

DIAMOND LEGACY

Babe Ruth League Alumni Magazine

Spring 2019



Message from Alumni Chairman Mark Watkins



There is just something about spring that warms the soul. Spring is full of transformations. The temperatures rise to a more bearable degree. The temperatures we saw fall and flowers we saw wilt are now budding into lush, green, picture-perfect plants.

When spring rolls into our lives, we start to pick up the slack that winter instilled inside us. No more lounging on the couch watching television - it's time to get outside. It's time to find our way to the local Babe Ruth league ballparks.

Spring is a reminder that baseball and softball, like the world, stop for no one. Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball have been family traditions for many decades. Entire neighborhoods gather at the ballpark cheering from the stands. Parents, relatives and neighbors serve as coaches and umpires, work in the concession stand and in other volunteer positions. This is what the Babe Ruth League program is all about - a sense of community.

We realize the positive impact the Babe Ruth program has had on our lives. An experience full of wonderful relationships with friends and mentors, and one that has instilled the values of community service and striving for excellence.

Stay in the game - join and/or support the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.



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The BRL Alumni Association is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) Organization.

1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville
Road
Hamilton, NJ 08619

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*Inquiries should be directed to Editor Theresa Cleary
609-278-2308
theresa@baberruthleague.org*

Babe Ruth League Alumni Association Magazine

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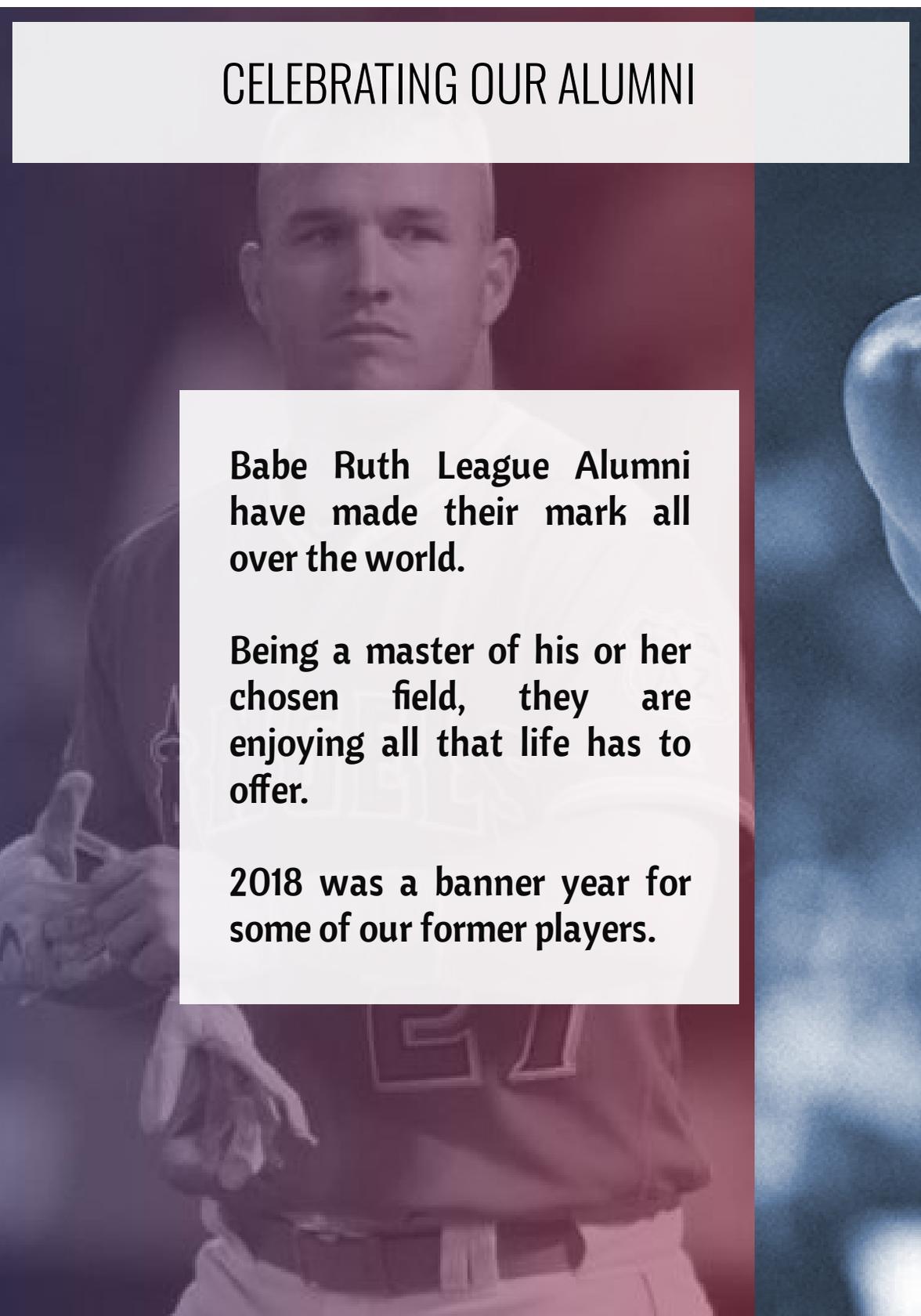
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Babe Ruth League



*Where
Friendships are
Created and
Nurtured*

CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI



Babe Ruth League Alumni have made their mark all over the world.

Being a master of his or her chosen field, they are enjoying all that life has to offer.

2018 was a banner year for some of our former players.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER



RED SOX MOOKIE BETTS NAMED AMERICAN LEAGUE MVP

Boston Red Sox Outfielder Mookie Betts, a Babe Ruth League graduate from Nashville, Tennessee, was named the American League's Most Valuable Player for 2018. After four full seasons in the game, Betts' AL MVP award further legitimizes his already secure spot on center stage as one of the top players in the game and arguably the face of baseball's future. In a year in which he already became a world champion and also a father, the MVP put an exclamation point on an unforgettable season for the dynamic five-tool Red Sox right fielder and lead off hitter.

Last season Betts set highs in home runs (32), doubles (47), runs (129), stolen bases (30), batting average (.346), on-base percentage (.438) and slugging percentage (.630). Betts is just the second Red Sox to have a 30-30 season. Betts is the only player in MLB history to steal 20-plus bases and hit 40-plus doubles in four consecutive seasons.

Betts certainly took home his fair share of hardware. Along with MVP honors, he also earned Gold Glove and Defensive Player of the Year honors for his spectacular season in right field, received a Silver Slugger Award, and was also named the winner of the Heart and Hustle Award given by the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association. The Rawlings Gold Glove Award is given annually to the Major League Baseball players judged to have exhibited superior individual fielding performances at each fielding position in both the National League and the American League. The Silver Slugger Award is given to the top offensive player at each position in each league. And the Heart and Hustle Award honors active players who demonstrate a passion for the game and best embody its values, spirit and tradition.



GOLD GLOVE

JACKIE BRADLEY JR.

CENTER FIELD

2018 was also a magical season for another Red Sox player and Babe Ruth Alumnus.

Jackie Bradley, Jr. played some of his best baseball in the postseason and ended up winning the Most Valuable Player for the Boston Red Sox in their American League Championship Series (ALCS) win over the Houston Astros.

He then helped his team to a 4-1 series win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the World Series to earn his second championship. Bradley, Jr. also won his first Golden Glove Award of his professional baseball career.

Jackie Bradley, Jr. has long been considered one of the best defensive outfielders in all of baseball. The Gold Glove recognition was long overdue for Bradley, Jr.

"It means a whole lot," Bradley said. "I'm a player who definitely takes a lot of pride in my defense and being able to help the team on both sides of the ball. Have a lot of great center fielders that I'm in competition with, and it is an honor to even be mentioned in the same group as those guys."



Arizona Diamondback Zack Greinke (graduate of the Apoka, Florida Babe Ruth League) won his fifth consecutive Gold Glove Award, continuing his dominance as the best defensive pitcher in the National League.

Greinke became the first pitcher to win five straight Gold Glove Awards since Hall of Famer Greg Maddux from 2004-08. The veteran right-hander tied with the Braves' Julio Teheran for the Major League lead among pitchers with seven defensive runs saved in 2018, and leads NL pitchers in DRS since 2014, with 32.

And of course, 2018 saw Angels' star center fielder Mike Trout (a graduate of the Millville Babe Ruth League) add yet another accolade to his well-decorated resume. Trout took home his sixth Silver Slugger Award.

Trout is the first player in franchise history to win the award six times. He is also tied with Alex Rodriguez as the youngest player in MLB history to take home the award a half of dozen times.

In 2018, Trout batted .312 with 101 runs scored, 24 doubles, 4 triples, 39 home runs, 79 RBIs and 24 stolen bases.



Babe Ruth World Series Returns to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida



Pictured above (l-r) Councilman Matthew Lane, Vice Mayor Carl Woods, Councilwoman Rachelli Litt, BRL Vice President Robert Faherty, Mayor Maria Marino, Host President Tony Badala, City Manager Ron Ferris, and Deputy Leisure Services Administrator Daniel Prieto.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. International Headquarters is pleased to announce that the Cal Ripken World Series is returning to Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, who will play host to the Cal Ripken 10-Year-Old World Series in 2020 and 2021, and the Cal Ripken Major/60 World Series in 2021.

