

**DIAMOND
LEGACY
NEWSLETTER**

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**Reconnect
Make New Friends
Enrich Children's Lives**



News from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

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MAY 2016

Message From Alumni Chairman

There is just something about spring that warms the soul. Spring is full of transformations. The temperatures rise to a more bearable degree. The leaves 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 ballpark.

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 on warm summer evenings, where kids ride bikes, families cheer from the stands, and the smell of

roasting hot dogs waft over postgame parties. 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.

And for anyone who gave up the game at the end of last season, whether graduating from the program or retiring as a volunteer, and spring is reminding you of the pain you felt in that very moment, the Babe Ruth Alumni Association is for you.

We realize the beauty of it all. For a period of our lives, we got to experience something so special and so meaningful, that letting go is a painful feeling we will never forget.

We realize the positive impact the Babe Ruth League 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.

Joining the Alumni Association keeps you in the game. As a member, you stay connected with Babe Ruth League, and you are able to reconnect with former teammates, players, managers, coaches, commissioners or other volunteers. As a member, you help carry on the tradition of Babe Ruth League to make sure the program is available for the next generation...your kids, grandkids, family members, neighbors.

**Mark Watkins
Chairman**

Graduate Corner — Brandon Lyon & John Buck

A TALE OF TWO TEAMMATES



Back before they'd gone and done it, before boyhood friends Brandon Lyon and John Buck (graduates of the Taylorsville, Utah Babe Ruth League) pulled off their version of hitting the Powerball numbers by playing more than a decade in the major leagues, including one Field of Dreams season as battery mates for the New York Mets, making \$26 million in the process, each; back before all that, John Buck was sitting in a little room off to the side of the main office at Taylorsville High School and had this exchange with Joyce Jones, the guidance counselor.

Ms. Jones: "So tell me about your career goals."

John: "I'm going to play professional baseball."

Ms. Jones: "That's nice, but if not baseball, then what?"

John: "Professional football."

Ms. Jones: "Ok. Those are short careers. What about after?"

John: "I don't know. Be a dad; raise my kids. Have you seen what they make?"

Just what are the odds of two kids who grew up playing baseball together in Utah — with its six

months of winter, its relatively small population and its fixation with basketball and football — both making it to the big leagues, anyway?

Baseball is a game of statistics, so consider this: According to the Baseball Almanac, since professional baseball began in 1876, 38 players born in Utah, including Brandon Lyon, have played in the major leagues; and another 14 from Wyoming, where John Buck was born before moving to Utah when he was 4. That's a grand total of 52 players from both states in 140 years — out of the nearly 20,000 ballplayers who have had, as they say, a cup of coffee at the game's highest level.

Now consider that of those raised on Utah baseball, only one, Bruce Hurst of St. George, at 15 years, had a longer career than Lyon, who played 12 seasons, and Buck, who played 11.

You could also add a fourth name to the group: Vance Law, who was born in Idaho but played high school baseball for Provo High before enjoying an 11-year career in the majors.

But that's it. Only Hurst and Law — one raised in the year-round baseball climate of Utah's Dixie and the other the son of Major League legend Vern Law — went as far and stayed as long as the two guys who grew up without glossy baseball pedigrees in Taylorsville, where they had to deal with, among other things, the inversion.

So how did they do it? What's their secret? What do they tell Utah kids, and their parents, who also might want to attempt the impossible?

During a recent baseball tournament in southern Utah, where they were watching their boys play, the two recent retirees — Lyon is 36, Buck is 35 — took a stab at an answer.

(continued on next page)

Graduate Corner — Brandon Lyon & John Buck

They talked about the importance of supportive parents, of working hard, of dreaming big, of never saying die – the usual motivational catchphrases. Then, eventually, both got around to the most important ingredient of all: Taylorsville.

Growing up in the landlocked city in the middle of the Salt Lake Valley in the '80s and '90s was like enrolling in a baseball academy and still getting to live at home. Taylorsville took its baseball seriously, but not too seriously. Lyon and Buck were able to play all the other sports growing up – ski racing, snowboarding, skateboarding, BMX riding, hockey, football, even gymnastics (Buck credits it for improving his catching). But they also played baseball. A lot of baseball. Taylorsville was ahead of its time in organizing top-level youth baseball leagues, led by Edo Rottini and others who built first-class facilities, taught the kids to play the right way, and made sure they got plenty of opportunities for competition.

“Our youth league was like the super leagues now,” says Buck. “We had two-a-days when we were 11 years old.”

“Taylorsville had such a great history of winning,” says Lyon. “I watched my older brother (Shane) and his friends and we looked up to those guys. All we wanted to do was be them.”

Lyon, nicknamed "Boo" by his friends, is 11 months older than Buck, but because their birthdays fall on either side of the July 31 cutoff, they played on the same age-group teams from the time they were 8 years old through high school. Over the years the roster hardly changed, breeding a squad that won, in addition to countless state trophies, Babe Ruth League national championship as 13-year-olds.

