



Diamond Doings

2010 Opening Day/Night Issue



“Under the Lights”— Friday April 16, 2010

Our play opens on Friday night with a game under the lights at 7 PM (see page 4)

Saturday, April 17, 2010 59th Annual Libertyville Little League 2010 Opening Day Ceremony Ceremonies begin at 10 AM

Featuring ...

- Welcome from League President Bill Bennett
- Invocation (Pastor Thad Fisher)
- Color Guard (VFW Post 8741) and National Anthem performed by Licocci Horns
- Introduction of Libertyville Little League Board
- Presentation of 2009 District 16 Champions, 12-Year-Olds
- Presentation of the Joe Flood Memorial Award to Rocky Hudson by Jay Flood and Thomas Pence
- Recital of the Little League Pledge
- “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” performed by Licocci Horns
- Ceremonial First Pitch by Gary Bennett, LLL Varsity Division Director and former MLB player and World Series Champion
- “Play Ball!”

***All players and their families are invited to participate in the Opening Day Festivities. Players should wear their team uniforms and meet with their teams on the field.**



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To the Families of Libertyville Little League,

As Opening Day rapidly approaches, I can feel the excitement for another fantastic season of Little League Baseball at the fabulous Butler Lake Park Complex. The LLL fields are loaded with the history of our wonderful community. Having grown up here in Libertyville, I can remember looking forward to the time when my friends and I would be playing baseball all summer long. There was no better place to be on Saturday than at Butler Lake Park.

Each season has contributed in its own way to making me a better citizen of my community and my country. There were only four fields then, including Odom field, so named because Mr. and Mrs. Odom ran the concession stand behind home plate. Mrs. Odom warned me not to buy the Charleston Chew, but I did anyhow and paid a visit to the orthodontist the next day. We now have three more fields, and more than 1,000 players from ages 5 to 18. I am honored to have been chosen as the President of this fine organization, and my pride in it makes me work hard to help provide the best experience possible for this generation of youth, as it did for me.

In the days of my youth, I knew Gene Erickson, whose name is now proudly displayed at the park announcing that you are at the Gene Erickson Complex. He was a manager in the Majors Division for what seemed like my entire career in LLL. I had the privilege of umpiring weekly games on the bases with Joe Flood behind the plate, and to see that the Majors Division now plays on Flood Field gives me goose bumps. I can still hear his East Coast accent calling out "on the cohner ... TWO!" It is only proper to give out an award for the Volunteer of the Year and call it the Joe Flood Award. Playing in the program, I had no idea what it took to run a program like this, and while I appreciated Mr. Flood and Mr. Erickson then, I most certainly do now. There are hundreds of volunteers putting in countless hours to get the season ready, and my deepest gratitude goes out to them.

Opening Day is always a special time when we can officially say that the season has started. The fantastic Licocci Horns will be back again to start our season off with the sounds of baseball and the Star Spangled Banner as the VFW Post 8741 presents the U.S. colors.

Come on out, smell the fresh cut grass, grab a hot dog, and help us kick off another fun season. I look forward to seeing everyone out there for the ceremony and to hear those inviting words:

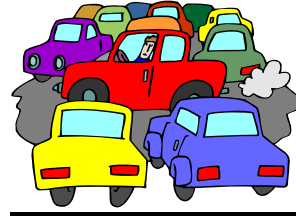
PLAY BALL!

Bill Bennett, President
Libertyville Little League

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(847) 367-1448
Web site: www.libertyvillebaseball.org
E-mail: comments@libertyvillebaseball.org



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Attention — Parking Alert

Because of the many Opening Day ceremonies and ball games, there will be a tremendous shortage of parking. Please be advised that you may park only in designated areas at the Butler Lake Complex or you will run the risk of being ticketed by the police department. Please try to carpool if at all possible, and allow extra time.

Additional parking is available at the Crawford Warming House (on Lake Street) at the Bolander Property (on Winchester Road) and at the Libertyville Train Station.

We look forward to seeing you at the Opening Day Ceremonies at 10 AM on Saturday, April 17.



Team Pictures

ATTENTION ALL PLAYERS AND PARENTS:

Team Pictures will be taken on Saturday, April 17, at Butterfield School. Check with your Team Parent or Manager for your specific time.

See the entire LLL calendar @ <http://www.libertyvillebaseball.org/calendar>.



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Opening Night

Once again, Libertyville Little League will kick off its season with a Friday night Majors Division opening game between the 2009 championship game participants.

The 2009 Majors Championship game was played on a warm, muggy night under the lights of Flood Field. The game featured the Porsche Exchange Yankees vs. the Sunset Foods Cardinals. The Cardinals jumped out to a 7–0 lead after three innings. The Yankees, who had made up large deficits during the regular season, staged another comeback, starting with a five-run 4th inning. Still down 7–5 in the bottom of the last regulation inning (6th inning), the Yankees scored two runs to tie the game. After neither team scored in the 7th, the 8th inning became a game within the game. In the top of the 8th, the Yankees pushed across 5 runs. Their lead looked safe until, with two outs in the bottom of the 8th inning, the Cardinals' Keith Wilson crushed a grand slam to pull the Cardinals within one run. The Cardinals then put two more runners on base, but a fly-out to left field ended their rally, and the Yankees won the championship 12–11, in one of the wildest thrillers ever played on Flood Field.

On Friday night, April 16, come watch the Yankees and Cardinals' rematch.

First pitch is at 7 PM on Flood Field.

Rocky Hudson
Director–Majors Division

2009 Libertyville Little League American League District 16 Champions

For the second year in row, an LLL team won the Illinois District 16 Championship for 12-year-olds during the Little League International “Williamsport” tournament.

