

DIAMOND LEGACY NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Graduate Corner	2
Scholarship Winners	4
Class Notes	7
West Chester Duo	10
Larry Grondahl	11
MAR Hall of Fame	12
Missing Noah Inman	14
Gold Bat Award	15
MLB Players Weekend	17
Missouri Hall of Fame	18
Whitefish, MT Praised	19
Alumni Provides \$\$	20
SE 25-Year Volunteers	20
Friends We Will Miss	21



Reconnect
Make New Friends
Enrich Children's Lives



News from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2017

Message From Alumni Chairman

I am deeply humbled to continue my service as Chairman of the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. I look forward to working with you and for you as we write the next chapter for Babe Ruth League, Inc.

Because Babe Ruth League alumni possess qualities of integrity, teamwork, vision and a true love for the program, I invite you to join us on our journey into greatness. As we travel this journey, we will do so with a winning agenda of EXCELLENCE for all Babe Ruth league participants – past, present and future. Make sure you are there for the trip—join the Alumni Association.

I always enjoy celebrating the start of a new season. It's a great time to reflect on past accomplishments and

look forward to the possibilities for setting and achieving new goals.

By all accounts, 2017 was a banner year for the Alumni Association, with growth in membership, progress and support.

Such positive outcomes take effort, commitment and resolve, character traits that aren't limited to the playing field. In fact, one of my goals this year is to commit to making more of an effort to connect with more of my fellow alumni.

And I encourage you to join me in this endeavor. Just reach out to one person you haven't heard from in a while—over the phone, through social media, email—whatever you feel comfortable with. Just reconnect with a Babe Ruth alumnus—it's that



simple. I'm going to do it, and if you need help or encouragement, please contact me.

We all have something valuable to contribute to Babe Ruth League and our future fellow alumni. We are excited about the direction and the future of Babe Ruth League and look forward to speaking and working with each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Mark Watkins
Chairman

Graduate Corner — Mike Leach

MIKE LEACH, a Babe Ruth League graduate from Cody, Wyoming, is the head coach of the Washington State Cougars football team.

Last season, sandwiched between a two game losing streak to begin and three game losing streak to end the season, the Cougars rode an eight-game winning streak to a place in the Holiday Bowl, where they lost to Minnesota 17-12. They finished with a 7-2 Pac-12 record and overall record of 805. Huge wins over Oregon, Arizona, California and #15 ranked Stanford contributed to the Cougars best finish in a Pac-12 conference play since the 2002 team went 7-1.

Babe Ruth League, that's where Mike Leach learned the fundamentals of coaching and started his coaching files, doing teenage summer jobs when he was at Cody High School in the late 1970's.

Baseball, much like Cody, has receded in his rear-view mirror, except for fond memories. Although Leach said he has not visited Cody for some time, he still sounds a bit homesick whenever he reminisces about Old Trail Town, Buffalo Bill Body and his varsity days for the Broncs.

Leach graduated from Cody High in 1979 as a member of a state championship football team. He was a track man who ran everything from the 100 to the 880 (all events being measured in yards back then), and a long jumper and pole vaulter.

"I could do a lot of things sort of well," Leach said of his track and field days.

Leach said he wasn't particularly good in football, though his sophomore year the Broncs won a 4140 triple-overtime state championship game over Laramie, and he also competed in wrestling and swimming.

Leach brought a proven record of winning to Washington State. In 10 seasons as head coach, all at

Texas Tech (2000-2009), his program earned 10 bowl bids, In addition, he record a school record 84 victories. During his tenure, 17 Red Raiders were drafted by NFL teams. During

his last two season at Texas Tech, the Red Raiders earned 28 Big 12 All-Academic honors.



Prior to Texas Tech, Leach spent one season as the offensive coordinator at Oklahoma (1999), as the Sooners set six Big 12 Conferences and 17 school records. He spent two seasons in a similar capacity at Kentucky (1997-1978), the only two seasons in school history in which it passed for more than 4,000 yards while setting six NCAA and 41 Southeastern Conference records.

From 1992-96 he served as offensive coordinator at Valdosta State, where his offense broke several national, conference and school records, capping his final season by being named the 1996 Division II Offensive Coordinator of the Year by the American Football Quarterly magazine.

Leach was the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Iowa Wesleyan (1989-91) and his quarterbacks broke 26 NAIA records during those three seasons. In 1989, he was the head coach for Pori, Finland in the European League. The linebackers coach at College of the Desert (1988), Leach's coaching career began at Cal Poly (1987) where he mentored the offensive line.

After graduating with honors from BYU in 1983, Leach earned a master's degree from the U.S. Sports Academy and his law degree from Pepperdine, where he graduated in the top one-third of his class.