By the time this group got to Taylorsville High, where the school had already won six state baseball championships in 10 years, the only surprise was that the Warriors added only two more titles in the Lyon/Buck era instead of three. (Jordan High knocked them out of the playoffs in

1997.)

Steve Cramblitt, who coached Taylorsville to the 1996 and 1998 state titles, along with five others, remembers Lyon's mental toughness – “Loosy-goosy off the field; tough, tough, tough on the field,” and Buck's uncommon drive to excel – “John had to work at it a little harder and he did; he had a tremendous work ethic.”

But it was never just those two and everybody else. They weren't the show. The team was.

“Almost the whole team went on to play in college,” says Buck. “It was never like, ‘Hey, it's going to be me and you, Boo.’”

Adds Lyon, “Our team was our frame of reference. Growing up in Utah, we didn't know anybody in the big leagues, there were no (MLB) teams close by. We'd play whiffle ball and say, ‘This is the World Series,’ and that's about it.”

Lyon was drafted by the Mets out of high school in 1997, but not until the 37th round, the 1,110th player chosen, leading him to decide to play baseball at Dixie State instead of turning pro.

In 1998, Buck's senior season of high school, the Houston Astros drafted the catcher, already 6-foot-3 and nearing his big-league playing weight of 225 pounds, in the seventh round, the 212th player chosen. He turned pro right after he graduated, all of 17 years old, and joined the rookie league Gulf League Astros in Kissimmee, Florida.

While Buck started clawing his way through the bush leagues, Lyon was away at college separating his shoulder; the right one – his throwing arm.

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Graduate Corner — Brandon Lyon & John Buck

He hurt the shoulder snowboarding during Christmas break midway through his freshman year. His teammates ribbed him about a million-dollar injury, not realizing how wrong they were — and right. Instead of costing him his career, the injury helped, because after sitting out the 1998 season to let the shoulder heal, he gained another two to three miles an hour on his fastball, putting him in the 93 mph big-league range.

He won 24 games and lost three pitching for Dixie in 1999 and 2000. The Toronto Blue Jays selected him in the 14th round of the 1999 amateur draft and signed him in 2000. He spent less than a season and a half in the minors before the Blue Jays called him up in 2001. He went 5-4 that first season to launch a 12-year MLB run that would also include stops with the Boston Red Sox, Arizona Diamondbacks, Detroit Tigers, Houston Astros and New York Mets. A reliever for most of his career, he compiled a 42-47 won-loss record and recorded 79 saves (ranking him 198th all time in MLB history entering the 2016 season and eighth in the Diamondbacks' record book with 42).

Lyon topped seven figures in salary when he signed a \$1.5-million deal with the Diamondbacks in 2007. In 2011-12, the Astros gave him a \$10.75 million two-year deal. For his career, the Baseball Register tallies his earnings at \$26.6 million.

Despite turning professional three years earlier, Buck didn't make it to the major leagues until three years after Lyon, but he was still just 23 when he joined the Kansas City Royals in 2004. He spent six seasons in K.C. then played for six franchises in the next five years, with stops at Toronto, Miami, the New York Mets, Pittsburgh, Seattle and the Los Angeles Angels.

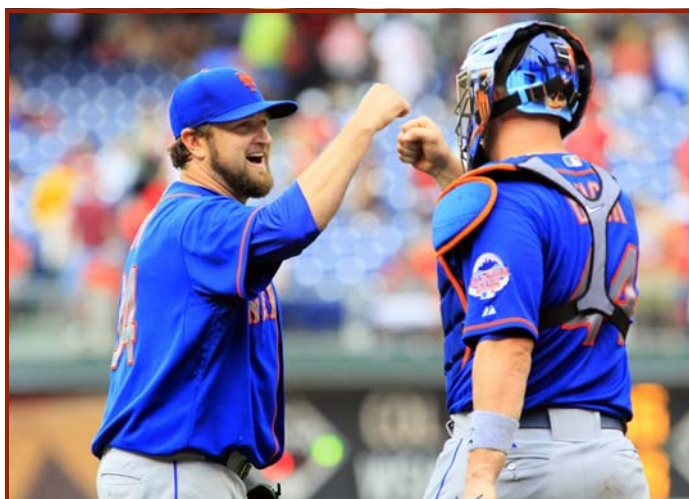
Known as a clubhouse leader — he was the player rep on all his teams — and an excellent handler of pitchers, Buck hit for power on offense. He had 134 home runs in his career (563rd on the all-time list) and batted .234. Of his 844 hits, nearly 40 percent were for extra bases.

He peaked at Toronto in 2010 when he hit .281 with 20 home runs and a slugging percentage of .489, all career bests. That July he played in the All-Star Game in Anaheim and hit a double for the American League.

He parlayed that success into a \$17 million, three-year deal with the Marlins in 2011. The Baseball Register records his career earnings at \$26.2 million.

Between them, the boys from Taylorsville made \$52.8 million playing baseball for 11 of the 30 MLB franchises.