The team will be introduced during Opening Ceremonies. Congratulations to Manager Jim Borcia, Coach Sam Donofrio, and the players ...

Joe Borcia
Jack Donofrio
Sean Ferraro
Adam Formento
Noah Greenberg
Michael Diambri
Tony Mendralla
Sam Kratzer
Jackson Pierce
Tank Vondrak
Patrick Wales



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Libertyville Little League thanks all of the businesses who support our 2010 baseball program. Please take every opportunity to support these fine sponsors.

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CMSH	Libertyville Insurance	Sunset Foods
Culver's of Libertyville	Libertyville Lincoln-Mercury	Sylvan Learning Center
David Lloyd, DDS	Libertyville Vision Center	Synergy Fitness & Sports
DeSanto & Morgan, Attorneys at Law	Libertyville Manor	Terry Wepler, Attorney at Law
Dr. Epstein, Sam's Optometry	Malnati's Organization	The Porsche Exchange
Edward Jones Investments — Bob Schachner	McMurrough Chapel	Total Image Studios
Famous Dave's Barbecue	MGN Lock	Unique Indoor Comfort
Fould's Pasta	Mobile Therapy Centers	VFW Post 8741
Geary Electric, Inc.	Murphy Ambulance Co.	Wa-Pa Ghetti's Pizza
Great Lakes Credit Union	North Shore Signs	Weil Cadillac/Hummer
Greenleaf Orthopaedic Associates	Pampered Pupz	Young at Heart Presschool



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2010 LLL Summer League Season

Baseball in July and your Sundays Free

Summer League is a 6-game extension of the Libertyville Little League season. Registration is open to all players ages 5 to 12 years regardless if they played during the regular season. This year, the Summer League will begin on Monday, July 5, and run through Saturday, July 31.

LLL Summer League is a casual, fun atmosphere with optional practices. We do not play on Sundays to free up family time. There are many games under the lights on the Majors Field, including games for the younger divisions. We play a 6-game schedule, followed by playoffs with trophies for the division winners.

Registration costs \$60.00 and is open now through June 20. Register at www.libertyvillebaseball.org.

Five Great Reasons to Play Summer Baseball

1. To improve your skills and get ready for the next level of play next year.
 - 5- and 6-year-olds will play coach pitch on the A field with A rules.
 - 7- and 8-year-olds will play kid pitch on the AA field with AA rules.
 - 9- and 10-year-olds will play on the AAA field with AAA rules, with at least one or more games under the lights on the Majors field.
 - 11- and 12-year olds will play on the Majors field weekdays under the lights and on Saturday.
2. To receive “way-cool” official minor league uniforms and hats that are yours to keep as part of the \$60.00 registration fee.
3. To learn new skills and play positions, such as pitcher and shortstop, that you may not have played much during the regular season.
4. To play “sandlot-style” baseball with others who love baseball.
5. To try baseball for the first time in a “no-pressure, just have fun” atmosphere.

Register now and join the fun.

See you on the diamond!

Tom Reed
Summer League Director



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2010 Jim Schurr Baseball Camp

Monday, June 7, through Friday, June 11 at the Butler Lake Libertyville Little League Complex

Libertyville High School coach Jim Schurr will host the camp with current college and Libertyville High School (LHS) players, as well as with several LHS baseball staff coaches. The camp will be broken down into four age groups, with three different sessions covering ...

- 1) Overall Skills — focuses on hitting, throwing, infield and outfield skills for each position, and base running.
- 2) Pitching — focuses on proper technique from, “the wind-up and stretch positions,” fielding bunts, and other mechanics of the position.
- 3) Catching — focuses on proper stance, giving signals, blocking, throwing, and “pop-ups.”

Age 7

Skills only (9–11 AM)

Ages 8 and 9

Skills (M through F: 9–11 AM)

Pitching (M–W–F: 11:15 AM–12:30 PM)

Catching (T and Th: 11:15 AM–12:30 PM)

Ages 10–12

Skills (M through F: 1–3 PM)

Pitching (M–W–F: 11:15 AM–12:30 PM)

Catching (T and Th: 11:15 AM–12:30 PM)

Ages 13 and 14

Skills (M through F: 1–3 PM)

Pitching (M–W–F: 11:15 AM–12:30 PM)

Catching (T and Th: 11:15 AM–12:30 PM)

What about camp in 2010?

This year we are continuing a camp for 7-year-olds that will focus on skills, learning the game in “game situations,” throwing properly, swinging the bat correctly, and fielding different positions. This group will be separated from the 8- and 9-year-olds and will be divided equally for skill development and team play. It will focus less on competition and more on skill development.

After much success, we will continue to use a radar gun in the pitching camp. Each pitcher will be “gunned” and a mph rating recorded. This will take place Wednesday and/or Friday to ensure that each pitcher gets timed. This is done for instructional purposes and not grading players.

Our Approach to Camp

First, we want the camp to *be fun and personally rewarding* (with baseball “trivia” questions, “one pitch” innings, etc.).

Second, we want each camper to receive an *abundance of positive reinforcement*. Each year, we give away approximately 10,000 baseball cards as a means of rewarding knowledge, good decisions, and extra effort or



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proper execution of a skill. We never let campers pitch to campers; our coaches always pitch to ensure that strikes are thrown, which helps to develop the hitter's confidence.

Third, we want each camper *to learn* more about a skill and more about the game itself. This camp emphasizes learning in the context of playing the game: skills lead to a “scrimmage,” during which those same skills are applied.

For costs and to register online, go to www.jimschurrbaseball.com/camps.html.

Or call 1-847-921-0770 or 1-847-327-7070, or e-mail Jim@JimSchurrBaseball.com.

Register by June 1.