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:

- Where the need is greatest
- Babe Ruth League Scholarship Fund
- Honorary/Memorial Gift

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Send notification of my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Other _____

Return to:
 Theresa Cleary
 BRL Alumni Association
 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road
 Hamilton, NJ 08619
 Any questions call 609-278-2308

Your Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3 Payment Method

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

To make a gift using your credit card, please visit <http://www.baberuthleague.org/alumni.aspx> and click on "Make a Gift".

Scholarships—The Gifts That Keep on Giving

The course of a young adult's life can be forever changed with the gift of education. The goal of Babe Ruth League and the Alumni Association is to make a difference in the life of a child. We are committed to providing our participants with the very best educational, sports experience possible. With the help of alumni and friends, we are able to enrich their lives long after their days on the baseball and softball diamond.

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association received many outstanding applications and equally exceptional recommendations making the selection process very competitive. Based on such qualities as academic excellence, personal achievement, and commitment to community, the following candidates were selected for 2017 scholarship awards.

Babe Ruth League Alumni Scholarship

Maguire Balke – Yardville, NJ
Steven Cantrell – Lynn Haven, FL
Nicholas Celestial – E Segundo, California
Sean Downey – Elizabeth, NJ
Grant Goplen – North St. Paul, MN
Kyle Harrington – Hamilton, NJ
Jonathan Huntley – Westfield, MA
Brett Linton – Inwood, WV
Chance Messer – Marlin, WA
Brandon Puritt – Somerset, KY

Irby Luquette Endowed Scholarship

Toriann Ealem – Marrero, LA
Madison Hebert – Plaquemine, LA
Kenley Rae Karno – Clinton, LA
Haley Landry – Plaquemine, LA

There is ample evidence to support the assertion that education is the gift that keeps on giving. Earning capacity is linked to the degree of educational attainment. And just as vital as earning capacity, a college education offers enormously valuable social benefits. All of these contribute to a better quality of life.

At present, the Alumni Association offers two scholarship programs – the Babe Ruth League Alumni Scholarship and the Irby Luquette Endowed Scholarship. If you choose to contribute to one of the scholarship programs provided by the Alumni Association, you will experience the fulfillment of knowing that your gift is paying for tuition, books, a computer, tutoring sessions, and gas or bus fare to get to and from part-time jobs. Your gift keeps on giving by helping individuals in their pursuit of education; by increasing their earning capacity, and by growing the middle class that is the bedrock of our democracy. When you provide the gift of education, you help shape the future.

Vincennes Cub Babe Ruth League—First Signup in 1958



Heard it through the grapevine...

The 2018 Cal Ripken Major/70 World Series is returning to Branson, Missouri

Al Solanik of Bridgeton, NJ has been elected to the position of Middle Atlantic Regional Commissioner left vacant by the passing of Ray Lotierzo

Hall of Famer, Cal Ripken, Jr., the Iron Man, turned 57 on August 24, 2017.

Brandy Jordan did an excellent job serving as Host President for the Babe Ruth 13-Year-Old World Series held in Mountain Home, AR



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

Ten-Year-Old Leadership at Its Finest

Scott Spurgeon, Iowa State Commissioner, spent time this summer at a Babe Ruth Softball Regional Tournament in Bellevue. He admits he enjoys working with the younger kids a little more than the older Babe Ruth age players as the younger kids show their innocence. Their focus is not all about winning. They seek the fun the tournaments have to offer.

Scott met and talked with each one of the 10-year-old girls who came from Kanas, Colorado, Missouri and Iowa to play in the tournament. Most girls were a little bit shy. When the team from Southeast Denver walked in for their team meeting, a girl who wore a ball cap on her head led them in. She needed no help to get her talking. She sat down and announced that she had just driven 13 hours to get to the tournament site and she was ready to play some softball.

Scott questioned her as to who really drove the car. She looked at him with all the confidence in the world and announced that she had driven the entire distance. She was the most outgoing of her teammates and was a lot of fun to talk to. Each time Scott sent a question her way, she replied with confidence no matter whether she was being serious or just enjoying the banter that quickly developed between them.

It was clear to Scott from the beginning that she was also an important part of her team. She was looked to as a leader. Her name was Penelope, but she was known as Penny to everyone.

As the tournament began, Scott watched with anticipation to see how Penny and her team would play. He enjoyed seeing the teams play and could quickly determine which teams would be around longer than others. It was clear to him that the Southeast Denver team and Penny were going to be around a while.

Penny had also told Scott during the team meeting that she played most every position. She was telling the truth. Throughout the tournament she did play several positions and she was probably the team's best catcher. You see Penny was not a girl who was afraid to get dirty. She sacrificed her body to block pitches in the dirt and keep runners from advancing. She was willing to do whatever necessary to help her team win as many games as possible.

Penny was a player who could do it all. She could hit. She could also motivate her teammates to play hard and was in general an excellent addition to her team. This outgoing, outspoken girl was most definitely a natural born leader and she embraced the leadership role to help her team succeed.



Continued on next page



The more this girl played, the more Scott became impressed with her athletic ability to communicate with and motivate others.