Finally, in 2013, they were teammates again after the Mets acquired Buck in an offseason trade and signed Lyon as a free agent. They rented apartments within walking distance in Manhattan and appeared in numerous games together that summer at Citi Field, just like the old days at Taylorsville's Rottini Field. The first came in the season opener in New York where Lyon came in for relief in the seventh inning and Buck was behind the plate. Lyon got a groundout to end the inning in an 11-2 Mets win that saw Buck go 2-for-4 at the plate.



(continued on next page)

Graduate Corner — Brandon Lyon & John Buck

Throughout their big-league careers, and beyond, Lyon and Buck never failed to give credit to the village that got them there.

“I would sometimes go and watch them play (in the major leagues),” says their high school coach Steve Cramblitt, “and I’ll tell you what, they treated me great. They were no different than they were in high school; just respectful, great family guys, great human beings and great teammates.”

Lyon’s last season in the big leagues was 2013, Buck’s in 2014. Lyon has settled in the St. George area, his wife Sara’s hometown (they met at Dixie State). They have three children, Isaac, 12, Andrew, 9, and Lucy, 6. Buck and his wife, Brooke, who met their sophomore year at Taylorsville High (Brooke taught him how to drive a stick shift), live in Bluffdale, just a little south of where they grew up, with their twin boys, Brody and Cody, 7, and their son, Bentley, 2.

Much of Lyon and Buck’s time is still spent on a baseball field, coaching their sons, driving them to their games, watching them play, adhering to their schedules — instead of the other way around.

“I’m a stay-at-home dad now. My wife did that for a long time, now I try to let her do as much as I can,” says Lyon. “It’s like an offseason for me, just a little bit longer.”

“I’m in retirement,” says Buck, “meaning I’m doing things I want to do.” Besides coaching Brody and Cody, among other things, he’s a motivational speaker, a personal trainer, an entrepreneur (see buckathletics.com) and an inventor (he’s designed a bag to hold a baseball glove and keep it soft).

He also skis. A lot. “I made sure I got out when I still had plenty of skiing left,” he says.

To see if there might still be something in the tank, both Lyon and Buck played briefly for the minor league Sale Lake Bees in 2014 before officially retiring from baseball. One night, after a home game at Smith’s Ballpark, Buck was taking off his

catcher’s gear when a woman called out his name from the stands behind home plate.

It was Joyce Jones, the Taylorsville High guidance counselor.

As Buck walked toward her, he wondered if she was going to tell him she was right, because here he was, not yet 35 years old and headed into retirement without a Plan B.

But she didn’t say that at all.

“She wanted to tell me that she’d kept track of my career and how much she enjoyed following me in the box scores through the years,” he says.

Before she turned to walk out of the stadium, Ms. Jones added, “I’m so glad you didn’t listen to me.”



Support the BRL ALUMNI Today!

Because of his love of the BRL program, Babe Ruth Board Member George Lally joined the Alumni as a Golden Alumni Club Member



Donate to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association!

The BRL Alumni Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

1 Choose Your Gift

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$Other \$ _____

2 Choose Your Area of Support

Please direct my gift to:

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- Babe Ruth League Scholarship Fund
- Honorary/Memorial Gift

In Memory of: _____

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Return to:
 Theresa Cleary
 BRL Alumni Association
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 Hamilton, NJ 08619
 Any questions call 609-278-2308

3 Payment Method

My Check is enclosed (*payable to Babe Ruth League Alumni Association*)

Please charge my Credit Card _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover
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West Hartford, CT BRL Alumni Named National Football Foundation Scholar-Athletes



From left: Hall Head Football Coach, Frank Robinson, with National Football Foundation Scholar-Athletes Matt Wilcox and Jordan Weinstock. At right is John Quaglia from the NFF Northern Chapter.

Two student-athletes from Hall High School in West Hartford—Matthew Wilcox (quarterback) and Jordan Weinstock (wide receiver)- recently learned they will be honored with the prestigious National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete Award at the organization's banquet at the Aqua Turf this month.

Matt and Jordan, who also participated in Babe Ruth Baseball, are among only 14 scholar-athletes from the Northern Chapter to be honored this year. Both were surprised with a visit from the Northern Chapter's John Quaglia.

"Both have fantastic grades and resumes, and performed well on the field. They have excelled at football, academically, and in the community," Hall Head Coach Frank Robinson said.

Wilcox is choosing between Holy Cross, UConn, and Providence College, while Weinstock will attend Penn State in the fall. The award is given to football players who excel on the field, in the classroom and in their communities as leaders.

Things to Ponder...

Being Busy Does Not Equal Being Productive

Look at everyone around you. They all seem so busy—running from meeting to meeting and firing off emails. Yet how many of them are really producing, really succeeding at a high level? Success doesn't come from movement and activity. It comes from focus—from ensuring that your time is used efficiently and productively. You get the same number of hours in the day as everyone else. Use yours wisely. After all, you are the product of your output, not your effort. Make certain your efforts are dedicated to tasks that get results.