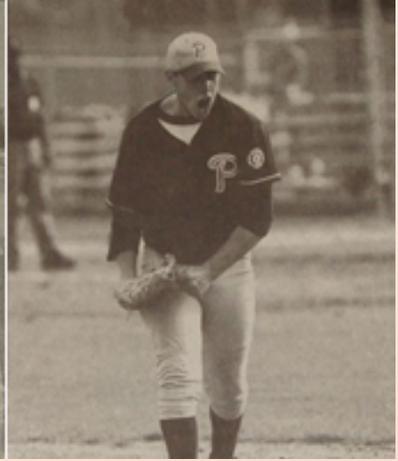
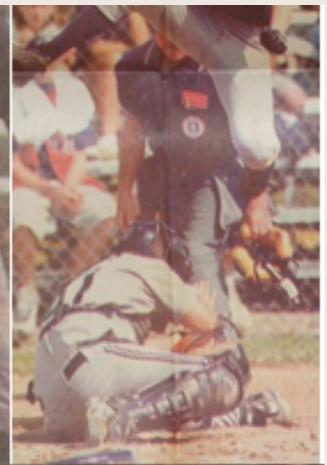
The City of Palm Beach Gardens and Palm Beach County has made a major commitment to upgrade all youth sports facilities, including two new baseball fields, a batting and pitching practice area and a covered practice area that will be primarily used by the Palm Beach Gardens Youth Athletic Association, who oversees the Babe Ruth and Cal Ripken leagues. These funds will also be used to add more effective shade structures over all the bleachers and create a permanent scoring structure around the concession stands.

“Palm Beach Gardens did a great job hosting the 2016 Cal Ripken 10-Year-Old World Series,” said Babe Ruth League Vice President Robert Faherty. “Combine this success with the financial commitment the city has made to its youth, and you have the perfect setting for our managers, coaches, players, as well as their families and fans, to enjoy a big-league experience. Palm Beach Gardens is the ideal venue for our World Series.”

“Palm Beach Gardens is a small town rooted in family values, especially youth sports,” said Tony Badala, President for the Palm Beach Gardens Cal Ripken League. “We realize that it takes more than a ballpark to bring a Babe Ruth World Series to town. We have the support of the City Council, City Staff, County Commissioners, the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, as well as the entire community. These events will be placed on center stage to provide the participants with a competitive, memorable and cultural experience that will exceed everyone’s expectations.”

As the host community, the Palm Beach Gardens Cal Ripken League will select its own squads to compete in these events, which will also include participation by regional champions and invitational teams.

The World Series serves as gateway experiences for many first-time visitors, inspiring large numbers to make plans for subsequent trips and vacations to the area and region. Area hotels, restaurants, grocery stores, shopping outlets, gas stations, entertainment venues and other local business will experience direct spending from attendees.



Golden Age: Peabody World Series Alums Reminisce About Championship Years

A lot of things have changed since the year 2000, from the President of the United States to the price of age and a ticket to a movie. The name of TD Garden - then the Fleet Center - and the facade on top of the Green Monster at Fenway Park have undergone dramatic changes.

Things have changed in the lives of the members of the Peabody Babe Ruth all-star teams that made a record three straight World Series trips, too. They are grown men now, working, some are married and fathers, and some are still playing baseball.

Always, though, they'll remember those three magical summers from 1998 to 2000 when they were undoubtedly among the best baseball teams in America.

Peabody won the Eastern Massachusetts and New England championship in 1998 as 13-year-olds before falling in the World Series. The next year, with 10 returning players as 14-year-olds, they won the World Series title. The bulk of the group repeated as state and regional champs as 15's in 2000 before falling in the World Series.

It was an incredibly talented group. Future first-round draft choice Jeff Allison played on all three teams, future pro Mark Shorey played in '98 and '99 and Matt Antonelli, who is in the New York Yankees' organization, played in 2000. Countless others went on to play college baseball.

More than their sheer ability, the Peabody all-stars thrived on their cohesion and their team chemistry.

"The first thing that comes to mind for me isn't even games, it's just hanging out with those guys," said Mark Sakelakos, an All-World Series selection in 1999 who later pitched at UMass-Lowell. "We spent three summers in a row together, and once we got to the regionals and the World Series, we were with host families. It was like being on vacation together."

The more those teams won, the more fun they had. They played with confidence because they kept each other smiling. They were family.

"Every summer for those three years, I knew exactly what I was doing," said Tyler Pyburn, who played for all three teams. "We were basically inseparable for those three months. It was like we were in our own little world together."

"There was a character everywhere you turned," said Matt Mello, who played on all three teams, played at Salem State and is now an assistant coach at Peabody High. "It was really loose. We never got the impression that it was very serious, that we were playing for life and death, even though they were some pretty big games."

In all, eight players were on all three New England championship teams: Allison, Sakelakos, Mello, Pyburn, Chris Shambos, Joel Levine, Kevin Shelgren and Anthony Palmieri. Gary Palmieri was the manager for all three summers.

“We had some rituals to stay loose. Jeff (Allison) and I always traveled to games together, and we listened to the ‘Rocky’ soundtrack. Chris Shambos and I would stand at home plate and find a spot miles past the outfield we could aim for,” Pyburn recalled.

After falling in the World Series at the age of 13 in 1998, the team returned for the summer of 1999 on a mission to win it all.

“I remember that first practice Gary Palmieri told us we could win the World Series. We believed it. We were a confident bunch,” Sakelakos said. “After we lost as 13s, that was our mission. We were coming back to do it.”

Led by incredible pitching from Allison and Shorey and contributions from everyone in the lineup, the team rolled to the New England title with only one loss. They went to the World Series in Clifton Park, New York and won it all by going 4-0 with a total score of 40-18.

Hector Arias was the Series batting champion with a .611 average, while Bobby Celentano, Mike Girolimon, Artie Generazzo and Marc Goncalves were the other members of the championship team.

“I’m not sure you’ll ever see a team with that much talent around here,” Mello said. “Maybe down South or out West, but there’s a reason not many teams make it that far from around here.”

Allison, the first-round pick of the Florida Marlins in 2003 who battled, and eventually beat, drug addiction and played pro baseball for seven seasons, was World Series MVP in 1999. Sakelakos, Arias, Shelgren, Shorey and Pyburn were All-Series team honorees.

“Jeff was the rock. Who knows how far we’d get without him,” Mello said.

“Those regionals and World Series were the most fun we ever had together. The friendships, memories and the competition will be something they’ll never be able to duplicate,” said Celentano, who was a two-time All-MASCAC honoree playing at Salem State.

Other members of a few of the 1998-2000 New England championship teams included Ian Parkinson and Cory Plassmann in 1998 and Mike Bono in 2000.

“We had a little reunion, just the ‘99 team, and it’s great to reminisce,” Sakelakos said. “You forget a lot of the little things. When you start looking at clips and talking about it, it all comes back.”

Peabody now has five Eastern Massachusetts champions in Babe Ruth baseball, including the 2012 15-year-olds, the three World Series teams and a 1997 team that fell in the New England final.

The league celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2012, which brought together many champs for a few laughs and some great stories.

“Here we were more than a decade later and we didn’t skip a beat,” Pyburn said. “Honestly, I hadn’t seen some of those guys in 10 years, and we always have that common bond. It’s something we’ll never forget.”





Babe Ruth League World Series players enjoy lunch in the Michigan Stadium Press Box at the 1957 Babe Ruth 13-15 World Series hosted by Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Blast from the Past

Baseball Queen Contestants for the 1957 Babe Ruth World Series.

In 1957, all big sports events had a queen and a court. The Babe Ruth World Series was no exception.

Several teenage misses represented Michigan Babe Ruth Leagues.

Two of the 15-year-old candidates from 1957 are pictured (l-r): Beverly Murrell and Pat Squires.

The judges for the Queen contestants included Bob Feller, who threw out the first ball for the semi-finals, Mrs. Irene Connors (an Ann Arborite experienced in beauty contests, having been Miss South Dakota and the runner-up to Miss American in 1950) and Pete Mosher, Battle Creek BRL President.



A scenic landscape featuring a winding asphalt road that curves through a valley. The road is flanked by green bushes and a metal guardrail on the left. In the background, there are majestic mountains with patches of snow and greenery, under a vast blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inspiring.

It is the
JOURNEY
that matters,
in the end.

Ernest Hemingway

Hall of Fame Welcomes Three

Babe Ruth League, Inc. has more than just top of the line competition. It has a legacy stacked with thousands of alumni who have given unselfishly of their time and resources to provide all young athletes with an enjoyable, healthy and educational experience. Babe Ruth League established a Hall of Fame in 1968 to honor those superstars who have played a vital role in the development of the baseball and softball program for young people 4-18 years of age.

The Babe Ruth League International Board of Directors, at their recent annual meeting, unanimously elected Joe Cormier of Erath, Louisiana, George Lally of Norwood, Massachusetts; and Evelyn Skiendziel of Clifton, New Jersey, into its Hall of Fame.

JOE CORMIER has said many times that baseball has been in his life as long as he can remember. Since his playing days in Babe Ruth Baseball back in the 1960's, he has greatly admired what the Babe Ruth League program did for him and what it has done for countless youth in this country. He credits his Babe Ruth coaches for many memorable and enjoyable moments, as well as teaching him many valuable life lessons. Following in their path, Joe has introduced thousands of players to our national pastime with the hope they enjoy it just as much and reap as many benefits as he has from participation.



Joe Cormier began his volunteer involvement with the Babe Ruth League program in 1974, serving as a coach, manager and League President. After leaving the local league level, he took on the positions of District Commissioner, Assistant Tournament Director and Tournament Director. He currently serves as Southwest Assistant Regional Commissioner, Chairman of the Southwest Region Hall of Fame Committee, and as Vice Chairman for the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.

Joe was a member of the World Series Committee for the first Babe Ruth World Series hosted by Abbeville, Louisiana in 1974. This World Series was a huge success, both financially and in breaking attendance records. Abbeville went on to host eight additional Babe Ruth League World Series over the years, where Joe continued to serve in a multitude of roles, including Stadium Committee Chairman, Public Relations Chairman, Finance Chairman and Assistant Host President. In addition, Cormier has served on the World Series Task Force for many Babe Ruth League World Series hosted by communities across the country.