Penny and Southeast Denver made it all the way through pool play and to the championship game without a loss. So did the team from Missouri. Missouri was clearly the better team. That didn't discourage Penny from her normal routine of pumping up her teammates with encouragement or playing as hard as she could. This young lady left everything she had on the diamond. She even suffered a minor injury, but kept right on play.

There are several awards that are given at the end of the tournament. The first and second place teams are well decorated when they leave. Individual medals and team plaques are all awarded. Missouri beat Southeast Denver 10-1 in the championship game. Missouri allowed just three runs to be scored against them in the entire tournament.

The sportsmanship award was given to the host team of Bellevue. But there was one more award that Scott was to give away: the Commissioner's award. It is considered the most prestigious award of the tournament and could have been give to a player, coach or an entire team that exemplifies what Babe Ruth Softball is all about. Scott had to consider game play, attitude on and off the field and outstanding sportsmanship. You know where he is going with this. Right?

You guessed it. Penelope Urquhart of the Southeast Denver team caught his attention the moment she walked into the tournament team meeting and spent the next three days impressing Scott with her attitude, her game play and her sportsmanship.

In many ways Penny exemplifies what Babe Ruth League is all about. It's about developing players, and developing an understanding of and a respect for the rules. It's about developing tolerance and modesty in victory and developing control over emotions and speech. It's about developing the spirit of cooperation and team play. It's about developing into real, true citizens.

Penny also reminded Scott she's still a girl. When he took the photo of Penny with her award, she refused to take her hat off because it would expose her messed up hair.

Congratulations, Penny, on being named the 2017 Midwest Plains Regional Commissioner's Award Recipient. You deserved it. Babe Ruth League and Scott Spurgeon wish you the best.

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.



The first annual National Babe Ruth League Day was held on June 2, 2017. Many leagues across the country held special activities to commemorate the day. Pictured above, the Bismarck, ND Babe Ruth League held a Home Run Derby which was won by Isaac Pegors (wearing red shirt).



Pictured above, Rhode Island State Commissioner Everett Downing presents Headquarters Service Rep Sharon Montervino with an official plaque inducting Sharon into the Rhode Island Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame.



Pictured above BRL VP Robert Faherty (far left) and PNW Regional Commissioner Jerry Bodden (far right) present Sam & Sue Ryder with the PNW Roll of Honor Award.

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@baberuthleague.org. **HAVE ARTICLES OR STORIES**—Submit them to theresa@baberuthleague.org or mail to Theresa Cleary, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.



Blast From The Past

Former Oakland A's pitcher Dallas Braden and his 14-Year-Old All-Star Team from the Inland Port, California Babe Ruth League.



West Chester Duo Has Been Here Before



From the left are West Chester University baseball players Kyle Irwin and Robert Knox, who recently played in the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Championship at Diethrick Park—the same stadium they played in during the 2011 Babe Ruth 13-15 World Series when they were members of the Tri-County, Pennsylvania Babe Ruth League team.

the 2011 Babe Ruth 13-15 World Series at Diethrick Park for Tri-County, Pennsylvania.

Their host parents that week were Brenin and Shelly Payne of Falconer, who Irwin and Knox refer to affectionately as “Nanni and Poppi.” *“It was one of the better weeks of my life,” Irwin said.*

How good was it? *“They were really nice to us,” Irwin added. “‘Nanni’ was making us cookies every day and ‘Poppi’ was taking us to get wings every day. Our coach had to say something to them to stop giving us so much. ... They treated us really well.*

“We still keep in touch with kids on that team and we talk about the time we spent here, because it was really fun.” Knox admitted he was “pretty pumped” when he learned that Jamestown would be the site of the regional.

“Usually these tournaments are at completely new (venues),” he said. “ ... It’s kind of cool to come back to a place you at least know a little bit about it and you have some comfort in it.”

Irwin said Tri-County’s time in Jamestown six years ago fostered a relationship that endures to this day.

“(The Paynes’) son, Jacob, was our bat boy and he actually came down to where we’re from for a wrestling tournament,” Irwin said. “We got most of our team to come and support him there. He did pretty well in the tournament. It was pretty cool to see them.”

The Paynes also saw Irwin and Knox when they played in the Atlantic Regional two years ago when it was held in Erie. *“We’ve seen them a couple times since the World Series,” Knox said.*

And the hospitality endures. While Irwin and Knox will be staying with their Golden Rams teammates at an area hotel for the duration of the tournament, Knox’s mother, Donna, has a reservation at the home of Shelly Payne’s parents — Tony and Jeanne Conti.

“It’s almost surreal,” Knox said. “You never thought you’d come back here.” To the Paynes and Contis, it’s as if Irwin and Knox have never left.

Before the Golden Rams left Diethrick Park at the 2017 NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional Championship, head coach Jad Prachniak hopped up the stairs and called out the names of Kyle Irwin, a junior infielder, and Robert Knox, a senior outfielder. The duo was needed for an interview with a waiting sportswriter, and Irwin and Knox were more than happy to oblige.

