

**DIAMOND
LEGACY
NEWSLETTER**



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



News from the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2017

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Graduate Corner	2
Dan Welch HOF Selection	4
World Series Training	5
Meads Family	6
Tallahassee-Leon BRL	7
Blast From The Past	12
\$5 Challenge	13
Celebrating Our Alumni	15
Gary Gilmore	19
Friends We Will Miss	22
Thanks to Donors	23

Message From Alumni Chairman

Greetings Babe Ruth League Alumni and Happy New Year!

The Babe Ruth League program and Alumni Association continue to amaze me. Our strong connections go back to the very beginning of Babe Ruth League, and our enduring bonds have only grown stronger with time.

There is such a sense of purpose and dedication. We have a solid and supportive network of selfless members, graduates, volunteers and friends of the program. Great things have happened and will continue because of these individuals who support the Babe Ruth League program and Alumni Association so generously with their time, resources and contributions. We can never say thank you enough!



Well, the holidays are behind us and Winter is upon us. It may be cold outside, but we continually focus our efforts on providing fun, educational, and competitive experiences for our kids via the games of baseball and softball.

Even as Babe Ruth League and the Alumni strengthen our teaching and learning mission, we continue to respond to the needs of our current and prospective participants. Your continued support and involvement in Babe Ruth League allows us to carry on and expand the legacy of providing life-changing moments for our participants.

You see, we are truly changing the world...one child at a time.

As we begin a new year, we welcome 2017 with great enthusiasm and anticipation for a new year of growth and

positive change as individuals and as a community.



Thank you for being a part of the noble institution known as Babe Ruth League. Please join us as we embark on a journey of accomplishments in the year to come.

I am so pleased that the Alumni Association continues to attract new members.

Babe Ruth Alumni play a very important role in Babe Ruth League's success. As a current member or graduate of the program, your involvement in the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association is an important first step in the development of a strong, vibrant organization that is capable of representing the interests and success of Babe Ruth League, Inc. and the children we serve.

**Mark Watkins
Chairman**

Graduate Corner — Adam Plutko

ADAM GREGORY PLUTKO, a graduate of the San Gabriel Valley, California Babe Ruth League, is an American League baseball pitcher for the Cleveland Indians.

Plutko attended Glendora, California High School and then enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Though he was selected by the Houston Astros in the sixth round of the 2010 Major League Baseball Draft, he opted not to sign with the Astros.

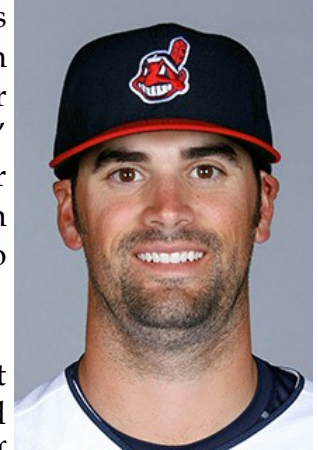
At UCLA, Plutko was a member of the UCLA Bruins baseball team. In 2013, Plutko led the Bruins to their first NCAA Championship in baseball by beating Mississippi State in the 2013 College World Series. He was named the College World Series Most Outstanding Player.

The Cleveland Indians selected Plutko in the 11th round of the 2013 Major League Baseball Draft. He made his professional debut in 2014 with the Lake County Captains of the Class A Midwest League. In May, the Indians promoted Plutko to the Carolina Mudcats of the Class A-Advanced Carolina League. He began the 2015 season with the Lynchburg Hillcats of the Carolina League, and was then promoted to the Akron RubberDucks of the Class AA Eastern League.

The Indians invited Plutko to spring training in 2016. He began the 2016 season with Akron and was promoted to the Columbus Clippers of the Class AAA International League in June.

On September 20, 2016, the Indians purchased Plutko's contract from the Clippers and added him to their active roster. He made his major league debut on September 24 as a relief pitcher.

Adam Plutko was at his friend's wedding in California when Carter Hawkins, the Indians' Director of Player Personnel, called him and told him to get to Cleveland.



"They had literally just done saying I do and taking pictures of everything," said Plutko. "I was in the middle of the wedding."

Plutko's wife, parents and several high school friends were at the wedding to share the news of his first trip to the big leagues.

"It was pretty awesome to have that moment in person," said Plutko. "There was crying and hugging. I'm pretty sure everyone was crying, including myself. It was a moment I'll remember for a long time."



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

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 Any questions call 609-278-2308

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- 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".

Dan Welch Selected to Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2017



The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame was founded in 2014 with the aim of not only recognizing the best and the brightest baseball figures in the region, but to also celebrate the area's long love affair with the game of baseball.

Western Massachusetts Assistant State and District Commissioner, Dan Welch of Westfield, Massachusetts, who also served as Host President of the 2016 Babe Ruth 14-Year-Old World Series, was recently selected to the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2017. The official induction banquet will be held on January 26, 2017.