You Are Living the Life You Have Created

You are not a victim of circumstance. No one can force you to make decisions and take actions that run contrary to your values and aspirations. The circumstances you are living in today are your own—you created them. Likewise, your future is entirely up to you. If you're feeling stuck, it's probably because you are afraid to take the risks necessary to achieve your goals and live your dreams. When it's time to take action, remember that it's always better to be at the bottom of the ladder you want to climb than at the top of one you don't.

Great Success is Often Preceded by Failure

You will never experience true success until you embrace failure. Your mistakes pave the way for you to succeed by revealing when you're on the wrong path. The biggest breakthroughs typically come when you're feeling the most frustrated and the most stuck. It is this frustration that forces you to think and act differently and see the solution that you've been missing. Success takes patience and the ability to maintain a good attitude while suffering for what you believe in.

Heard it through the grapevine...



Actress June Lockhart served as Head of a BRL Ladies' Auxiliary in the 1960's.

This June, BRL President/CEO Steven Tellefsen will walk his daughter Megan down the aisle.

Cletis Boyer, 3B for the New York Yankees in the 1960's was a BRL graduate from Joplin, Missouri

Fleetwood, PA and North Adams, MA switched from another youth program to Cal Ripken Baseball.

Class Notes

What's new in your life? Stay in touch and keep us posted on all of your news—send us an email and give us an update on what's happening in your life. Feel free to include photos. EMAIL: theresa@baberuthleague.org Or Send Mail to: Theresa Cleary, Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Catching Up With The Best Player In Baseball—Mike Trout

Because of priceless wisdom instilled in him, as well as unconditional love and support, from his family, coupled with life lessons learned on and off the Babe Ruth diamond, Mike Trout has developed into a unpretentious, happy, and successful adult.

Unlike many young MLB superstars, Millville, NJ Babe Ruth League graduate Mike Trout is not flashy or known for his outgoing personality. His folks say that's just how he was brought up.

Heading into his sixth season with the Los Angeles Angels, the four-time All-Star, four-time Silver Slugger, 2014 American League MVP (and the list goes on) is finally moving all of his awards and other stuff out of his parents' house in Millville, New Jersey.



Trout's All-Star Game rings are locked in a case on the wall. So are the signed baseballs from other players around the league—Trout sends them home in long tube socks. The Corvette he got when he was named All-Star Game MVP sits in a detached garage, right in front of his hunting gear and off-road truck. Parents Debbie and Jeff Tour doesn't mind keeping possession of all this. But soon Trout will take it to his brand new home on 300 acres of woods and farm—just minutes away from his parents' place.

Trout fully lived with his parents until two years ago and said he visits all the time. "I go back to south Jersey all the time so I knew I wanted to stay in the area. And I just thought it was time to get *all of my stuff* out of the house."

"It's just where he wants to be," Jeff said. "He's a family guy. He loves his [three-legged] dog. He's close with his mother. He has a great group of friends here he's had since he was a little kid. He's very tight with his brother and sister and he loves his niece and nephew. He grew up fishing and hunting and clamming these woods and these waters. His girlfriend lives here. Everyone's here. He works out at a nearby Millville gym. He's a south Jersey kid and it'll never get out of him"



Trout stands as one of the game's leading faces of the future. But unlike some of baseball's other young superstars—embracing newfound superstardom—Trout prefers a low and quiet profile.

"You just don't get more than what you ask for from Mike," his father said. In conversation, Trout is polite and unreluctant to converse, but true to his father's word, he gives simple, straightforward answers. Trout differs from other athletes of his caliber who learn quickly to give media-friendly interviews.

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Class Notes (Continued)

It might stand that the only way to understand the best player in the game is by hearing from the people who know him best: those who raised him. The Trouts also acknowledge their son's reputation for being a bit, well, bland off the field. "Some people say, 'Oh, he's so boring,' but he's not," Debbie said. "He has a personality around family." "Some people say he shouldn't be the face of baseball because he's not controversial enough," Jeff said. "They say he's not showy enough. Maybe they're right. That's their opinion and their right and maybe that's true. But in my view, that's just not who he is." "If he has to be showy and all that to be the face of baseball, so be it," Debbie said, but "that's just not Mike. He just doesn't like that."

The Trouts had three children and insist they never pushed them into sports unless they were interested. "Our rule was that if we had to force them to get into the jersey, they didn't have to play," Debbie said. But Mike wouldn't take off his jersey. He took to baseball, football, basketball, and soccer. During double-headers in his Millville Babe Ruth League, Trout often asked his parents to pack his rod so he could fish between games.

"There is a mindset now in which parents try to specialize their kids," Jeff said. "They think, 'you're gonna play baseball all year long, and you're gonna be a big leaguer' Well, it doesn't work that way. In our view, we encourage them to play all the sports. You develop different skills, different body parts, different parts of your brain."