While the young men from Hatboro (PA) arrived in Jamestown with visions of a NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional championship dancing in their heads, they also have a backstory that extends beyond baseball. Truth be told, the West Chester teammates have the benefit of returning to Jamestown six years after playing in — and finishing as the runner-up in —

CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI

BABE RUTH LEAGUE GRADUATES MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD

Larry Grondahl Lands New Role with Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

Larry Grondahl of Williston, North Dakota, has a new position. He has been appointed the Director of Special Events for the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. "It's a big honor to be appointed to a national board like this," Grondahl said. "My job will be to coordinate, with full-time staff, alumni "get-togethers", probably at one of the World Series sites. I'm pretty excited about it."

Grondahl has been involved with the Babe Ruth League program since 1981 when he served as an Assistant District Commissioner. Today he holds the positions of District Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioner for the North Dakota Babe Ruth Leagues. Grondahl was the recipient of the 2016 Babe Ruth League/Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a Babe Ruth League volunteer. Furthermore, Grondahl has served as Host President for three very successful Babe Ruth World Series - the 2003 Babe Ruth 13-15 World Series, the 2014 Babe Ruth 13-Year-Old World Series and the 2016 Babe Ruth 13-15 World Series.

Grondahl spent most of his life with the Williston Parks Department. He started as a part-time employee in 1972 when he was just 14 years old. He served as Recreation Superintendent from 1980 until 1988. He was elected to the Board five times, from 1990 to 2012, taking a two-year break from 2002 to 2004. Grondahl also served as Vice President (1990 - 2002) and as President from 2004 until retiring in 2012. Although he retired as President, Grondahl remains involved with the department as a member of the Williston Boys Baseball Committee, on which he has served for over 35 years.

In addition, Grondahl currently serves on the following Board of Directors: Williston Convention Bureau, Williston Parks and Recreation Foundation, Williston State College Foundation, North Dakota Officials Association, Williston Area Recreation Center Building Committee, and the Williston Downtowners Association.

The new position, while undoubtedly adding more to Grondahl's plate, will not restrict his other roles in Williston, nor will he have to relocate. He hopes the position will keep the city of Williston floating the hallways of Babe Ruth League. "Any time you can keep Williston and our community in front of them, it's a positive thing," he said. "I think with me being involved, Williston will be front and center for quite a while. That will be a huge positive for us to keep our name out there for future events."



Hall of Fame Inductions in the Middle Atlantic Region



At a ceremony held at the Babe Ruth Middle Atlantic Regional Tournament held in Niskayuna, New York, **James Finke** of East Greenbush, New York, and the late **Brian Weiner** of Scotia, New York, were inducted into the Middle Atlantic Region Hall of Fame.

Jim Finke began volunteering for the Babe Ruth League organization in 1974

as a coach. He was the League President of the East Greenbush/Sorensco Babe Ruth League for many years and served in many other capacities as well. He was elected as the Eastern New York District 4 Commissioner and also an Assistant Eastern New York State Commissioner. Finke also later became the Eastern New York State Commissioner and was appointed an Assistant Middle Atlantic Regional Commissioner in 2005, a position that he still holds. He also currently serves as the State Treasurer for Eastern New York Babe Ruth Leagues.

Finke has organized and coordinated various District, State and Regional Tournaments and events over the years. Being recognized for his work, he was chosen to serve as a member of the Babe Ruth League World Series Task Force on several occasions. He traveled across the country organizing World Series for Regional Champions and participants from throughout the nation.

The late Brian Weiner served as League President of the Scotia Babe Ruth League for many years and was instrumental in expanding the program to include the 16-18 Year-Old Division. He was appointed as an Eastern New York Assistant District Commissioner, and later a District Commissioner. Weiner also served as an Assistant Eastern New York State Commissioner

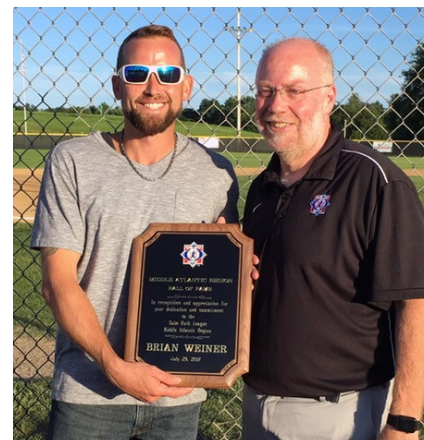
for years; a position that he held until his untimely passing.

Weiner could always be found at baseball parks throughout the Capital Region; whether he was running a Tournament or just there to watch and support the Program and its youth participants. He was instrumental in the growth of Eastern New York Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball, especially the 16-18 Division. He supervised and organized tournaments at all age groups, from the youngest levels of Cal Ripken Baseball to the 16-18 Year-Old Division. Weiner often ran multiple tournaments a Summer.

