



## 2006 OMGAA Fall Newsletter

### President

As we close out the 2006 season, I also close out my OMGAA coaching career. It has been a fulfilling 14 years behind the clipboard and I have had the opportunity to coach at every level our program offers. I began coaching in the 9 year old pitching machine program, then went on to coach in the 10/11 National League, 12/13 and 14 American Leagues, the 15 Traveling program and the 16-18 Sr. Babe Ruth League. For the last 4 years, I've coached without a son on the team. From all this experience I say, to those who argue we need outdoor baseball in Minnesota, you're not watching the right team!

Youth baseball and Fastpitch softball in Osseo/Maple Grove is among the best in the twin cities. The OMGAA programs provide an experience few communities can rival. We roster close to 1700 players in our Baseball, Fastpitch and Adapted Softball programs. We are the only non-school sponsored, main-stream youth sports organization in Minnesota to include an Adapted element. We were the first youth sports organization to roster a House Fastpitch Softball league. This year we sent teams to National Tournaments in both Baseball and Fastpitch Softball and our Adapted Softball team won the Gold Medal at the National Special Olympics Championships in Ames, Iowa.

OMGAA Baseball, Fastpitch and Adapted programs sponsor our OMGAA Academic Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to two (2) graduating seniors annually, who played in any of our three programs during their High School years, and is based on academic performance with out regard for athletic achievement.

### This a call for help!

It is time for **you** to give back! Among those 1700 players, we know there are parents from just about every walk of life, and we need your skills and backgrounds to move forward. You don't need to know baseball to help improve our programs. All you need is a willingness to share your time and talent with the community and the association. OMGAA is now a Charitable Organization and if the personal rewards aren't enough, under the right circumstances your time can become a tax deduction.

We are looking for volunteer Architects, Mechanical, Electrical, Civil and Structural engineers, who would be willing to help with design and development of a complex of lighted fields, toilet facilities and concessions stand that would benefit the entire association. We need input from food and beverage people, from retailers and marketers and from advertising professionals. If design can be completed and approved by the city, we will need contractors, carpenters, brick layers, electricians, roofers, concrete worker and many more who can commit time and skills to construction. We will need sales people and accountants who can organize and help raise funding. Whatever skills you have, if you feel they could be useful in this effort, we need your help. We have a site, we have a plan of action and we need **you**.

Contact us through the web site. Write a letter to our PO Box. Send an E-mail. If you want more information, we will get it to you. If you want to volunteer, we will find a place for you.

Not skilled in this area? No problem. We need leaders and volunteers in whatever it is you do. OMGAA is, in every sense, a reflection of the community it serves. If you feel your skills could help, then they can. Offer your services, we will do everything we can to find a place for them.

Mike Parenteau  
OMGAA President

## **Vice President**

As the 2006 season ends, I remember getting many more compliments than complaints about the league this year. Two years ago, we made significant changes in the coach and team selection process and it is working pretty well. Many of the comments I hear from parents are about the number of league choices each child has to play in. I am proud to be part of a league that means so much to kids that are growing up.

Twins Night was another success in spite of nasty weather. I would like to thank my family, the Larson's, and the Fena's for all the help with the pre-game picnic.

We changed photographers this season and I look forward to any feedback you can offer when you complete our evaluations. Watch for an on-line version of the evaluation soon and take a few minutes to complete it so we know what was done right and what can be improved upon in our program.

Looking forward to Fall Baseball,

Ward Wallner  
OMGAA Vice President

## **OMGAA IT Director**

The new OMGAA Website was introduced for the 2006 season. The reception the site has received has been greatly appreciated. As you remember from the beginning of the season, we introduced the site much earlier than we wanted. But situations beyond our control made the switch necessary. It has been a work in progress this year and there will be many enhancements made to the site over the off season. Some improvements you will see include new League Homepages for easier navigation, more functional team pages and On-Line Registration for next year.

Enjoy the off-season!

Don Myhre  
OMGAA IT Director

## **Traveling Fastpitch Softball**

OMGAA Traveling Fastpitch is again on the move. We had eleven traveling team, a record number for OMGAA and all qualified and played in state tournaments. Five of the eleven teams are playing in national tournaments around the United States. Congratulations to all these teams for their efforts and success.

We will continue to make the program even better. Selection process for teams and coaches are being reviewed. Off season training is already being planned and our new Fall-ball program is taking off.

We have so many people involved with the program now that I could not list them all. I've never had so many willing volunteers. I give special thanks to all of you. OMGAA Traveling Fastpitch works because of your efforts. Girls, keep it up and of course "get yourself ready" for another great year.

Bob Usset  
Traveling Fastpitch Director

## **House Fastpitch Softball**

The girls just finished up a hot, dry season of Fastpitch softball and I hope they all had great fun! This opportunity was made possible by a number of great volunteers. Thanks start with those most evident to everyone, the coaches and assistant coaches that work directly with the players every week May through July. By name, I want to acknowledge the 7-10 grade Senior Coordinator, Doug Broschofsky and 4-6 grade Junior Coordinator, Curt Barker who were involved in all aspects of running the leagues. Volunteering started last winter to make this season a success and there was help at registration, team selection, with equipment, uniforms, fun events, prizes and awards. In addition to parents, we had a number of former players, with and without siblings playing and a parent with daughters long gone from the program come back to head coach. These are all great examples of giving back to OMGAA and the community. Thanks to everyone that volunteered, there would be no program without you.

