-Olds	July 16	Coffeyville July 19-24	Liberal, KS August 3-8	Van Buren, AR August 16-25
16-18 Year-Olds	July 3	Junction City July 6-11	MN July 13-18	Weimar, TX July 26-Aug. 4

Who's on First?

Since this is the 60th Anniversary of Babe Ruth Baseball, the challenge this issue will pertain to Babe Ruth Baseball history on a national and state level.

1. In what year was Babe Ruth Baseball Established in America?
2. What was the first league in Babe Ruth baseball?
3. In 1955, Kansas had its first State Champion in the 13-15 Division. Can you name the league?
4. In 1970, Kansas hosted its first and only World Series. Can you name the host site and the age division of this World Series?
5. Can you name the first Kansas Babe Ruth State Commissioner?

Answers at bottom of column on right



Answers to Who's on First?
 1. 1951 (if you didn't get this right, you're not paying attention to the banner above); 2. Hamilton Township, NJ; 3. Sunflower League; 4. Wellington, 16-18 Year-Olds; 5. George Fellers of Wichita.

CHARTER EARLY-AVOID THE RUSH

Headquarters is working for a target date in early January for leagues to begin their online Continuation of Charter (or Charter for new leagues). The chartering process sets into action many activities to prepare you for the 2012 season. Obviously, most leagues do not know their numbers by then, but you can charter based on last year's numbers and adjust those numbers

when your league has their sign-ups. Kansas finished in the top ten states last year for getting rosters filed online (92% for baseball and softball combined), so our leagues are to be commended for their efforts. With the enhanced online system, things should go even smoother this upcoming season. If you have any problems getting online or entering your data, contact

Colleen at headquarters, and she will help you or walk you through the process. The goal at headquarters is to help league officials as much as possible to get their charters and rosters completed online as early as possible. Then each league can concentrate on administering their program, playing their games and doing everything else that is required to run their program.



Musings from the Crowd

Comments or e-mails pertaining to Kansas Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball

"The Rookie tournament was so much fun to watch. My grandson and his team mates were playing in 110 degree temperatures and it didn't seem to bother them a bit. They were just having fun. I appreciate the fact that it is not cut-throat competition and that sportsmanship and the basic skills were taught by coaches that didn't get upset if things weren't perfect. I also appreciate that each boy was recognized during the tournament."

Mary H., Grandmother of player in Rookie State Tournament

"We were sitting there watching our team getting ready for their first game at the Regional Tournament and looked up and saw several of our host families and tournament personnel from the State Tournament coming to watch and support our team. Each family brought a "care package" for our kids. It was such a thoughtful and heart-warming experience, and separates the Babe Ruth program from any other that I have been involved with. Our kids will never forget that kind gesture."

Parent of Humboldt, KS player at the Midwest Plains Regional Tournament at Holyoke, CO

ANSWERS TO YOU MAKE THE CALL

Fourth ball hits batter. The batter has been hit by a pitch rather than walked. Therefore, the ball is dead, the runner returns to second and the batter is awarded first base. Rule 6.08b, 5.09a.

Foul two-strike bunt caught. When a two-strike foul bunt is caught, the ball remains in play-just as on any other legal catch. The runner, therefore, can be retired before he re-touches second base. Rule 7.08d.



We are on facebook. You can access the data center, help desk and Babe Ruth League through facebook. You can also access Kansas Babe Ruth Leagues on facebook. Here you will be able to learn about happenings in Kansas and tournament scores will be posted during the tournament trail.

7th Inning Stretch is the official newsletter of Kansas Babe Ruth Leagues, Inc. and is published three times a year (April, June and October), for all leagues and any party interested in Kansas Babe Ruth Baseball. Your input and comments are welcome and appreciated.