"I mean, at some point you do have to make a choice," Debbie said. "I think as kids are growing and developing we've always just said, 'Do what you want.'" We weren't going to make him play year-round baseball. We just weren't." "There's a thought process that you do this to your kids. And you wonder why these kids are having Tommy John surgery at age 21, 22, when they're throwing 10 months per year," Jeff said.

Scouts and teams began visiting Trout when he was 15. His parents said they remained focused on his education "until the bitter end. "There was none of this stuff when he was 13 like, 'You're great, Mike. You're gonna get in the big leagues,'" Jeff said. "Maybe if you continue to work hard and get better, you can get a scholarship to play college baseball and you'll get a free education – wouldn't that be nice? That's a great goal to have. Not to be a big leaguer."

Trout committed to East Carolina University. Jeff told him that if he wasn't "a first- or second-round pick" he'd be going to college. "It was first-round only," Debbie recalled sternly. "It was not second round." Trout was drafted 25th overall by the Los Angeles Angels – the first round – and his career as a baseball player began at 17. His parents had to sign his contract, which includes a \$90,000 escrow account for college that he can use up to five years after he retires. "For how many people make it to the big leagues, we always said, 'He's gotta have something to fall back on,'" said Debbie.

Today, Trout still calls his mom, who is now retired, before every single game, then texts her to say he's taking the field. Jeff jokes that they have to take afternoon naps and drink coffee at 9:30 p.m. to stay up for most of his games, which start at 10 p.m. on the East Coast.

"Some nights we'll sit here and say, 'Oh God. He's 0 for his last 10!' but when he calls he's just like, 'Hey Mom, what's up?'" Jeff said. "He doesn't take the game home with him. If he's in a slump, it doesn't weigh on him. He enjoys what he does, it's not a job to him, and he has pure fun doing it."

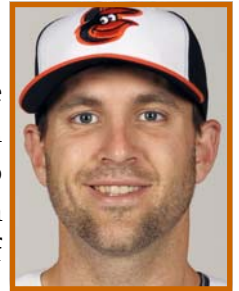


Tri-Valley Babe Ruth League—A Foundation for Success

The Tri-Valley (CA) Babe Ruth League believes in developing student athletes. They stress the importance of academics, and they are very proud of the former players that have gone on to play at college, as well as in professional baseball. Below is a listing of several players who have gone on to have professional careers:

Brad Bergesen

Brad Bergesen is a professional baseball pitcher, who is currently a free agent. He played for the Baltimore Orioles and the Arizona Diamondbacks. Bergesen is a finesse pitcher and groundball pitcher who relies primarily on a sinker. He also uses a slider and changeup, the slider being his typical strikeout pitch. Bergesen relies on good control of his pitchers and avoids walks, rather than striking lots of batters out.



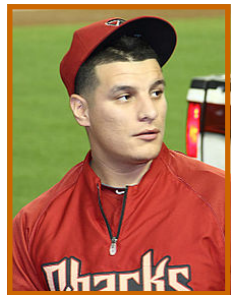
Brandon Crawford



Brandon Crawford hit a grand slam in his first major league game for the Giants against the Brewers on May 28, 2011. Not only was it his first major league game, but he had never played above AA at that point. He hit another memorable grand slam on October 1, 2014 in the 5th inning of the National League Wild Card game against the Pirates. He was the first shortstop ever to hit a postseason grand slam. Crawford also won two World Series with the San Francisco Giants in 2012 and 2014. On May 16, 2015, he set another personal mark when he drove in 6 runs in an 11-2 win over the Reds; that game included another slam. It was a prelude to his best offensive season thus far, when he hit .256 with 33 doubles and 21 homers, scored 65 runs and drove in 84. He was named to the All-Star team for the first time and not only won the Silver Slugger Award, but also was the NL Gold Glove Winner. The Giants rewarded him after the season by signing him to a six-year contract extension worth \$75 million.

David Hernandez

David Hernandez is a professional baseball relief pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies. He previously played for the Baltimore Orioles and Arizona Diamondbacks. He made his Major League debut with the Orioles on May 28, 2009. He gave up five hits, allowed four walks, and only one earned run while striking out three. Hernandez throws a 95 mph fastball, a 78 mph slider, and an 84 mph changeup. He is known for his high strikeout rate, which improved at every level in the minors.



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Tri-Valley Babe Ruth League—A Foundation for Success

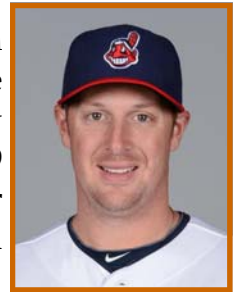
Stephen Piscotty



Stephen Piscotty plays right field for the St. Louis Cardinals. He played college baseball for Stanford University and was the St. Louis Cardinals' first round selection in the 2012 draft. He made his Major League debut on July 21, 2015, and as the Cardinals' organization Player of the Year that season. Piscotty's first regular season totals in the majors included a .305 batting average, .359 on-base percentage, .494 slugging percentage, seven home runs and 39 RBI. His first playoff appearance was in the National League Division Series against the Cubs where he hit both his first career postseason home run and double in a 4-0 win. Even though the Cardinals lost the NLDS, Piscotty batted .375 with 1.000 SLG, three home runs and six RBI in four games. He was the franchise Player of the Year in 2015. At Stanford, Piscotty majored in atmospheric and energy engineering and completed his bachelor's degree during the 2014-2015 off-season.