Dan was selected in recognition of his 20 years of history of volunteer service to the community. Under his leadership, Westfield's reputation as "a good baseball town" was enhanced as it hosted Babe Ruth League regional tournaments, and then the Babe Ruth League World Series last summer. Welch, a past winner of the Jack Lanzillo Umpiring Award, also serves as UIC of the Western Massachusetts Fall High School Baseball League.

Memories...From 1980

JUST ONE OF THE GUYS

Shawnee Topping became the first girl to ever participate in a Babe Ruth League World Series.

Shawnee played first base and right field for Salem, Oregon in the 1980 Babe Ruth 13-Year-Old World Series, hosted by Jamestown, New York.

At right is her coach Don Hahn.



World Series Training

In order to educate future World Series hosts on how to conduct a successful World Series, the Babe Ruth World Series Training Center was established in 1986. Communities that serve as training centers have a great knowledge and thorough understanding of what it takes to host a successful and profitable World Series.



Recently, Vincennes, Indiana, who has hosted six previously Babe Ruth World Series, served as the host of the 2016 Babe Ruth World Series Training Center.

Groups that were invited to attend included Mountain Home, Arkansas; Clemmons, North Carolina; and Hammond, Indiana. All three groups are serving as hosts of 2017 Babe Ruth League World Series. Each walked away from the Training Center with a host of valuable information that will help them with the World Series process.

Heard it through the grapevine...



Sharon Montervino inducted into Rhode Island Baseball Hall of Fame, Class of 2016.

Calgary BRL Player Duncan Elbert broke his league's single season slugging percentage record with a .808 average.

Gord Welbourne officially retires from Babe Ruth League program. At time of retirement, Gord served as PNW Regional Commissioner and Board Member

Longtime Pennsylvania District 1 Commissioner Dan Nolan retired after 20 years of service with Babe Ruth League, Inc.

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@baberruthleague.org Or Send Mail to: Theresa Cleary, Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Family makes a Triple Play Behind the Plate

It started with a glove, a bat and a ball when his sons were about 7 years old. Southern Shores resident Rex Meads spent countless hours out on the baseball field with his two boys, coaching them when they were rookies and following alongside them through the ranks. Meads taught his sons, Jonathan and Ryan, the ins and outs, the rules, and most importantly respect for the game of baseball.

"I still remember, as a parent, pulling Ryan out of an All-Star Game as a child because he threw his helmet on the ground. It was an important lesson for him to learn."

Years later, Rex is still going out to the old ball game with his sons—but it's not as a spectator or coach. Meads first began making the calls out on the Dare County ballfields as an umpire for the Outer Banks Babe Ruth League in the mid-80's. He left for a while when his sons were in the league, but he went right back as soon as they moved on to middle school baseball. He has been there ever since.



Rex, left and Jonathan Meads

And for the past 10 years or so, his sons have followed Meads right out to the field as umpires for Babe Ruth, passing along to the players and coaches the same respect for the game their father instilled in them.

During the height of the season, Rex and Jonathan can umpire close to 10 games a week. Ryan isn't umpiring as often because of his work as a Pasquotank County Sheriff's deputy, but he still manages to get back to the Outer Banks during baseball season to lend a hand.

During his sons' early umpiring years, Rex said he always would take the place behind the plate and put one of his boys in the field. "As they learned, I passed the sword along to them," he said. Now, Rex says it can be bittersweet when a coach will approach Jonathan to ask a question when dear old dad is standing right there. "It's fun to watch," he said. "They go to him now because he knows the game."

Jonathan, who played catcher during his baseball career, is always helping kids out behind the plate, giving them pointers. And the kids will look to him for some quick advice. "I have just always enjoyed being around baseball, following it, being out there with the kids and helping them. It's what it is all about," Jonathan said. You could say the Meads dad and son(s) team bring not only integrity to the ballfield as they umpire, but a love of the game that they hope to pass along to the players and coaches.

And Rex and his sons have been around the Dare County ball fields long enough that coaches and players eat up their advice, whether it is the way a catcher should position his hand or a pattern at third base the coach is just missing.

And now, while Jonathan and Ryan aren't playing the game, they are still carrying on the family tradition that began back as youngsters with a glove, a bat and a ball. And of course their dad to lead the way.

Tallahassee-Leon Hosts Cool Event

The Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth League hosted its first Alumni Softball Games Fundraiser and Hall of Fame Induction this past November. The event was held to raise funds to assist local 13-15 year-old Babe Ruth baseball players and to recognize the 62-year-old league's inaugural Hall of Fame inductees in coaches Paul Mauck Sr. and Richard Jackson, coach/board member Cindy Meredith, and players Reggie Jefferson, Dean Palmer, John Wasdin and David Ross.