Weiner was very active as a coach in the Odyssey of the Minds Program, mentoring countless youth over the years.

Since Brian had no surviving family members at the time of his passing, his Babe Ruth Family stepped in. Headed by former Scotia Babe Ruth League players and Babe Ruth League volunteers, a beautiful service was organized and enough money was raised to pay for his burial.

Accepting the plaque commemorating Weiner's induction into the Hall of Fame was former Scotia Babe Ruth League player Dan Cejka, a longtime friend. He announced that the plaque would be presented to the Scotia Babe Ruth League to be displayed in their clubhouse so that everyone can recognize the contributions that Brian Weiner made to their program and to Babe Ruth League.



A Little Bit of Humor



Babe Ruth League Mourns Loss of Teammate



This past July, Noah Inman wasn't with his Highland, Indiana Babe Ruth All-Stars, but his teammates kept him close every step of the way during their last tournament of the season. Some got their caps embroidered with "NI₁₂," Noah's jersey number, while others just wrote it on their caps. And each time they huddled before taking the field, they would break the huddle by chanting "1-2-3-NOAH!" their coach, Juan Maldonado said.

Hearing his team show such devotion to Noah, fighting for his life some 30 miles away in a Chicago hospital, was almost more than Maldonado could take. "We played three games during that tournament, and hearing them chant every few minutes, that got me choked up," Maldonado said. "Here I was coaching my son, and Noah, who I've coached since he started, didn't get to be here."

Noah, 13, of Hammond, Indiana, was hit by a bullet that fell from the sky. Witnesses thought the teen may have had a seizure and called for an ambulance, but once at the hospital, officials discovered that Inman had been hit by a falling bullet. He died on Saturday afternoon, July 8, 2017, at Comer Children's Hospital in Chicago. Inman was with a group of children outside playing basketball around 9:30 p.m., July 1, when he suddenly fell down, according to Hammond police spokesman Lt. Steve Kellogg. Police believe "this bullet was most likely fired into the air like a firework," Kellogg said.

Maldonado called Noah a "dream kid" to coach. "He hustled in everything he did. If you told him to catch on a 100-degree day, he would catch the whole game. If you had to bench him because there were too many kids, he would sit without complaining. There are always a few kids who are tough to coach, but Noah was one of the perfect kids."

"As a parent, you think about your kids being over at so-and-so's house, and that they're said," said Dan Vassar, President of the Highland Babe Ruth League. "Noah had his whole life in front of him, and we're heartbroken and devastated for his parents."

Noah was a very athletic child who loved baseball, basketball, football and track. Some of his favorite teams included the Chicago White Sox, Houston Rockets, Chicago Bears, and Notre Dame. He enjoyed spending time with this family, cousins and friends. His smile was contagious and he was loved unconditionally by his family.

To the Inman Family, all of us at Babe Ruth Headquarters were devastated to learn the news about Noah. From all we have heard, Noah was a big-hearted, special and talented young man. We realize there is no pain more far reaching and deeper than losing a child. We offer our sincere condolences and shall keep your family in our thoughts and prayers that you may find the strength you need to get through each day.

Gary Luquette Receives Gold Bat

The Irby Luquette Endowment Scholarship was established in 2014 by his son, Gary Luquette. The endowment is available each year to award deserving Babe Ruth League graduates from the Southwest Region with college scholarship funds.

The late Irby Luquette had two loves in his life - his family and baseball. And the two were intimately intertwined. Irby was a fixture at the ballpark, first as a father and baseball coach for his sons, and then later just because baseball was a part of who he was.

Irby shared his love of the game of baseball with Babe Ruth League participants for over 62 years. He positively shaped the lives of many youngsters, serving as a coach, manager, umpire, League President, District Director, State Commissioner, Regional Commissioner, Tournament Director and World Series consultant. Many times, parents of children that benefitted from Irby's involvement in Babe Ruth League programs would thank him for his encouraging impact on their children.

Pictured right, Gary Luquette poses with the Golden Alumni Bat, which is awarded to an alumnus who takes their loyalty and passion for everything Babe Ruth League to the next level. Gary's continuing support more than qualifies him as a recipient of this prestigious award.



How Do You Want To Be Remembered?

As humans, we are hard-wired to care about what we leave behind and how we will be remembered. We want our lives, and our experiences, to benefit future generations. Our legacy can be the sum of everything we hand on to others from moments shared to the things we do to better the world around us. Our legacy could be creating an endowment or foundation that bears our family name and works to improve the world for generations to come. Our legacy could be planned giving.



There is no greater sense of accomplishment than leaving a legacy that will provide many memorable moments and bring hope, strength and happiness to youth. Babe Ruth League is a community-based program that puts the enjoyment, education and well-being of the participant before anything else. You can ensure that the Babe Ruth League program is available for future generations by "*leaving your legacy*" with the Alumni Association.