Though he was unable to make the Babe Ruth team as a teenager, GEORGE LALLY has been involved in just about every other aspect of the game since 1962, when he first became involved with the Babe Ruth League program. His early involvement with Babe Ruth League was as a coach, umpire, League Vice President and League President in the South Boston area. As a League President, George expanded the number of teams in the league so that every player who tried out was selected to a team. In 1970, George was elected State Commissioner for the Massachusetts Babe Ruth Leagues.



With George as State Commissioner, the Massachusetts Babe Ruth program led the nation in new teams and new leagues, as well as in the retention of existing leagues, furthering Lally's mission to provide a place for every player who wished to participate in the Babe Ruth program. He was elected New England Regional Commissioner in 1975 and an automatic member of the International Babe Ruth League Board of Directors. Lally has been continuously re-elected to the Board of Directors, now serving as an At-Large Member.

In addition, George was instrumental in establishing an ongoing relationship for Babe Ruth League with the Boston Red Sox, the Jimmy Fund and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Since 1969, the Boston Red Sox have invited New England Regional Babe Ruth coaches to participate in a clinic at Fenway Park. The Jimmy Fund solely supports Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, raising funds for adult and pediatric cancer care. The New England Babe Ruth Leagues have raised millions of dollars for the Jimmy Fund through the charitable efforts of the Boston Red Sox and many Babe Ruth League volunteers.

EVELYN SKIENDZIEL's involvement with Babe Ruth League covers 50+ years, and in an era where change in leadership is often, she continues to carry the Babe Ruth League mantle. Whether it is a League President, a State Commissioner, a Regional Commissioner, or Babe Ruth Headquarters, they all know they can call on Skiendziel for help and support.

Evelyn started in the Babe Ruth program at age nine, serving as a scorekeeper for her father's team in the local Clifton Babe Ruth League.



Evelyn's father, the late Manny Gouveia, who is also a Hall of Famer, was involved with Babe Ruth League, Inc., for 61 years, where he served as a manager, league officer, State Commissioner, and Assistant Regional Commissioner.

When Evelyn was old enough, she coached several teams for the Clifton Babe Ruth League. In 1975 when her dad was serving as Northern New Jersey State Commissioner, Skiendziel took on the position of Assistant State Commissioner for the Northern New Jersey Babe Ruth Leagues. In 1991, Evelyn was named an Assistant Regional Commissioner for the Middle Atlantic Babe Ruth Leagues, a position she still holds today.

In addition, Skiendziel is involved with the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, serving as Chairman of the Public Relations/Communications Committee, as a member of the Steering Committee, and as an Assistant Editor for the association's online magazine, DIAMOND LEGACY. She has been a member of the Task Force for 22 different Babe Ruth League World Series, covering all age divisions.

Joe, George and Evelyn join more than 200 individuals and organizations who have earned the distinction of being inducted into the Babe Ruth League, Inc. International Hall of Fame.



Happy Anniversary



Babe Ruth League is proud to salute and recognize the following leagues celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2019.

Westport BRL (Connecticut)
Franklin County BRL (Western Massachusetts)
Paul N. Johnson 16-18 BRL (Western Massachusetts)
Frederick County 16-18 BRL (Maryland)
Sacred Heart CYO BRL (Southern New Jersey)
Niskayuna BRL (East New York)
Princeton BRL (Southern Indiana)
Tallassee BRL (Alabama)
Pitt County BRL (East North Carolina)
Bentonville BRL (North Arkansas)
Plaquemine BRL (Louisiana)
Southwest Washington 16-18 BRL (South Washington)
Alameda BRL (Northern California)
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Babe Ruth World Series paid a visit to Anderson, Indiana

Tales of World Series Past

Youth baseball has always been big in Anderson, at least since I've lived here. It used to be even bigger than it is now. And the year 1965 was probably the culmination of local interest in the sport as Memorial Field hosted the Babe Ruth World Series.

I was a young sportswriter at the time, and I cut my teeth on all the preparations for a national event right here in Anderson. Memorial Field got a major makeover. The field didn't even have a press box before 1965, and the bleachers were in need of renovation. Not only was a three-row press box installed, but a new grandstand was added and temporary bleachers installed all the way out both foul lines to give the place a capacity of more than 5,000. The field was reworked and new fences added, including a temporary 13-15 Babe Ruth-distance outfield fence.

Players from the visiting teams stayed with host parents in private homes. That assured large crowds for each game, and attendance at the BR World Series pretty much exceeded nightly attendance at Indianapolis Indians minor-league games.

The Anderson Nationals were the automatic host team. They ended up losing their first two games for a quick exit. New Orleans gained the title, with Manchester, N.H., the runner-up. Other teams included Mobile, Ala.; Phoenixville, Pa.; Brookfield, Ill.; Stockton, Calif.; and Vancouver, British Columbia.

All sorts of celebrities made appearances, not the least of them being Anderson's own Carl Erskine, not that far removed from his stellar major league career. I was involved in my first big-name press conference with National League president Warren Giles.



By Jim Bailey - the Herald Bulletin

Babe Ruth International officials were in full charge of the games themselves. A couple of them were characters. The official scorer, I believe his first name was Harry, was an inveterate cigar smoker, which I'm not sure would be acceptable in today's enclosed pressboxes. He let it be known he was in full charge. On one close play at first, a late throw from the shortstop got to the first baseman, who stopped the ball but didn't make a clean pickup just as the runner crossed the bag. "6-E3," Harry barked, giving the shortstop an assist and the first baseman an error on what could have been ruled a hit. His authority established, he was less vociferous later in the tournament: "Aw, give him a hit," he muttered on a couple of similar plays.

It was the last national tournament to be held in Anderson. And some of the prestige in youth baseball has been diluted by adding multiple levels of competition, as well as summer competition in many other sports. Now the trend toward near-year-round school limits the time available for youth baseball tournaments.

But Andersonians, though perhaps in dwindling numbers, will remember when people across the nation flocked to Memorial Field for one week in August 1965.



Cal Ripken State Tournaments Allow Moscow to Showcase Facilities



Ask any parent what they would consider to be the biggest detriment of postseason youth baseball, and many will mention the extensive costs associated with travel, lodging and meals.

While towns in southern Idaho have generally benefited from a central location and extensive facilities to earn host bids for state tournaments, this year marks a significant momentum swing for the city of Moscow. The community played host to both the 9-and-under and 12-and-under Cal Ripken state tournaments at the Moscow Community School District Playfields.

“Everybody was really excited,” tournament organizer Amber Anderson said. “It gave our kids a chance to experience it all here at home as most wouldn’t normally be able to afford to travel.”

The path to earning a host bid began when the ball fields were first constructed at 1016 S. Mountain View Road.

“We built this facility for a reason and this community and town should benefit from it,” Anderson said. “The idea was that it could bring people into the hotels, the restaurants — everywhere around town.”

After Cal Ripken league play began on the fields in the summer of 2016, Anderson turned her attention toward securing a host bid during the January application process. “We got a message from Alan Odenborg, the state commissioner, asking if we would like to put in for any tournaments,” Anderson said. “I know Twin Falls and Meridian usually apply for these types of events, but we were asked to host the 9U and 12U. In addition, we were also awarded the 10U Regional for the summer of 2017.”

“It’s just something that the parents and kids couldn’t be more excited about,” Anderson said. “It was a better opportunity for kids to experience tournament play without having to take on the added costs and time.”

Although tournament fees bring in approximately \$7,000 for event costs, Anderson said businesses throughout the Palouse chipped in to help sponsor the two tournaments.

“Culligan donated all of the water in the dugouts, the city of Moscow donated the pool party we had for the teams, and there were other organizations that gave products, money and time.”

The kids were ecstatic to play on their home field against the state's best competition.

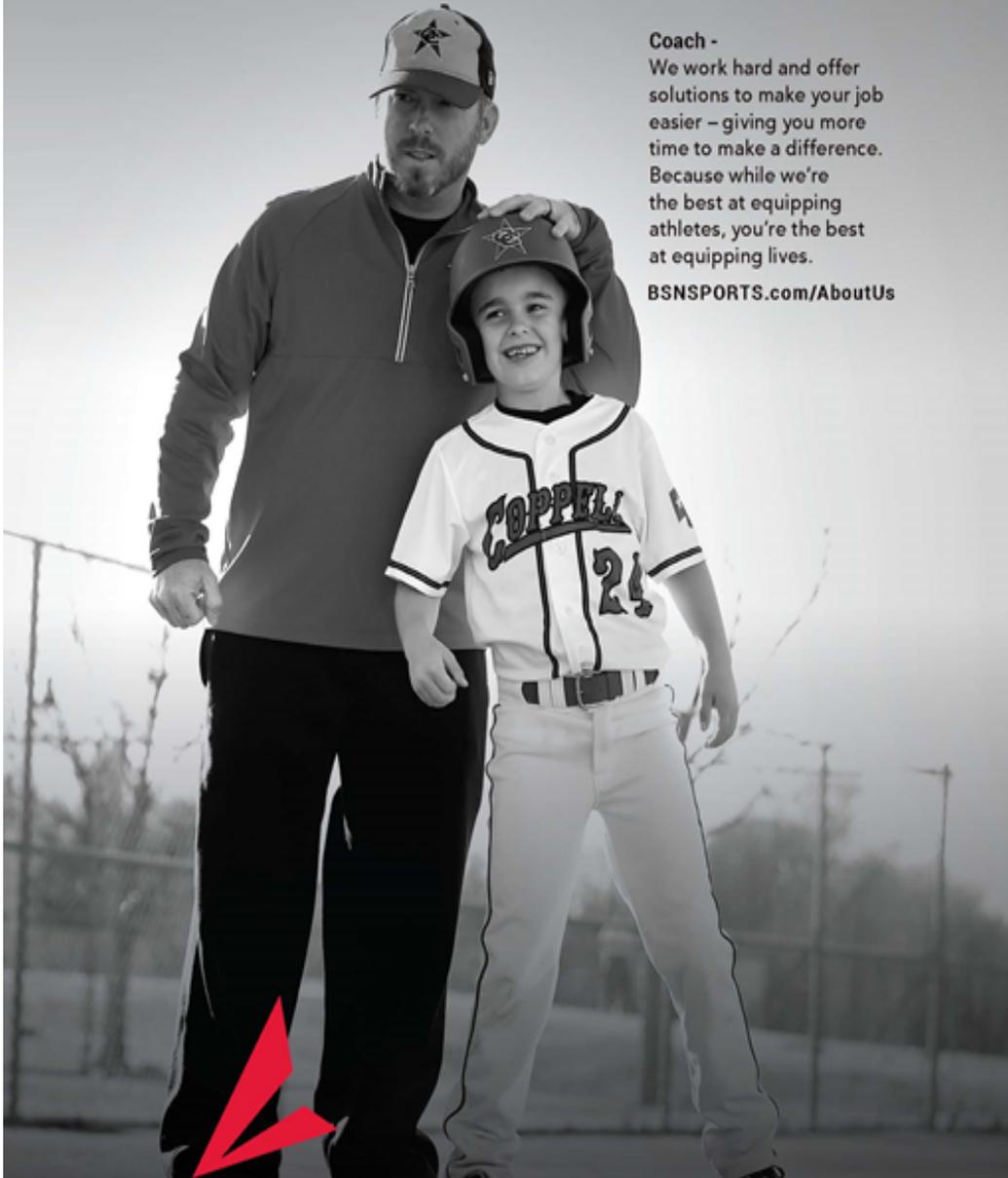
Anderson said, "Our end goal was to build our program and to get people to come here. We want more kids to fall in love with baseball and reap the benefits that come from participation."