Brian Shaw

Brian Shaw is a pitcher for the Cleveland Indians. He was drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks in the second round of the 2008 Major League Baseball Draft. He was traded to Cleveland on December 11, 2012 as part of a three-team deal. Shaw had a good 2014 season. In 80 games and 76.1 innings, he finished 5-5 with a 2.59 ERA, 64 strikeouts and 2 saves. He appeared in more games than any other pitcher that year. Shaw attended California State University, Long Beach, and played baseball for the Long Beach State 49ers baseball team.



Erick Threets



Eric Threets is a pitcher with the Arizona Diamondbacks organization. He has also played for the San Francisco Giants and Chicago White Sox. Threets was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the 7th round of the 2000 MLB draft after playing at Modesto Junior College. He was prospect 20 in the Baseball America Prospect Handbook 2008 for the Giants, and his changeup was rated the best in the Giants' minor league system.

This is just a short list of the many graduates of the Tri-Valley Babe Ruth League who have gone on to play professional baseball and/or play with college programs. In addition, many Tri-Valley Alumni have furthered their education beyond high school, leading to successful careers, as well as happy, productive adulthood.

This is what the Babe Ruth League program is all about – preparing and developing youth for the future. The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association thanks the Tri-Valley Babe Ruth League for the support and resources they provide to the youth of their community.

Happenings in Babe Ruth League

Stay up to date with what is taking place in Babe Ruth League

The Alumni Association is your gateway to Babe Ruth League, Inc. for a lifetime of connections. Our focus is to create and nourish lifetime fellowship and active participation of Alumni with Babe Ruth League through advocacy, support, service and communication.



Thank you to Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

Babe Ruth League's mission has always been to teach valuable life lessons, providing an endless procession of teachable moments. Kids learn about teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership. They learn to work together to accomplish a goal and learn from their mistakes. These valuable life lessons enhance their life after childhood, from home life to education to work ethics to relationships.

Millions of kids have benefitted from participating in Babe Ruth League, and the program has truly become a place of hope and opportunity for all young people.

Babe Ruth Alumni are known for giving back to their communities. They continue to support Babe Ruth League by paving the way to endless possibilities for the participants. They volunteer, conduct clinics and other fun and educational events, raise funds and donate to leagues, teams and children in need.

Funds raised by the Alumni Association are used for college scholarships; to help under-resourced kids; offer financial assistance to players, teams and leagues who would otherwise be unable to participate; to help leagues rebuild their programs after suffering devastation loss due to hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters, honor or remember someone special, and a host of many other worthy causes.

Coastal, Maine Babe Ruth League President Scott Ford wrote, "We cannot thank the Babe Ruth League Alumni enough for the gift they provided our league. Your generosity during our re-organization in 2016 has definitely alleviated a lot of stress for the officers of our league. Having been a member of the Babe Ruth League program since 1957, your assistance provided a great peace of mind that we will be able to continue to provide a life-changing experience to the children of our community through the game of baseball."



The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association thanks its donors for their generosity, which collaboration has helped us support the Coastal Babe Ruth League and many other leagues, as well as assist us with our goals to empower youth through life lessons learned on and off the diamond.

The Babe Ruth League, Inc. Alumni Association is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization supported largely through generous contributions from individuals like you. Your contributions are tax-deductible. The need for your assistance is great and the opportunities are plenty.

We want your old pictures!

We are looking for your old pictures. They can include anything—teammates, team photos, plays, special events, etc. We would like to feature pictures from the past in issues of *Diamond Legacy*. Simply scan them and email them to theresa@baberruthleague.org. **HAVE ARTICLES OR STORIES**—Submit them to theresa@baberruthleague.org or mail to Theresa Cleary, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



Blast From The Past—Dan Cook

The following excerpt was featured in the July 6, 1978 *Hopewell Valley (NJ) Newspaper*. Dan Cook, who is currently living in California, is a former Babe Ruth League participant who played ball in Pennington, New Jersey during his youth in the 1970's.



Babe Ruth Corner

Story by Ruth Luse, Editor

Dan Cook gets credit for the best one-man performance ever seen in Babe Ruth by this reporter. Not only did he hit his third homerun of the season, but he chalked up a total of 23 strikeouts.

In the second game Saturday, Wilson's beat United Savings 10-4. Dan Cook was the big star of the game. For the first 7 innings, he pitched a no-hitter, allowing only one hit in the next two overtime innings. He struck out 19 of the 21 outs in the first seven innings. Of the total 27 outs, Cook struck out 23, which is probably a record in Babe Ruth. To top this, Dan hit a home run for his team, This was his third home run this season. Greg Stack hit a double for Wilson's and singles were by Scott Rondinelli (3), Dan Miller (2), Cook, Jon Dennison, and Nick Recinelli (2), Mark Connett batted a single for United Savings.