There are several ways to leave a lasting legacy and even earn a tax deduction. Planned giving allows you to make charitable gifts to the Alumni Association now or after your lifetime—designate the Alumni Association as a beneficiary in your will/living trust, on your life insurance policy or for another financial account. An endowed gift is one that is held in perpetuity (unless the donor designates a time period). The gift is invested and used for purposes specified by the donor, such as a named scholarship. Or give a gift of artwork and other personal property—you may receive gift credit and an immediate charitable income tax deduction, typically for the appraised value of your gift. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Cleary at 609-278-2308.

Shop the Alumni Store

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association invites you check out the Alumni Online Store by visiting Alumni website 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!

Babe Ruth League Honored During MLB Players Weekend

Major League Baseball takes care of policing shoe colors, bat designs, sleeve lengths – with a set of strict uniform rules. From Friday through Sunday, August 25-27, there was something different about the Major League Baseball games. That's because it was the first MLB Players Weekend.

Players were able to wear special uniforms designed to evoke the game at its more youthful levels. The weekend reflected a mutual desire to let players express themselves and to let fans get a closer glimpse of who these guys really are. Other than designed games like those on Mother's Day or Fourth of July, players have to follow a precise and lengthy uniform code. It mandates that 51 percent of cleats' surface be in the team's design and color scheme and that bats have a natural finish or a dark-colored stain like brown or black.



One of the most noticeable changes was colorful jerseys the players wore that included a nickname of each player's choosing, instead of a surname on the back, and an arm patch bearing the name of a person or an organization that influenced a player's life. Players were also able to wear uniquely designed cleats and batting gloves and use specially designed bats or other gear.

Philadelphia Phillies Pitcher Jerad Joseph Eickhoff, a graduate of the St. Wendel, Indiana Babe Ruth League program, wore a patch thanking his youth program alma mater. He also chose the nickname "Eick."

Eickoff graduated from Mater Dei High School in Evansville, Indiana. He played college baseball at Olney Central. He was drafted by the Cubs in 2010, but did not sign and returned to Olney Central. In 2011, he was the Great Rivers Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year after going 10-4 with a 1.90 earned run average. Eickoff was then drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 15th round of the 2011 MLB Draft and signed.

He made his professional debut with the Arizona League Rangers. He also played for the Spokane Indians that year. In 2012, Eickoff pitched for the Hickory Crawdads. He started 2013 with the Myrtle Beach Pelicans and was promoted to the Double-A Frisco Rough Riders during the season. He returned to Frisco in 2014.

On July 31, 2015, the Rangers traded Eickoff to the Philadelphia Phillies. He made his major league debut for the Phillies on August 21.

Thank you Jerad for honoring the St. Wendel Babe Ruth League and the many volunteers who help administer the program.



Stay Connected Through Social Media

Did you know? We created an Alumni Facebook page just for you.

<https://www.facebook.com/baberuthalumni/>.

Our page is a great way to keep in touch with other alumni, as well as post photos, updates and more! Please join the community and the conversation on our Facebook page.

In addition, connect with the Alumni on Twitter. Every tweet is a **base hit** for the Alumni.

<http://www.twitter.com/baberuthalumni>

MISSOURI HALL OF FAME INDUCATIONS



Delbert Horman (left) was recently inducted into the Missouri Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame. Delbert has been involved in BRL for 44 years. He was League President of Missouri's first Bambino league, and has served as a District Commissioner. He currently holds the position of and Assistant State Commissioner



Bruce and Pat Miller were recently inducted into the Missouri Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame. They have given over 35 years of service to BRL by running local leagues, tournaments and being involved with the Dexter Senior Babe Ruth League. Bruce served as League President and Pat took care of all the paperwork for the league.



MERIDIAN IDAHO—MEMORABLE TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE

Michael Ray, Meridian Youth BRL (ID) Executive Board shared his team's experience during the 2017 PNW Cal Ripken Major/70 Regional Tournament in Whitefish, Montana:

"I personally have been to, participated in, or hosted roughly 15 state tournaments, 10 regional tourneys, and had the good fortune of attending the 2014 Cal Ripken Major/70 World Series in Aberdeen, Maryland. I have participated in over 100 various youth baseball tournaments from Las Vegas to Oregon, Washington, Utah, Colorado, Texas and beyond. The experience we had in Whitefish was second to only the World Series. Spectacular on all fronts. Only thing that could have made it better was to have won, but that one is on us. From the check in to the final post game presentations, our hosts were top notch. Best I have seen.

I want to recognize several folks that made the experience one my team and I will never forget.

Tournament Director Gary Watterud should consider making a profession out of directing tournaments, because he is a Pro. Awesome guy who is tireless. I now consider him a friend after the week in Whitefish.