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On top of your member discount, you are also eligible for a number of Nationwide discounts, including: Multi-policy, Multi-vehicle, Good Student, and a host of other discounts.

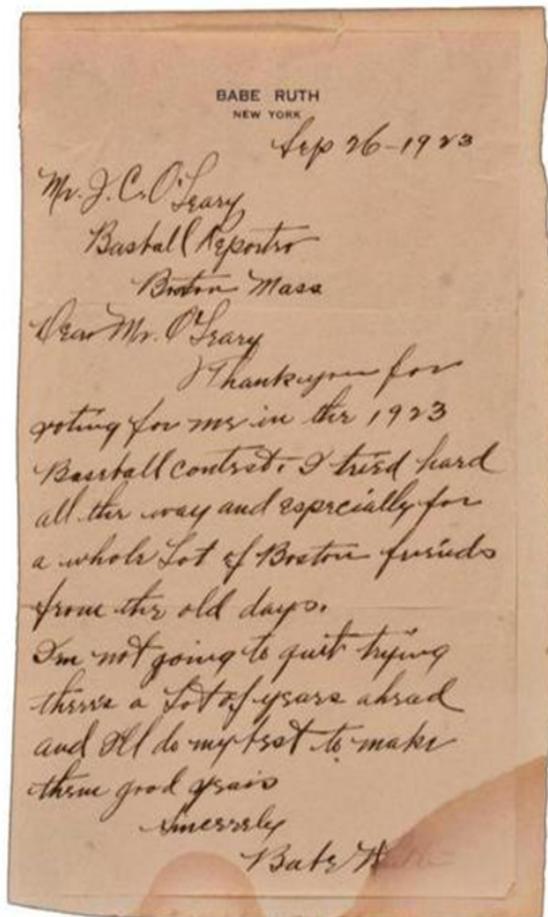
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Handwritten 1923 Letter from Babe Ruth to Boston Globe Writer Sold at Auction

A handwritten letter penned Babe Ruth after his 1923 MVP-winning season was sold in October 2018 by Robert Edward Auctions for \$15,600.

Ruth wrote the short letter for baseball writer James O'Leary after Ruth was voted the most valuable player in the American League. O'Leary started writing about baseball for the Boston Globe in 1890. Renowned for being fair and kind in his writing, O'Leary earned a lustrous reputation among his vast readership and peers during a career that lasted nearly a half a century.



"Dear Mr. O'Leary," the letter read. "Thank you for voting me in the 1923 Baseball Contest. I tried hard all the way and especially for a whole lot of Boston friends from the old days. I'm not going to quit trying, there's a lot of years ahead and I'll do my best to make them good years. Sincerely, Babe Ruth."

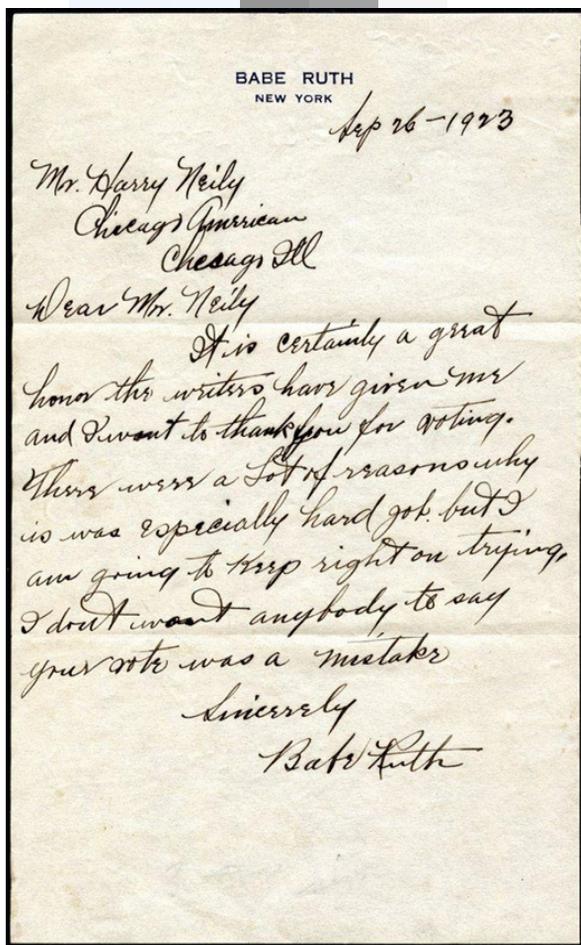
Only a handful of handwritten letters from Ruth are known to exist, while there's a fair share of typed examples. The letter to O'Leary was one of a few written after Ruth's only MVP-winning season. That year Ruth hit 41 home runs, scored 151 runs, and finished with a batting average of .393, the highest of his 22-year career with the Boston Red Sox, New York Yankees and Boston Braves.

Shown right is another letter Ruth wrote after the 1923 season, thanking a Chicago sportswriter for voting Ruth's only Most Valuable Player Award.

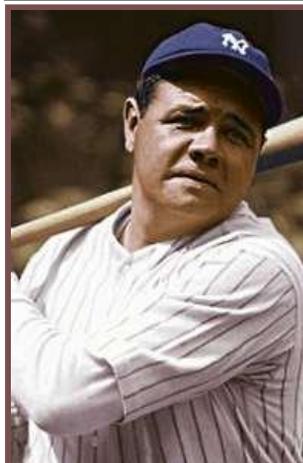
This letter sold at auction for \$88,780.

Ruth addressed this letter to Harry Neily, a well-known Chicago sportswriter and an MVP voter.

The seller was Neily's grandniece who inherited the letter in the 1960's, along with her great uncle's typewriter and yearly baseball passes.



Another letter Ruth wrote about a Babe Ruth film fetched \$48,000 in a 2016 Robert Edward Auction. Another, written in 1926, famously promised a sick boy in a hospital that his hero would "knock a home run or two for him, sold for \$71,700 in 2015.



CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI

BABE RUTH LEAGUE GRADUATES MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD

Don Bobbitt served as Manager of the Moore's Chapel team for the Fayetteville, Arkansas Bambino League in the 1990's.

On November 1, 2011, Bobbitt began his term as President of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

Previously he served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington, from 2008-11. In 2003, he was named Dean at the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas.

After earning a doctorate in chemistry from Iowa State University in 1985, Bobbitt became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

For five years, he was a recipient of the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Teacher-Scholar Fellowship, from 1988 to 1993. He has received more than \$13.8 million in funded support from national corporations and organizations, including the R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Bobbitt is also the author or co-author of 56 refereed publications and has on several occasions been an invited speaker at meetings of the American Chemical Association.



Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt

Quote from Bobbitt on his vision for the future: "I believe we must embrace technology and innovation to continue to grow and develop the University of Arkansas System for the future. Higher education is changing rapidly, and I'm excited to work with the Board of Trustees, our chancellors and the faculty across the system to ensure the University of Arkansas is on the forefront of this change."

Don Bobbitt and his wife Susan created the Donald R. and Susan M. Bobbitt Award in Chemistry and Drama in 2002 during the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century. In 2015, it was renamed the Bobbitt Family Fund in Chemistry and Theatre, but retained its original purpose of enhancing both departments.

This past July, Don Bobbitt and his wife Susan committed to a \$150,000 planned gift to the Bobbitt Family Fund in Chemistry and Theatre. Their gift will support students in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, as well as Campaign Arkansas, the University's \$1.25 billion capital campaign.

The gift from Don and Susan Bobbitt speaks volumes about their commitment to higher education. They truly believe in leading by example, and the University of Arkansas is thrilled they have chosen to support the recruitment of graduate students while enhancing student success, two of the University's top priorities.

Susan Bobbitt graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in apparel design and pattern making after attending the U of A for two years. Upon returning to Fayetteville, she volunteered in the U of A's Theatre Department costume shop. She was then hired as a seamstress and was the costume shop manager for several years.



The Bobbitts know first-hand the difference a scholarship can make for a student, having both been recipients. They choose planned giving to increase the endowment of their existing fund.

People are Talking



Tom Hardy, President of West Orange Babe Ruth - "We were happy to join the Babe Ruth program. We did our research. There were other options available and we explored several different organizations to weigh the pros and cons. After sitting down with representatives from Babe Ruth League, they made the decision very easy. We learned about all the possibilities Babe Ruth could afford us, and we were confident they would be the best fit."