For a second year we held our Friday Night Lights event, giving the girls a unique opportunity to play our All\*Star games under the lights. At the same time we held the banner contest and had cool treats for all the girls. We had a super turnout of players from all teams and a great fan turnout that had electricity in the air (before the storm)!

In the 4-6 grade Junior League we had three different teams come out on top for: the first half which was the developmental season, the second half regular season, and the end of season tournament champions. These balanced results reflect the opportunities that any team has in playing well together as a team. In the 7-10 Senior League, there were also two different teams that won the first half and the second half of the regular season. In the end of season tournament, these two teams ended up together in the championship game where the second half champs continued their winning ways as tournament champions. Congratulations to all the players on improving their game this year!

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer please contact me via the OMGAA hotline 763-391-2627, option 3 or on e-mail through my link on the BOARD tab on the web site [www.omgaa.org](http://www.omgaa.org)

See you next season!

Jeff Young  
House Fastpitch League Director

## **Junior Traveling Baseball**

Another great season has come to a close for the Junior traveling teams. We had another huge increase of participation again this year. We increased the number of teams by 25 %. We now have almost 3 teams at every level. Thank you to the additional coaches that stepped up to make this possible.

Team success also went up. We had 8 teams finish 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league. Congratulations to Pat Ross 10B Blue, Scott Meyer 11B blue, Jim Bauer 12A, and Bruce Stensland 12B blue for their first place finishes.

Another highlight was sending 4 teams to Omaha Nebraska to experience the College World Series along with participating in a tournament. They played against teams from other states that have 100 game seasons and competed very well. We had 2 teams take second in this tournament. (Jim Bauer's 12 A and Brian Jacobs 13A)

Lastly, I want to thank the parents who have already returned their evaluation form. Your input has helped grow the program along with hopefully making it better. If you need another form, please e-mail me at [DDitty@comcast.net](mailto:DDitty@comcast.net) and I will send you another one. We really do appreciate your feedback.

Dave Ditty  
Jr. Traveling Baseball Director

## **Senior Traveling Baseball**

The Senior Traveling program is for boys 16 – 19 years old and is made up of three different opportunities.

This past summer we entered 10 teams into the Gopher State league. This is the most teams OMGAA has ever entered. Thanks to Tom Halverson for recruiting players and coaches, forming teams and putting the schedule together.

The 16 year old traveling Mickey Mantle team finished in 4th place in their league. Their 4<sup>th</sup> place finish left them just short of qualifying for the state tournament. The team played a very competitive schedule and the boys gained valuable experience as they head to Sr. Babe Ruth next year. Thanks to Richard Miller and Jack Anderson for a job well done coaching the Mantle team.

Because of a lower number of players than anticipated, we were able to field only 1 Senior Babe Ruth team. The team struggled during league play, but played well in two tournaments. All but two of this year's players will be eligible to play Senior Babe Ruth again next summer. Long time Senior Babe Ruth coach Mike Parenteau announced his retirement from coaching after the last game. Thanks Mike for all your hard work and dedication to the Sr. Babe Ruth program.

Ron Torfin  
Senior Traveling Director

## **Senior House Baseball**

We just ended another successful season for the OMGAA Senior Baseball Leagues with some excellent baseball in the end-of-season tournaments. We had over 450 players in the four leagues participating as members of 38 teams. We played over 300 games in the regular season and more than 70 games in the end of season tournaments. We also had eleven teams compete from both age levels in our second mid-season tournament in June.

It takes a lot of people putting in a great deal of effort to make all of this possible. I'd like to thank Jeanne Vestal and the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Department for all of their support throughout the season and Chuck Triggs, our Umpire Coordinator, for organizing the officials for our games.

I would especially like to thank our senior league coordinators, George Mills (12/13 American League), Jeff Curtis (14/15 American League), Chris Sullivan (14/15 National League) and Paul Buck (12/13 National League) for all of their hard work. Without these hardworking volunteers, the season would not be possible. All four did an outstanding job keeping their leagues running smoothly.

Finally, I'd like to thank the players, coaches, and most importantly, the parents for their hard work and support during the season. I'm looking forward to an even better season in 2007.

See you all next season,

Paul Sperl  
Senior League Director

## **Junior House Baseball**

As Junior League Baseball Director, I would like to thank all my coordinators, and their families. 9 Year Old - Lee Norman and Jeff Borowicz. 10-11 National - Gloria Jordan and Scott Croaker. 10-11 American - Dan Sanford. For their help and dedication to all of your kids. They have made the 2006 baseball season very successful. Also thanks to all the coaches for volunteering your time and talents.

Being involved in OMGAA for several years, my continued mission is to ensure that your kids have a positive experience and learn the game. Please fill out the Evaluation Form on our web site. We need your feedback good or bad to improve our baseball and softball programs.

The 2007 baseball registrations dates will be posted on the OMGAA web site [www.omgaa.com](http://www.omgaa.com) later this fall. If your child is a first time registrant to OMGAA you must have a copy of their birth certificate to register (this is not Maple Grove Parks & Rec.). Look for the guidelines on our web site concerning "Team Selection Policy" for the 2007 baseball season.

If you have an interest in making a difference we are also looking for Coordinator's in our OMGAA programs. Coordinators help at registration, setting up the teams in their league and throughout the season. If you have suggestions to help/improve the Junior League Baseball program or you have some questions. You can reach me via e-mail at [www.omgaa.com](http://www.omgaa.com) by going to BOARD page and selecting my name.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2007 registration.

Thank you very much,

Steve Larson  
Junior League Director.