Keeper of the Game Donates Game Balls



The Keeper of the Game Foundation provided the Surprise, Arizona Bambino Buddy Ball League with a donation of game baseballs and softballs. This gift is Keeper of the Game's first major contribution to an adaptive league in the state of Arizona.

The Bambino Buddy-Ball Division was established for Babe Ruth League organizations who wish to charter a league that encompasses players ages 5-20 who are either physically and/or mentally challenged. The division makes allowance for a "Buddy" to help the player swing a bat, round the bases, catch a ball.

The Keeper of The Game Foundation is excited to be expanding into Arizona," Keeper of The Game Executive Director Bryan Hocht said. "With all the support we receive throughout the Texas Rangers organization, the Surprise Bambino Buddy Ball League is a great fit for us. The City of Surprise's DreamCatcher Park is a beautiful facility and is right across the street from the Spring Training home of the Rangers."

The donation was made official with a presentation to several Bambino Buddy Ball League athletes at DreamCatcher Park by Keeper of The Game Major League Baseball Player Relations Advisor Salomon Manriquez and fellow members of the Texas Rangers organization: coach Jason Hart and players Pat Cantwell, Ryan Cordell, Tripp Martin, Josh Morgan and Jose Trevino. Also representing the foundation was

City of Surprise Babe Ruth League athlete Garrett Allen.

"The presentation by Keeper of The Game for the donation of the game balls was amazing," Cantwell said. "To be able to see the impact it is going to have on those kids is something I will remember forever."

"Keeper of the Game is a great organization and we are very appreciative of its donation to our program," City of Surprise Recreation Division Manager Paul Frie said. "Any added assistance in continuing to offer a barrier-free program is a win for everyone involved."

Following the presentation, Keeper of The Game representatives all served as buddies for a game between Bambino Buddy Ball League teams.

"To be a part of something bigger than the game of baseball and bring some peace and happiness to those kids and their families is something that the baseball community as a whole should be proud of," Cantwell said. "I am proud to be associated with Keeper of The Game and its efforts to help spread love and laughter through baseball."

To make a donation to Keeper of the Game, please visit <http://www.keeperofthegame.org/donate/>.



Shop the Alumni Store

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association invites you check out the **NEW** Alumni Online Store by visiting <http://www.baberuthleague.org/alumni.aspx> and clicking on "Alumni Store".



Is your game day garb looking a little shabby? Add some stylish options to your collection with cool merchandise from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association store.

The Alumni Store is your one-stop-shop for alumni apparel and accessories.

The Alumni Store stocks the best collection of apparel for men, women, kids and fans in the most popular brands, such as Nike, Majestic, Lids, Impact, Russell, Badger Sportswear and more.

Buy your brand from the Alumni Store to support Babe Ruth League and show fellow fans you care!



Resolve To Get Involved!

The Alumni Association exists to personally and professionally support Babe Ruth League successes; to inspire pride in, and promote involvement with the organization.

RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED by joining the Alumni Association today. Membership is free and the benefits are plenty!

FRIENDS we will miss...

David Harold Blandford, 67, of Louisville, Kentucky passed away on November 9, 2015. He was dearly loved and respected for his boundless love of family, his kind spirit and quiet generosity.



David devoted over thirty years as a volunteer, coach League Treasurer and President for the Hikes Point Optimist Babe Ruth League, where his sons also played youth baseball.

Barbara M. Lotierzo, 81, of Maple Shade, New Jersey, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2016, surrounded by her loving family.



Barbara was the beloved wife of Raymond Lotierzo, Sr., Middle Atlantic Regional Commissioner and a member of the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors, who has served as a volunteer for the organization since 1965. Barbara served by Ray's side as Middle Atlantic Regional Secretary. Barbara was the loving mother of Raymond, Jr., Stewart, Francis and Michael, and the late Keith and Larry Lotierzo.

Tom O'Connell, 82, of Princeton Junction, New Jersey passed away on March 7, 2016. Tom was involved with the game of baseball as a player, coach, teacher, scout,

administrator, author, clinician, lecturer, and camp director since the 1950's.



O'Connell began his coaching career at Braintree High School (MA) from 1964-71, and spent ten years at Brandeis University in Boston before moving to Princeton, where he coached from 1982 to 1997. Tom was the founder of the renowned Princeton University/Babe Ruth Baseball Camp and Clinic. Prior to that, he was the Director of the Ted Williams Baseball Camp for 13 years. O'Connell retired after 18 years from Princeton with a total of 25 years in college coaching. He also spent time with the Hyannis Mets in the Cape Cod League. In addition, he worked as a part-time Cincinnati Reds scout. A legend among baseball coaches, O'Connell also served as the Head Coach and recruiter for the Babe Ruth League teams that participated in the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars. And because of his expertise, the Babe Ruth League team took home the gold from the Tournament of Stars in 2010 and 2011, and placed second in 2012.