Ormond Beach 10U Coach Ned Clymer - "The Babe Ruth League is a chance to see baseball in its purest form. Nobody is playing for money, nobody is playing to try to get to college, although the program offers several scholarship opportunities. They are just having fun. It's a blast."

I FEEL
Like
makin'
DREAMS
COME
TRUE

The Year Those Mean Were Babes

By Steve Solloway - pressherald.com

Waiting for the connecting flight that would take them on to Alabama, the teenagers lost track of time in the airport arcade. Again and again they fed coins into the video games that allowed them to smash asteroids or turn back hordes of space invaders.

Their concentration was finally broken by a loud voice coming from the airport speakers: Will the baseball team from Portland, Maine, please report to your gate. Your plane is about to leave.

"I remember getting lost," said Greg Conley of a summer day some 38 years ago. "We ran. They held the plane for us. We made it."

He was 15 years old, the catcher and unofficial captain of the Portland Babe Ruth All-Star team that captured their own lightning in a bottle and went all the way to the 1981 Babe Ruth 13-15 World Series in Mobile, Alabama.

For boys who felt they were about to become men, it was a magical ride.

In 1981, they beat a touted team from New Orleans in their first game. They beat a team from Honolulu. Then came losses to Kentucky and New Orleans, which completed a nice comeback to win the World Series title.

When Conley and his teammates returned to Portland, three teams remained in the tournament. Then, that fact couldn't ease the disappointment. Today, they can find satisfaction.

"It's just really cool what we accomplished," said Conley. "It was phenomenal, especially when you're just playing for the love of the game like we were."

At 14 and 15, they couldn't see where life's paths would take them. They didn't yet know what the game had in store for them.

Conley went on to Rollins College in Florida and a career that put him in that school's sports hall of fame. He played four seasons in the San Diego Padres' farm system.



Marc Powers pitched a perfect game in the New England championships, stamping the team's ticket to Alabama.

Later he pitched for Maine in the 1986 College World Series and was imperfect, working in relief and giving up two home runs that enabled Arizona to cut into Maine's 7-0 lead and eventually win, 8-7.

Gary LaPierre was Portland's leadoff hitter and center fielder, and played with Powers at Maine. John McCartney pitched the University of Southern Maine into the NCAA tournament.

Shortstop Scott Littlefield had his baseball career curtailed by a football injury in high school but is now a scout for the Texas Rangers. His older brother, Dave Littlefield, was a coach on that Babe Ruth All-Star team and ultimately wound up as the Pittsburgh Pirates' general manager for more than six seasons until 2007.

Shaun Hawkins, an infielder and outfielder, would have greater success in football. Two years after Mobile, he won the Fitzpatrick Award and later had an All-Ivy League career as wide receiver for Cornell. It was Hawkins who organized the team's reunions. His father, Brian Hawkins, a local lawyer, was the Portland Babe Ruth League commissioner in 1981 and organized the bus trip from Maine to Alabama for about 40 family members and friends. The ride took about 25 hours. The team, Shaun Hawkins remembers, flew from Boston to Atlanta on Eastern Airlines. It was his first time on a plane. He still has his boarding pass.

He was playing Space Invaders when the call came for the team to report to their gate. Hawkins laughs now as video games are so in the past.

He remembers the second loss in Mobile and the trip home. "It was a bummer. We had felt like rock stars and it ended so quickly. It was such an emotional letdown. We had to think about going back to school." High school football practice was starting.

Hawkins returned to Maine after living elsewhere. Conley settled in Alpharetta, Georgia, outside Atlanta, soon after his minor league career was over. He has memories to renew. Try as he might, he can't recall much from catching Powers' perfect game.

"Marc did all the work. I just called the pitches. I can't remember if I got nervous. You're asking me about something that happened 39 years ago.

"I do know, as the years go by, I cherish that summer more and more."

JOIN US FOR LIFE!

MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Alumni Association Membership plays a crucial role in providing quality programs and services that benefit Babe Ruth League participants.

In order to make sure our participants of today and tomorrow have a place to learn valuable life lessons, make friends and have fun while learning the fundamentals of the game, the Alumni Association needs the cooperation of all the alumni, from the oldest to the youngest. Membership fees have been so arranged that everyone can afford to be a member and assist us with these worthwhile goals.

Members enjoy great benefits, including a t-shirt, pin, decals, free subscription to DIAMOND LEGACY and access to discounts and services offered by partners of the Alumni Association.

Please visit www.baberuthalumni.org to join. Your membership is tax deductible.

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is an all-inclusive group for all Alumni. Therefore, if you have any questions or concerns about membership or are unable to submit a membership fee, please contact Theresa Cleary via email at theresa@baberuthleague.org or via phone at 609-278-2308.



Babe Ruth League Coaching Education Center

Updated courses for 2019 season!

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, COACHES, ADMINISTRATORS, RESOURCES, and SUPPORT. The main heading reads "OFFICIAL ONLINE COURSES FOR BABE RUTH LEAGUE COACH CERTIFICATION". Below this, there are two columns of course options: "FOR FIRST-TIME COACHES" and "FOR EXPERIENCED COACHES". Each column lists two courses: "Coaching Youth Baseball" and "Coaching Youth Softball" for first-time coaches, and "Coaching Advanced Baseball" and "Coaching Advanced Softball" for experienced coaches. At the bottom of the interface, there are promotional banners for "2016 rules e-books now available!", a "Baseball app for on-the-go coaches" endorsed by Babe Ruth League, and a "Go Coach Baseball" app. On the right side, there are four red buttons: "SIGN IN", "CONTINUE MY COURSE", "PRINT MY CERTIFICATE", and "SEARCH COACH REGISTRY". The footer of the website includes logos for Babe Ruth League, Human Kinetics Coach Education, and social media icons.

“At Babe Ruth League Inc., we feel there is no one single action that can have more of a positive impact on our players than improving the quality and knowledge of our managers and coaches. Every manager and coach has an obligation to provide players with the best instruction and leadership possible. This is the driving force behind Babe Ruth League’s partnership with Human Kinetics and our commitment to providing the best possible training for Babe Ruth League coaches.”

—Steven Tellefsen
President/CEO, Babe Ruth League Inc.

Earn your certification at www.BabeRuthCoaching.org



Riddles that put your Math Skills to the Test



HOW DID I GET HERE?

Pick a positive whole number. If it is odd, multiply by three and add 1. If it is even, divide by 2. Repeat. Keep repeating! Did you eventually get back to 1?

IT'S OK TO CUT CORNERS.

A domino can cover two squares on a chessboard. Assume the one you are working with has two opposite corners removed. Can you cover the board with dominoes?

POWER PLAY.

Pick a number between 1 and 9. Now, raise it to the fifth power by multiplying five copies of your number together. It might be a big number, but what's the last digit?

PARTY OF 6 PLEASE

You're at a dinner party with six guests. Can you always find three people who are mutual friends or mutual strangers?

Riddle Answers

HOW DID I GET HERE?

Yes you get back to 1. That this happens is known as the Collatz conjecture, but it has not been proven - yet. For example - using the number 12, one gets the sequence 12, 6, 3, 10, 5, 16, 8, 4, 2, 1

IT'S OK TO CUT CORNERS.

No, you can't completely cover the chessboard. Each domino covers a light square and a dark square, but after removing opposite corners, there are different number of light and dark squares.

POWER PLAY.

It's the same number you started with. Bonus questions: Does this work if fifth power is replaced by fourth power?

PARTY OF 6 PLEASE

Yes, in addition to yourself, your friends (or strangers) with three of the other five people. Suppose it's friends. Then if those three people are mutual strangers, you've found your three people. If not, one pair of your friends are friends with each other, and you and that pair you've found your three. This is an example of Ramsey theory, a branch of mathematics that studies the conditions under which order must appear.

Parlier, California



AROUND THE HORN

Spring Youth, New York



Liberal Rattlers, Kansas

Charlottesville, Virginia



AROUND THE HORN

New Britain, Connecticut



Westport, Massachusetts



A Babe Ruth League Story Consider the Mighty Zehan

Here 's how one team rallied to carry a player from low to high.

During his first game with the Ithaca, New York, Cal Ripken League, 12-year-old Zehan Lama-Nelson stepped into the batter's box, leaned his body into the strike zone, and was drilled by a wild 70 mph fastball. It hit him right on the hands. "I couldn't feel my fingers until the next morning," he said.

This was one of only two times Zehan would reach base that season. The second time didn't happen until his final game, and only then after a dust up at home plate between the coaches, opposing pitcher, and an exasperated umpire who finally waved the boy to first. Later everyone would agree that it was a defining moment for Cal Ripken Baseball.

After getting plunked in his first game, the first two pitches Lama-Nelson saw in his second game sailed four inches over his head. Things like this make skeptics wonder about curses, karma, bad luck. The boy dropped to a poof of orange dust after both pitches.

The second time he didn't get back up. Lama-Nelson's third base coach, Bill Austin, immediately sprinted to home to find Zehan rolling around dirt clutching his throat. Austin was convinced the boy was having a seizure. Zehan wasn't having a seizure though. He was having a panic attack.

The park fell to murmurs as everyone rose to watch the coaches huddle on knees around the boy. Zehan's father Zach ran out to calm him. Out on the mound the pitcher's body hung like wet noodles, his arms and legs limp, torso suddenly deprived of a spine. His coach jogged out to console him. Eventually Zehan's breathing evened. His head coach, Tony Podufalski, quietly asked if he wanted to continue. He did not.

So Zehan's father escorted him off the field, where he spent the rest of the game watching from a nearby hill. No one was surprised when he didn't show up next game.