Whitefish Baseball's Scott Meehan, Jason Swaiger, Brigetta Swaiger and the entire Whitefish Baseball family's efforts for preparing the fields, announcing, updating scores, etc...They did a fantastic job. The facilities were 1st class, safe, wonderful to play on and comfortable for the patrons.

Montana State Commissioner Bruce McEvoy provided the perfect mix of authoritative presence, without making his presence a component of the tourney. Bruce is a huge asset to the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth family. Not to mention, he is a real gentleman.

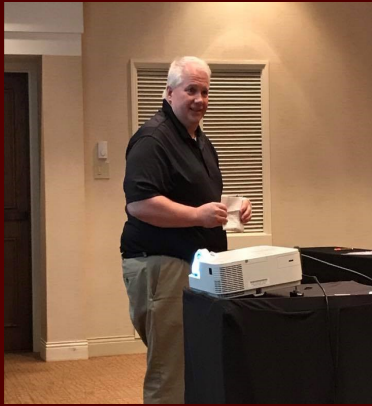
UIC Max Cannon and his crew were nothing short of unbelievably great. At no point were they a factor, which is quite frankly astounding given the amount of games, pitches, plays made. Best crew I have ever experienced at any level.

Lastly, the people of Whitefish. Other than a clear affinity to driving 5 miles an hour below the posted speed limit, the people of Whitefish, the families of the Whitefish players, and everyone we interacted with, were individuals for which all should strive to be like. Friendly, courteous and a pleasure to spend time with.

Again, I wanted you to know that Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Baseball in Montana is healthy, and they play the game the right way."



Alumni Provides Funding



Chairman Mark Watkins enjoys traveling the country to promote the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.

Pictured above, he is seen addressing the attendees at the Midwest Plains Regional Meeting about the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association.



Pocahontas Underwater.

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association places high priority on assisting leagues that experience extensive loss due to destructive weather conditions and other unforeseen circumstances.

The Alumni Association provided financial assistance to the City of Pocahontas (AR) Babe Ruth

League who suffered loss and damage due to severe flooding that ripped through the area, and to the Idaho Falls (ID) Babe Ruth League who was robbed of thousands of dollars of thousands of dollars in equipment used by 650 Babe Ruth participants.

We are honored to have these leagues a member of the Babe Ruth Family. They are a group of caring individuals whose dedication for the youth of their communities goes well beyond the field of play.

Volunteers from the Southeast Region Receive 25-Year Service Pins



From Left to Right
Back Row: Curtis Moore, Mike Krulfeld, Donny Rose, Jr., Dennis Cobb, Pat Tarr, John Kemper, David Gushee, John DeYoung
Front Row: Dave Cogar, Robert Dreistadt, Glenn Spangler, Ken Bosserman, Alan Schneider, Lisa Kemper, Paul Link, Don Gowen

FRIENDS we will miss...

Raymond Lotierzo, passed away on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Ray began his affiliation with Babe Ruth League in 1965, serving at the local league level as a coach, manager, League Treasurer and League President. After leaving the local league level, he held the positions of District Commissioner, Assistant State Commissioner and State Commissioner for the Southern New Jersey Babe Ruth Leagues. From 1996 to his untimely passing, Ray served as the Middle Atlantic Regional Commissioner and a member of the International Board of Directors of Babe Ruth League, Inc. Ray was a strong supporter of youth sports and of providing kids with many valuable life lessons. Many of the kids Ray coached are now coaches. To see the success they have and the way they teach the game made Ray very proud.



Bill Smith, of Chickasha, Oklahoma died on June 22, 2017 at age 92. Smith's affiliation as a volunteer with the Babe Ruth program began in 1955, when he became the founder of his local league and served in all dimensions for five years. He then went on to serve as Oklahoma State Commissioner from 1960 to 1966. From 1966 to 1973, Smith held the position of Southwest Regional Director. In 1973, he was elected an At-Large Member of the Babe Ruth League Board of Directors, a position he held until being elected Chairman of the Board in 1983. In addition, he served as a Babe Ruth League World Series Director for many years. Bill retired from Babe Ruth League in 2007.

Bill received his degree in Education from Oklahoma University, his Bachelor's Degree from Midwestern University in Texas, and his Master's Degree from Kansas State. At Midwestern, he also lettered in football, basketball and baseball. From 1943 to 1945, Smith served with the U.S. Marines, where he earned two Purple Hearts. Bill was elected to the Babe Ruth League International Hall of Fame in 2008.

Tom Steele, 67, Of Monroe, North Carolina Monroe, North Carolina, passed away on Saturday, August 5, 2017. Tom was actively involved in the Babe Ruth League program for over 40



years. He started as a local league coach for the Union County Babe Ruth League and was soon elected to the League Board, subsequently serving as League President. At the East North Carolina State level, Tom served as a District Commissioner and Assistant State Commissioner before being appointed as State Commissioner.