Tom was inducted into the Brandeis Hall of Fame in 2003, the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2004, and the Babe Ruth League International Hall of Fame in 2013.



FRIENDS we will miss...

Marvin Moore Robins, 80, of Gloucester County, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at his home.



Marvin was a lifelong resident of Gloucester County. He was a soft spoken, gentle, kind and considerate man. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, NASCAR, and golf.

Marvin devoted 53 years of his life to coaching and leading the Gloucester Babe Ruth League, touching the lives of thousands of children and their family. Marvin's home was adjacent to the Gloucester Youth complex. In addition to coaching, Marvin was part caretaker, administrator, and historian for the league. He became involved with Gloucester Babe Ruth League when it first started in 1963.

Marvin was a faithful and hardworking volunteer, who always went above and beyond for the participants.

James D. Sleeth, 73, of Shelbyville, Indiana, passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at home, surrounded by his family.



Jim graduated from Shelbyville High School in 1960 and served in the United States Air Force. He was employed by Naval Avionics, Indianapolis, where he helped develop Patriot missiles, which were later used in the Gulf War. He also

owned and operated several businesses, including Jim's Pool Room, Jim's Shortstop, Jim's Dugout, Blue River Park, The Sports Locker Room, and Ritter's Frozen Custard. His biggest business accomplishment came in 2005 when he was named the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

He lived in Shelbyville his entire life, with the exception of the time he served his country. Jim was heavily involved in the community. He was a Board Member, President and coach for Shelby County Babe Ruth League for over 20 years, and was influential in bringing Shelbyville the Babe Ruth Bambino World Series in 1985. He was selected to the Indiana Babe Ruth Hall of Fame later that same year.

Jim was also heavily involved with the Shelby County Jaycees, where he was appointed as an International Senate member in 1982. In addition, he was the past President of the Shelbyville High School Booster Club and served on Shelbyville City Council from 2000-2004, the Parks & Recreation Board and the City Planning Commission.

Jim loved his work, his family, his community and was an avid Los Angeles Dodgers fan.



Sincere Thanks to Those Who Donated During the Past Quarter

In Memory Of...

Ronald Tellefsen

By Nancy and Robert Faherty

Jim Lemp

By Gord Welbourne

By James and Edna Wagoner

By Mark Watkins

By Steven Tellefsen

Tom O'Connell

By Steven Tellefsen

By James Wagoner

By Robert and Nancy Faherty

By Rosemary Schoellkopf

James Sleeth

By Mark Watkins

By Joseph Smiegocki

Miscellaneous Contributions

By Sandra Eldridge

By Glenda Champlin (Central California BRL)

By Joe Cormier

Welcome New Alumni Members

Kevin Landry from St. Manta, Louisiana

Ethan Stallings from Ridgely, Tennessee

Cheryl Battle from Orlando, Florida

Scott Wittwer from Hanford, California

Andrea Witten from Louisville, Kentucky

Lauren Garoutte from Lodi, California

James Dennis from Napa, California

Ron Hansinger from Shelby Township, Michigan

Kaitlyn Chitwood from Louisville, Kentucky

Samantha Chitwood from Louisville, Kentucky

Brett Doehler from Berkley, Massachusetts

Tom Williams from Simi Valley, California

Brain Teasers/Trivia—Do You Know the Answer

Answers appear at the bottom of the page.

- Find a number less than 100 that is increased by one-fifth of its value when its digits are reversed.
- Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?
- If you were running a race and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
- What goes up, but never comes down?
- Jake is very odd. He likes balloons, but does not like parties. He likes books but does not like reading. He likes weeds, but does not like flowers. He likes swimming, but does not like water. Does he like towns or villages?
- A farmer has five haystacks in one field and four haystacks in another. How many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in one field?
- What year was Babe Ruth inducted into the Hall of Fame?
- What was the only major leaguer to play at least 500 games with each of four teams—Houston, Montreal, New York and Detroit.
- Who was the only baseballer to lay over 500 games at each of five different positions?
- A man leaves home and turns left three times, only to return home facing two men wearing masks. Who are these two men?
- Can you name the American tree that contains all five vowels?
- What five letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?



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The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) Organization. Whenever you give a donation to the Alumni Association, you will be able to make a tax deduction when you file your taxes. Donating to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association can help you make a difference for a worthy cause and help you achieve tax benefits at the same time. If you wish to make a financial contribution, please make the check payable to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association and mail to 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



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Answers to Brain Teasers

- 45 (1/5 of 45 = 9, 9 + 45 = 54)
- No, he is dead.
- Second place.
- Your age.
- Villages. He only likes words which contain a double letter.
- One. If he combines all his haystacks, they all become one big stack.
1936. The Babe was in the group of the first five that were ever inducted into the hall. Deservingly, he joined Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, Ty Cobb and Walter Johnson.
- Rusty Staub.
- Pete Rose.
- A catcher and an umpire.
- Sequoia.
- SWIMS