One of the great things about baseball is its embrace of the anti-bullying movement. Where professional baseball was once made of men spitting tobacco and racial epithets, it's now rich with displays of sportsmanship and player support. One only need watch a few major league games to see how pull your weight has evolved to support your teammate. Coaches and players frequently slap support on an ineffective pitcher's back. Team leaders are seen sitting with struggling hitters on the bench, giving quiet zen-like advice. Of course baseball is not all daisies and kumbaya. There are millions of dollars involved in professional sports, so if you don't produce you will eventually lose your job. The occasional bench-clearing brawl still happens as well. However, it's often team leaders who actively try to diffuse things.

This is baseball in the 21st century.

So maybe it wasn't so surprising when Lama-Nelson came back, and further, didn't miss a single game the rest of the season. As Austin put it, "he had to make that choice. He had to find it in himself [to come back]." However, as both his father Zach and Coach Tony noted, his teammates had a lot to do with it.

Lama-Nelson's team was C&M Residential Builders. Coach Tony's father, Frank Podufalski, sponsored the team and named it after his construction company. Tony's mother, Patricia, as well as his grandmother, Marjorie, had both battled and survived breast cancer. Patricia's case was just a year old, so the team chose pink to honor her struggle. It's not exactly a manly color, and while traditional gender roles have eroded, many prepubescent boys still cling to the "girls are icky" stage of ego development (until the hormones kick in, wherever that may lead). Yet these boys embraced the color without hesitation or dissent.

"That's when I knew I had a special team," said Podufalski.

Even though he was back, every pitch drove Zehan three feet out of the batter's box. It didn't matter where the ball was going. As soon as the ball left the pitcher's hand he would jump away. Then he'd heave his chest with a deep breath, and step back in.

"We tried to get him comfortable by working with him in the batting cage to learn to swing again," Austin said. "But even with me throwing to him he just couldn't do it."

"Baseball teaches failure," said Michael Smith, the coach of the final team Zehan would face. "In no other sport is failure such a large part of the game."

In baseball, if you hit .300 you are considered an All-Star player. Failing 7 out of 10 times is good. So successful players need to accept incredible amounts of failure. Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra once quipped that "baseball is 90 percent mental. The other part is physical." Berra's 90 percent mental part of the game is dealing with failure. When players break out of a slump, they frequently confess that it got in my head, meaning that failing itself created a self-perpetuating cycle of failing. To break the cycle, they had to learn their way out of it. This is why players chant mantras like "you have to take it one game at a time" and "you need to forget the previous at bat." While these clichés are certainly regurgitated PR copy, there is a certain truth to them. They speak of the mindset needed to endure failure.

Is there a more vital component of mental health? Life is full of failure. The inability to deal with it leads to unrealistic expectations of perfectionism, especially in young people who are taught by parents and the peculiarly American belief in intersectionally-blind meritocracy that they must get straight As so they will be accepted to the perfect college, where they must get straight As to land the perfect job, where they have to work unholy amounts of unpaid overtime

Baseball teaches children how to handle failure and learn from their mistakes.

Consider the case of the Mighty Zehan. Or perhaps the Mighty C&M, because every time Zehan went to bat his entire team stood up to cheer. This is no dramatic exaggeration. Every time he stepped in the box they were on their feet yelling, "You can do it Zehan!" He still jumped away from the pitch. Then he went back in.

"That's alright!" "You got this!"

His teammates remained as undeterred in their support of Lama-Nelson as he remained committed to batting. All season he would continue to jump out and step back in, jump out and step back in, every game failing spectacularly as his teammates chanted "Zehan! Zehan! Zehan!"

C&M didn't just have heart. They had talent. Their lineup featured Coach Tony's stepson, Kaleb, who could hit and field with a real talent for stealing bases. It wasn't just his speed that made him good, it was his ability to read the pitcher. At the slightest flinch Kaleb would take off, sometimes reaching second before the ball hit the catcher's mitt. Whenever he reached first it was a near certainty he'd steal his way to third. Kaleb could do everything except one crucial skill: pitch. For that C&M had Garret Potter.

To look at him you wouldn't suspect Potter to be a great athlete. He's a short and skinny little guy who acts like a complete goofball in practice, doing cartwheels in the outfield and enthusiastically shouting jokes. Yet on the mound he featured "a curveball, a fastball, and a slider, and they were all devastating pitches," according to Tony. Potter was C&M's ace pitcher, the one Podufalski chose to start their final game, a sudden death playoff match, and also the pitcher he saved to shut out the final inning in case they were winning. Which they were.

To understand how remarkable that was, consider that C&M squeaked into the playoffs when they won their final game. This meant they had to play the best team in the league in the first round, the purple-clad Elwyn & Palmer Engineers, which was coached by the formerly mentioned Michael Smith.

It was in that game that Lama-Nelson reached base his second time.

To C&M, Lama-Nelson's at bat was nothing unusual. Step in, jump out. Step in, jump out. To the opposing pitcher though, Will Thomas, this was an enormous distraction. Every time Thomas would wind up, Lama-Nelson would jump out of the box. The strike zone is not a set area: the horizontal plane is fixed by home plate, but the vertical plane is determined by the batter's knees and torso midpoint. So Thomas rightly questioned the ump's ability to make calls if the batter was gone before the ball reached the plate.

His first pitch was called a ball. The second was also a ball. The third, a ball. The fourth? "Ball." Four balls means the batter walks to first base. That's when Thomas threw up his arms and yelled, "He keeps jumping out of the box!"

Coach Smith jogged out of the dugout with the rulebook in hand, certain that what Lama-Nelson was doing was illegal. "I regret doing that," he later confessed. "I shouldn't have brought out the rulebook. But it was playoffs and well..." he trailed off.

When Smith emerged from the dugout, his counterpart Podufalski ran red-faced to home plate. Podufalski is a big man with a stainless steel goatee, all of which lends him a rather severe look that's ill-suited to his big heart. When interviewed, both Smith and Podufalski had nothing but positive things to say about one another. The moment was a hot one though, and an argument ensued.

"He can't jump out of the box," said Smith calmly as he flipped through the rulebook.

"Are you guys kidding me?" Podufalski shouted. "This kid has reached base twice all year. Once by a hit pitch and now a walk, and you're going to deny him the walk?"

"I can't see the strike zone," piped Thomas from the mound.

"It's a matter of rules, Tony," noted the ump with a scrunched face, clearly reconsidering his call.

The whole time Zehan stood aside, bat limp in hand, less curious than baffled by the sudden adulting exploding all around him. Then Smith had a moment of clarity. He stopped flipping through the book. He looked up at Tony. He looked over at the ump. He looked down at Zehan.

“That’s the moment we all remembered why we were there. We remembered the purpose of Cal Ripken,” Austin later said.

Coach Smith nodded to the ump, nodded to Tony, then went back to his dugout. The ump pointed to first and said, “Take your base.”

C&M wouldn’t go on to win the game. They would lose in heartbreaking fashion. When the final inning came they were winning 5 to 2, and as was the plan, Tony brought in his ace pitcher to close it out.

Potter gave up four runs and lost the game.

As was custom, C&M gathered in the outfield for a post-game talk. Podufalski emphasized that they had played as a team and lost as a team. Potter lay just outside the circle, face down in the grass, blue eyes flooded. His teammates patted him on the back, said what they could, then all wandered off to their parents.

Podufalski stayed behind. When they were alone he leaned in and said, “You need to lose like this sometimes to refuel for the next season.” Potter nodded understanding, then picked himself up and headed to the dugout. While he was gathering his things, one of the team fathers wandered in and quietly said, “Hey Garret.”

He looked up. “Even Mariano Rivera blew Game 7 of the World Series. And he was the greatest reliever of all time. You’re going to be alright.”

“Thanks,” the boy said.

And that is baseball.

A growing number of alumni and friends are choosing to support the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association through financial or estate planning. This process is referred to as Planned Giving. Planned gifts leave a lasting impact. And a planned gift will ensure that future generations of children have the opportunity to reap the benefits that come from participation in Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball.

Planned gifts also form part of an overall financial plan that can provide you with significant benefits. For example, planned gifts can help you maintain control of your assets during your lifetime, take advantage of a number of tax benefits, and leave a legacy with Babe Ruth League.

Unlike cash gifts, planned gifts typically come from the assets in your estate. Size doesn't matter - even small gifts can make a big impact.

There are several options from which to choose:

- Bequest in Will or Living Trust.
- Gift of Appreciated Securities
- Gift of Real Estate
- Gift of Retirement Assets
- Outright Gift of Personal Property and Other Assets
- Gift of Life Insurance

For further information or for assistance, contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308.

Life Stage Gift Planner

Under Age 45

- At this stage in life, some of the financial issues you may find yourself dealing with are:
 - Increasing Income
 - Managing Debt
 - Accumulating assets
 - Starting discretionary savings programs
 - Long-range planning for retirement and emergencies
 - Establishing a growth strategy for investments
 - Creating a simple will and estate plan providing for heirs and bequests to charity.

Ages 45 - 65

At this stage in life, some of the financial issues you may find yourself dealing with are:

- Accumulating assets
- Active financial planning
- Comprehensive estate- and wealth-transfer planning
- Assisting children with debt through annual gifts
- Taking advantage of charitable trusts to optimize family wealth transfers and maximize tax benefits
- Diversifying investments
- Increasing retirement-plan contributions

Over Age 65

At this stage in life, some of the financial issues you may find yourself dealing with are:

- Shifting to income-producing assets
- Increasing cash flow - charitable gift planning can help minimize taxes
- Maintaining financial stability
- Anticipating healthcare needs and insurance coverage
- Concern about the financial future of younger members of the family
- Review will and estates plans

For the charitably inclined, certain types of gifts can provide solutions to tax issues. The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is a 501(c) 3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law.

Check with your attorney or financial advisor to take full advantage of tax benefits.



Endowments

To continue to provide superlative services to Babe Ruth League and its participants in the future, the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association offers endowments with naming opportunities. The earned income from these endowments, such as named scholarships, provide perpetual income to fund the Babe Ruth League Alumni scholarship programs.