In 2013, Babe Ruth Headquarters decided to combine East and West North Carolina at which time Tom accepted the challenge of serving as State Commissioner for all of North Carolina. Because of Tom's outstanding leadership, the state grew in leagues and teams and had a strong financial footing.

In recognition of his love and devotion to the Babe Ruth League program, Tom was inducted into the Southeast Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame in 2017.

Jim Thomas, 80, of Centralia, Washington, spent his last Fourth of July surrounded by friends and family and died peacefully at home July 5, 2017, following a sudden diagnosis and short battle with cancer.



Jim was named a Babe Ruth District Commissioner in 2000, and served in that role until 2009, when he became assistant State Commissioner. Jim was inducted into the Southwest Washington Babe Ruth Hall of Fame in 2007, and a field at Borst Park was named after him. He subsequently was inducted into the Pacific Northwest Babe Ruth Hall of Fame in 2016 as he continued in this service to the community.

In 2013, Jim led the effort to host five Babe Ruth regional tournaments simultaneously at Borst Park, which helped raise thousand of dollars for the local baseball community and garnered national attention from the Babe Ruth community. Jim's family owned and operated the Minnehaha Grocery, a gas and feed business. Active in the Kiwanis Club; Grand Mound Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Public Works District and Volunteer Fire Department, Jim and Nancy opened a Farmers Insurance Agency in Grand Mound, which later incorporated a Washington State Licensing Agency and State Liquor Agency and Grand Mound Video.



Sincere Thanks to Those Who Donated During the Past Quarter

In Memory Of...

Raymond Lotierzo

By James Wagoner
 By Steven Tellefsen
 By Al Solanik
 By Peter Strus
 By Alan Kass
 By Mike Hrina
 By John Mieczkowski
 By Lou Pontes, Jr.
 By Annette and John Skiendziel
 By Joan Mitchell
 By DiGirolamo Family
 By Jane Johnston
 By Charles Driben
 By Lions Club of Maple Shade
 Southern New Jersey BRL
 By William and Susan Kline
 By Anthony Castagna

Harry Blevins

By Heather Marie Allen

Ronald Tellefsen

By Robert and Nancy Faherty

Frank "Mickey" McGuire

By Maggie Moron (Kivvit)

Tom Steele

By James Wagoner
 By Steven Tellefsen

Miscellaneous Contributions

By Sandra Eldridge
 By Joseph Cormier
 By Mark Watkins
 By Larry Grondahl
 By Midwest Plains Region
 By Roger Giles
 By Attendees of 2017 BRL Alumni Golf Outing
 By Kevin Cormier
 By Ken Meyers
 By Seth T. Coughlin



Welcome New Alumni Members

John Collins – Hornell, New York
 Tim Bell – Hammond, Indiana
 Jerry Cooper – Oviedo, Florida
 Matthew Gibson – Owens Cross, Alabama
 Hailee Ford – Newberry, Florida
 Zac Durham – Kokomo, Indiana
 David Lestician – Delran, New Jersey
 Steve Rapada – Clovis, California
 Artemio Aponte – Waterbury, Connecticut

Brain Teasers/Trivia—Do You Know the Answer

Answers appear at the bottom of the page.

1. The ages of a father and son add up to 44. The father's age is the son's age reversed. How old are they?
2. You are driving a bus. At the first stop, two women get on. The second stop, three men get on and one woman gets off. Third stop, three kids and their mom gets on and one man gets off. The bus is grey and it is raining outside. What is the color of the bus driver's hair?
3. Which was the last major league team to throw four consecutive shutouts?
4. You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?
5. Billie was born on December 28, yet her birthday always falls in the summer. How is this possible?
6. We see it once in a year, twice in a week, and never in a day. What is it?
7. Yankee clipper Joe DiMaggio set a record for having at least one hit in how many consecutive games?
8. How do you make the number one disappear?
9. In 1986, who became the oldest pitcher in history to throw a shutout?
10. Supply the missing number:
2 3 5 8 13 21 34 _____



Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road
Hamilton, NJ 08619

Phone 609.695.1434

Fax 609.695.2505

Email theresa@baberuthleague.org

Diamond Legacy Editors

Theresa Cleary, Hamilton, New Jersey

Evelyn Skiendziel, Clifton, New Jersey

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.



Follow the Babe Ruth Alumni Association on Facebook

©2017 BRL Alumni Association All Rights Reserved

- Answers to Brain Teasers**
1. 31 and 13
 2. The color of your hair—you are the bus driver
 3. Giants (June 25-28, 2012)
 4. An ear of corn
 5. Billie lives in the southern hemisphere
 6. The Letter "E"
 7. 56 consecutive games
 8. Add the letter "G" and it's "GONE"
 9. Phil Niekro—the 46-year-old bagged his 300th victory on the last day of the 1986 season against the Blue Jays. He surpassed Satchel Paige who previously set a record in 1952 for the oldest man to throw a shutout. Paige was only a few months younger than Phil.
 10. Each number is the sum of the previous two