An endowed gift is one that is held in perpetuity, unless the donor designates a time period. The gift is invested, with a portion of its annual investment return used for purposes specified by the donor. To protect against the erosive effects of inflation, the remaining investment return is added to the principal.

Therefore, a donor who gives an endowed gift can be confident it will grow and continue to sustain Babe Ruth League in the years to come.

What will you endow?

- Annual Scholarship Program
- Sponsor a League or Team
- Fund coaching education for an individual, team or league
- Sponsor a travel fund for a team or league
- Donor-designated sponsorship

All endowment funds may be named. Donors may have their name or the name of a loved one or other honoree linked to their fund. A minimum commitment of \$25,000 is necessary to establish an endowment fund, with annual commitments required until the endowment is sustainable.

For further information or for assistance, contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308.

How Charitable Giving Can Boost Office Morale While Helping the Community

While performing charitable work can seem as though it is a completely selfless act, the behavior may actually be good for the health and well-being of those performing the act. Studies have repeatedly shown that doing good deeds for others is good for the soul. In fact, those feeling down and out can benefit from doing something to improve another person's way of life.

For businesses, charitable giving has an added benefit: it provides networking and marketing opportunities while also increasing the business's presence in the community. If a business also encourages employees to participate, workplace morale will improve as each person feels as though they are making a difference in the community. By forming a task force that helps organize and track the project, businesses can further boost worker confidence.

Large national brands have become ingrained in professional-level sports. With fans' strong emotional ties to sports, companies know they can score some of the love by sponsoring halftime shows, finish lines, seating sections and more.

But sports sponsorship isn't just a game for the big leagues. Many savvy businesses invest in sponsoring local community sports organizations, such as Babe Ruth leagues. Some consider their sponsorship a charitable contribution and others, a form of advertising. Either way, it's a mutual relationship that pays off for the sponsor and the team.

Here are some reasons why businesses should sponsor a Babe Ruth League sports organization:

- Increase awareness of the company's products and services. Each sponsorship package has benefits for the sponsor built in: field signage, website advertising, company name on uniforms, etc. Through a sponsorship, a company's brand will be in front of the youth sports market of parents, coaches, program organizers, players and fans.



- A welcomed form of advertising. In most settings consumers are inclined to tune out advertising. Although many traditional ways of reaching consumers are failing, youth sports sponsorships are a positive and engaging way to market a brand. Parents like to see the companies that are supporting local sports.

- Help keep the cost of Babe Ruth league programs low. Player participation fees cover the majority of the costs of a youth sports program but support from sponsors provides additional resources which can help keep participation fees low. With lower fees, more families are able to afford to sign up and that means more children being able to receive the many benefits of sports.

- Outstanding value for the dollars invested. Although sponsorship package costs vary from organization to organization, they commonly range from \$100 up to \$5,000 or more. When comparing the cost of other marketing outlets like print, television and billboard advertising, youth sports sponsorships can be a great value and a smart option to include into the marketing mix.

- Build goodwill. Companies that sponsor Babe Ruth league programs make a positive contribution to their community. Overall this can evoke a community wide feeling that a company understands the impact and importance of sports for their youth. This feeling can instill loyalty among a business' current and future patrons.

- Possible tax incentive. Many Babe Ruth League organizations are registered nonprofit groups. If that is the case, businesses can get a tax break for making a charitable donation. That is just another added benefit of sponsoring youth sports.

We know dollars donated from a local company to a Babe Ruth team/league goes a long way to offset the rising costs of sports. But what the company may find is that their sponsorship also goes a long way to strengthen the bond between their brand and their community.

For further information on how to donate to a local Babe Ruth league in your area or to have the Alumni Association donate to a league on your behalf, please contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308.

Spice Up Your Concession Stand

An afternoon sitting behind home plate isn't complete without a snack or three from the concession stand.

Here are a few recipes to add to the food adventures at your concession stand.



Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 packet taco seasoning mix
- Tomatoes, chopped
- Lettuce, shredded
- Onion, chopped
- Black Olives, sliced
- Shredded Cheese (Mexican blend, cheddar, mozzarella, whatever works for you)
- Taco Sauce
- Individual lunch-sized bags of corn chips (Fritos, Doritos, etc.)



WALKING TACOS

Brown the ground beef, drain, return to pan. Add Taco seasoning mix according to directions on packet.

Just before serving, carefully open a bag of corn chips along the sealed direction being careful not to tear the bag (because it is your bowl).

Stir in the ground beef mixture and add the taco toppings. (Be careful not to fill bag to full as it will be hard to mix it up.)

Stick a fork in it and enjoy!

Hint: Double or triple the recipe depending on the crowds you expect on game day.

Ingredients

- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk, divided
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- 1-1/2 cups of semisweet chocolate chips, divided
- 24 whole graham crackers, broken in half
- Assorted sprinkles
- 24 Wooden pop sticks



S'MORES ON A STICK

In a small microwave-safe bowl, microwave 2/3 cup milk on high for 1-1/2 minutes.

Add marshmallows and 1 cup chips; stir until smooth.

Drop by tablespoons onto 24 graham cracker halves; spread evenly. Top with remaining graham cracker halves; press down gently.

Microwave remaining milk for 1-1/2 minutes. Add remaining chips; stir until smooth. Drizzle over filled graham cracker; decorate with sprinkles.

Let stand for two hours before inserting a pop stick into the center of each.

Hint: Double or triple the recipe depending on the crowds you expect on game day.

When you add novelty menu items to your concession stand, such as Walking Tacos and S'mores on a Stick, make sure everyone knows about it.

For visually appealing and interesting recipes like these, create a display that is easily visible to your customers at your serving window.

Promote such items on your social media and ask your press box announcer to mention specials in between innings at games. You can create demand by labeling your new items as "limited-time only" and offering buy-one-get-one deals.



Hello
Spring

Most of us love the changing seasons. It is hard to pick your favorite. But there is something about the fresh start of spring that starts sounding pretty good this time of year.

Here are a few tips that can make the transition for our into spring just a little bit happier for our female alumni. And just think - a little prep work now will ensure that your flip flops (and toes) are ready for that first day of 70-degree weather.

PACK AWAY YOUR WINTER CLOTHES

Getting dressed is so much easier when you aren't sifting through off-season clothing. Move your sweaters and jeans to the bottom drawers, and dig out the capris and t-shirts from last summer. If you are limited on space, use under-the-bed storage bins to store your boots, long sleeved shirts and winter coats. No sense in letting these items take up the prime real estate in your closet!

BUY A FEW NEW THINGS FOR SUMMER

For some, the start of every spring leaves them wondering what they were wearing last summer. And even if your supplies aren't low, it's always nice to spice up the wardrobe with a few new pieces. At the very least, get something casual, something a little dressier, and definitely some new flip flops. Nothing better than having a fun new outfit waiting for the first warm day of spring!

START EXERCISING NOW

You know it's coming...shorts, swim suits, and short-sleeves. Sometimes it's tough to shed the winter clothing layers, but there's no avoiding it. So because you will be exposing more skin soon, give yourself the gift of regular exercise - starting now. Whether it's a daily walk, jog, or trip to the gym, it's amazing how much easier it feels to slide on the shorts when you have been working out.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR SKIN

Studies show that daily sunscreen application slips through the cracks during the winter months. Did you know that March, April, and May are the most common months for sunburns? We start to spend more time outside but the temperatures are still cool, so its easy to forget about sun damage. So lather on your favorite sunscreen – SPF 15 or higher.

GET A PEDICURE

Splurge at the spa if you can, or trade with your sister or girlfriend. There is nothing like a pretty set of toes to help your confidence!

STOCK THE CAR

Nobody likes being caught unprepared – which is exactly what happens on that first really warm day when you want to stop by the park with the kids or grand-kids. Load up a few camping chairs, a picnic blanket, some water bottles, and a good book – and don't forget the protein bars and trail mix. Bring on the spontaneity!

PLAN FOR MEALS ON THE GO

in the spring, our lives get overtaken with baseball games and practices, recitals, and end of year programs. If you don't plan portable dinners, the fast food drive thru is too convenient. Make a list of several dinners that can be packed ahead of time, so you can feed your kids/grand-kids while you watch the game. Gotta love that multi-tasking.

MAKE FREEZER MEALS

Even on those nights when we are all home for dinner, you can run out of time to make a nutritious meal. Because eating healthy is important, you should always look for easy ways to solve the dinner dilemma. Freezer meals free you up to spend time with my kids/grand-kids in the afternoon AND have a healthy diner on the table.

SET SIMPLE GOALS FOR SPRING CLEANING

The notion that your home needs to be cleaned out top to bottom is fading, but we still experience a natural energy and momentum to do a little spring cleaning. But it doesn't have to be so intense. Pick a few high priority spaces to clean and organize – and then call it good. Pick projects that will be most helpful for the upcoming summer.

Babe Ruth is fully deserving of Presidential Medal of Freedom

By Jerry Amernic

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is presented to those who make “an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.” This past November, seven new recipients were honored. One of them was Babe Ruth.

It would be hard to select an American, from any time or field, who fulfills the mandate of the above definition more than baseball’s Bambino.

Ruth is baseball’s greatest player – a superb pitcher who became the game’s most feared slugger – but he is much more than that. Long after his death, he remains a cultural icon who endures the test of time. He might even be the most celebrated American ever.

Last year an exhibit of Babe Ruth portraiture and artwork concluded at the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. It was part of the One Life series which dedicated a full gallery to the biography of an individual. Those who have been featured include Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, and Elvis Presley, who like Ruth posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Strangely enough, both men died on August 16 – Ruth in 1948, Presley in 1977 – which means Ruth has had three more decades for his star to ebb. Only it doesn’t. It keeps getting bigger.

Last August the National Sports Collectors Convention attracted 40,000 people at the expansive IX Center in Cleveland. Today sports collecting is a billion-dollar industry and the biggest name by far is Babe Ruth. In 2012 his old Yankees jersey from the early 1920’s sold for \$4.4 million, a Guinness World Record.

Said one executive: “There are two categories in this business – Babe Ruth and everyone else.” Said another: “Everything Babe Ruth touches turns to gold.”

And it's true. But why?

Ruth came to New York from the Boston Red Sox at the dawn of the Roaring Twenties. It was the perfect storm for creating a legend – the time, the place, and this bigger-than-life character who was bombastic, rough around the edges, not educated. His rough-and-tumble childhood in Baltimore was right out of a Dickens novel. But people could identify with him, and not only that, they were inspired by him.

On his way to revolutionizing the national pastime he single-handedly saved baseball after the infamous Black Sox Scandal of 1919. The game might have been ruined were it not for his uncanny ability to hit monstrous home runs. He out-homered other players and most teams as well, and millions of people pored through the turnstiles. Baseball and sport had never seen anything like him. While the masses adored him – not only Yankees' fans, all fans – his persona was omnipresent.

“Never let the fear of striking out get in the way,” he would say. It was the sort of thing the public took to heart and it went far beyond the ballpark.

Ruth adored the fans and always gave back. His family says that for every visit he made to hospitals or orphanages that were publicized in the media, 50 were not. The National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York features 25 Babe Ruth scrapbooks. The countless photos of him with children – of every color, ethnicity and race – bulge from the collections.

He was a man who would drive his car up the west side of Manhattan on his way to the Polo Grounds, and later to Yankee Stadium, and stop at places like orphanages to lend a hand or give money away. In Florida where both the Red Sox and Yankees held spring training, he was a charity machine who supported over 70 organizations. The John Hopkins Children's Hospital. The YMCA. Lions Club. You name it.

It didn't end after he retired in 1935. During World War II he sold War bonds and lent his name to full-page newspaper ads with Americans of German ancestry who condemned Nazi Germany's persecution of European Jews. He was the most famous name of all.

Perhaps the most telling thing about how Ruth loomed over America and the world was the battle cry of Japanese troops when they stormed U. S. Marines. “To hell with Babe Ruth!” they cried. It was the most insulting thing they could say to Americans.

Ruth's dream after his playing days was to be a manager, but the call never came despite the fact that ten different teams expressed interest. Alas, Ruth had barnstormed with and against black and Latino players as early as 1918 when he was still with the Red Sox, and continued doing so throughout his career, much to the chagrin of Major League Baseball, which was segregated at that time.

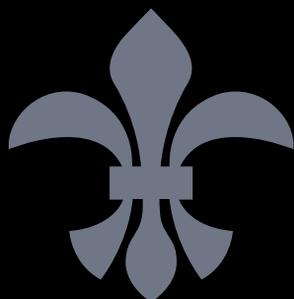
Babe's daughter Julia Ruth Stevens, now 102 and still lucid, contends along with the rest of the family that this could be why the offer never materialized. Only after baseball Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, a staunch advocate of segregation, died in 1944 did the road to Jackie Robinson open up. Robinson broke the color bar in 1947 and Ruth died a year later.

Was that why he never managed? We may never know. But the Presidential Medal of Freedom is about "meritorious contribution" and Babe Ruth just might have been a man who was ahead of his time.



*Jerry Amernic, a writer who has been researching Babe Ruth since the early 1990s, is the author of **BABE RUTH - A Superstar's Legacy**, which is available on Amazon and at www.BabeRuthLegacy.com.*

**You never forget the
moment you fell in love
with the greatest game
on the planet.**





In Memoriam

Tony Fernando Valdez
April 5, 1956 - November 2, 2018

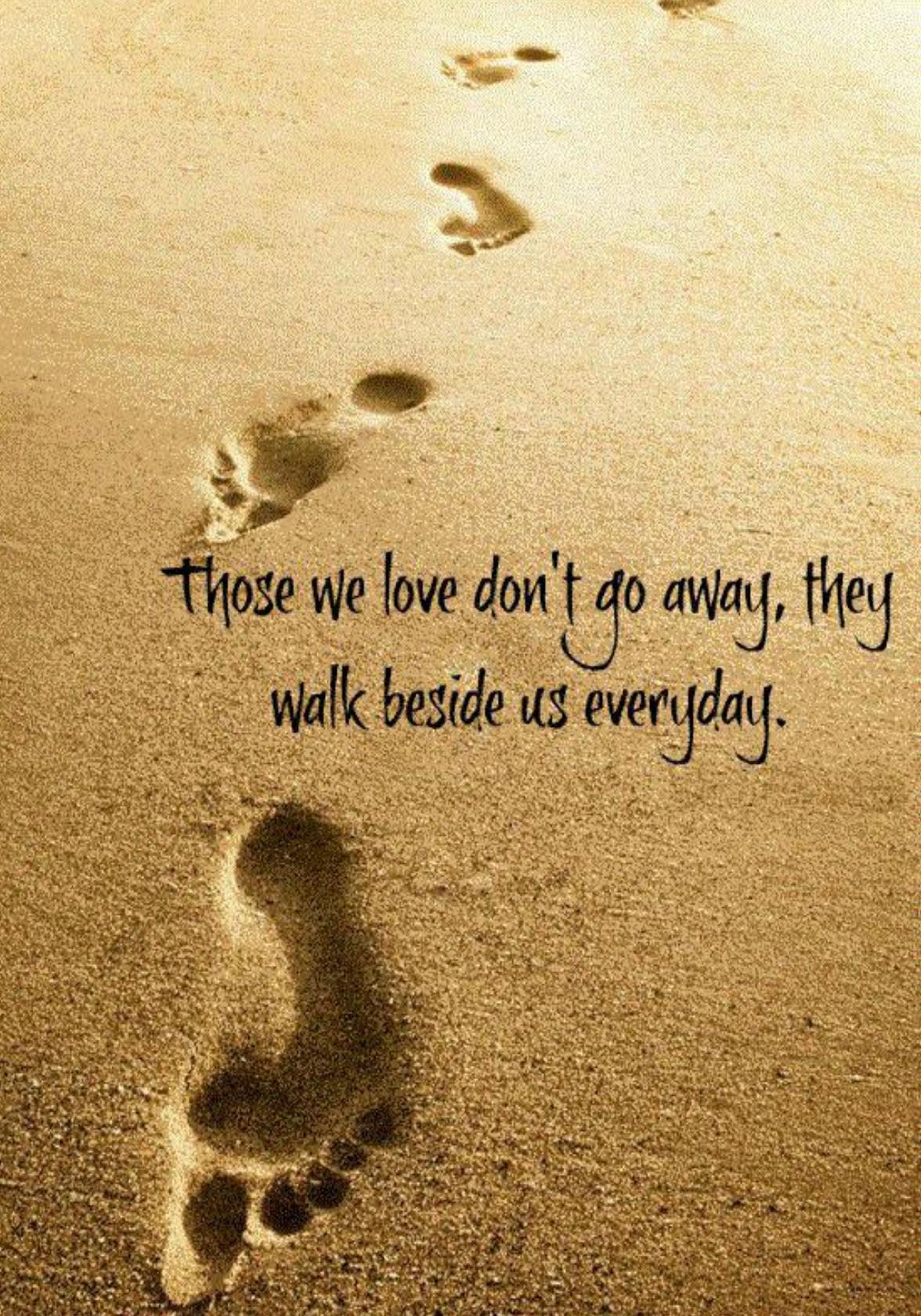
On November 2, 2018, Tony Fernando Valdez of South Chandler, Arizona, died peacefully at home, surrounded by family.

In his life, Tony had many passions. As a successful businessman, Tony, along with his wife Mary Anne, co-founded both the Twenty-One Tech Company and T.F. Valdez Construction Supply. Always one to prioritize relationships in business, Tony developed countless relationships in his decade of sales. His dedication to education above selling earned him a reputation of integrity and knowledge.

Tony also loved baseball, especially coaching. The last 20 years of his coaching career were as part of the South Chandler Babe Ruth League. As Head Coach, Tony led teams to 11 state championships and two Babe Ruth World Series titles. Despite him saying that he was “not there to make any friends,” players and parents were drawn to him, and Tony developed numerous friendships that carried on long past his coaching days. For his dedication to the game, he was honored by the Chandler Sports Hall of Fame and posthumously inducted into the Pacific Southwest Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame.

But of all things, Tony’s greatest love was his family. He got so much pride and joy out of seeing his children and grandchildren strive for success in school, sports, extracurriculars, and life. No matter the distance or time, he would do whatever it took to spend time with and be there for his family.



A close-up photograph of a sandy beach with several footprints. The footprints are arranged in a path that leads from the top of the frame towards the bottom. The sand is a warm, golden-brown color, and the lighting creates soft shadows within the impressions of the feet. The text is centered in the middle of the image, written in a black, cursive-style font.

Those we love don't go away, they
walk beside us everyday.

WE THINK YOU ARE AMAZING

Thank you to those who gifted the Alumni Association this quarter.. Every contribution benefits our participants as they travel the "road of life."

Irby Luquette Endowed Scholarship

Gary Luquette

In Honor of George Lally

Matthew Lally

Miscellaneous Contributions

Sandra Eldridge

Jerry Bodden

James Norsworthy

Stephen Hupka

North Dakota Babe Ruth Leagues

Bill Slifkin



Make a
positive
change in
your Life.
Think
healthy,
Stay
healthy!

It all starts here!



Sportsmanship Code

- Develop a strong, clean, healthy body, mind and soul.
- Develop a strong urge for sportsman-like conduct.
- Develop understanding of and respect for the RULES.
- Develop courage in defeat, tolerance and modesty in victory.
- Develop control over emotions and speech.
- Develop spirit of cooperation and team play.
- Develop into real, true CITIZENS...