An invitation to play in the alumni game was sent to all former players since its inception in 1954. They had a full 7-inning game between the recent alumni and the old-timers. The old-timers used numerous home runs in route to a 15-10 victory. The highlight for the recent alumni was turning a triple play late in the game to give them a chance for a late comeback. But, their final rally fell short.

After the game, a home run derby was held. Each competitor was given 2 minutes to hit as many home runs as they could. The four with the most home runs in the first round advanced to the championship round. Brent Marsh, Brian Basford, Darren Newlin, and Jason Newlin advanced. Jason Newlin won the derby in the championship round. A barbeque lunch was provided followed by the induction ceremony of the inaugural Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth Hall-of-Fame class.

The ceremony began with the national anthem, sung by Kaylee Owens. Then, emcee, Jim McNeil, introduced the Hall-of-Fame Committee and Current Board. The HOF Chairperson, Cindy Meredith, said a few words about the league and its rich history. Then, Jim recognized the vast World Series history of TLBR, its success on a national level, and the alumni by decades in attendance. Jim also took a moment to acknowledge the three all-star teams from last year. Each won their respective state tournament, and the 15U team advanced to the world series where they finished tied for 3rd. Many of the young men from all three teams, along with other current players, were in attendance along with their families.

Jim Newlin introduced each of the 2016 Hall-of-Fame inductees and read a biography of their accomplishments. Each inductee, or their representative, was given the opportunity to say a few words.



2016 Hall of Fame Class (l-r): Reggie Jefferson, Paul Mauck, Sr. (represented by Paul Mauck, Jr.), Richard Jackson (represented by Jeff Hogan), Dean Palmer, John Wasdin (represented by Evelyn Wasdin, Cindy Meredith, and David Ross).

TALLAHASSEE-LEON CLASS OF 2016

REGGIE JEFFERSON — Reggie's path in baseball has led him to the field as a player to the dugout as a coach to office boardrooms as a player agent. Jefferson was a member of the TLBR All-Star team that captured the 1984 Babe Ruth World Series giving the organization its first national title in youth baseball. Jefferson was drafted in the third round of the MLB Draft by the Cincinnati Reds out of high school in 1986. He made his big-league debut in 1991 at the age of 22. He collected his first major league hit on May 19, 1991 - a home run off of San Diego's Andy Benes. Jefferson spent nine seasons in the Major Leagues, playing for four different teams - Cincinnati, Cleveland, Seattle and Boston. He enjoyed one of his finest seasons in 1996, when he batted .347 with 19 home runs and 74 RBI - all career highs - with the Boston Red Sox. Jefferson spent five seasons in Boston, and he finished his major league career batting .300 with 72 home runs and 300 RBI in 680 career games.



After retiring from professional baseball in 2001, Jefferson earned a degree in business administration at the University of South Florida in Tampa in 2003. Jefferson's career path remained in baseball, however. During the 2005 season, Jefferson was the Triple-A hitting instructor for the Albuquerque Isotopes in the Florida Marlins organization. Jefferson also coached at USF under Eddie Cardieri in 2006. Today, Jefferson is a certified MLB player agent.

PAUL MAUCK, SR. — Paul Mauck Sr.'s long and successful relationship with the organization spanned nearly three decades. It started when he filled in as head coach for his son's Babe Ruth All-Star team in 1971. He remained with the league during some of its most successful years and was considered one of its most respected coaches and leaders. Through the years he coached several Babe Ruth All-Star teams through the rigorous area, state and regional tournaments. Mauck Sr.-coached teams made World Series appearances in 1984 (Niles, Michigan), 1988 (Lebanon, Missouri) and 1998 (Pine Bluff, Arkansas). The 1984 team won the Babe Ruth 13-15 year-old World Series, a first for Tallahassee youth baseball. He retired from youth coaching after his 1998 team placed third in the World Series. Mauck Sr. was a kind, gentle man and always helped others through his ability as 'Mr. Fix It' by virtue of his military mechanic background and his compassionate desire to lead youth baseball programs. Tallahassee Babe Ruth League baseball honored Mauck Sr. after his death in 2000 by naming its end-of-league season tournament after him.



RICHARD JACKSON — Richard Jackson was a long-time volunteer pitching coach in the Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth League and at Florida High. During his tenure, the 13U Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth All-Star team won the 1999 World Series that was held in Tallahassee for the first time. Over the years, Jackson coached numerous players who reached professional baseball and played in the major leagues, including fellow Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth 2016 Hall of Fame inductees Dean Palmer, David Ross and John Wasdin. Jackson, who passed away at the age of 75 in 2013, is fondly remembered by many people in and outside of baseball. Jackson joined the Florida National Guard, where he rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. After completing his military active duty, he returned to Tallahassee to join his family business, Jackson-Cook Welding and Machine Shop. In 1991, Jackson in partnership with Ed Murray, formed TALCOR Commercial Real Estate Service, Inc. where he worked until his retirement in 2006. Jackson and Murray laid the foundation for what would become one of the most successful commercial real estate companies locally. Following his retirement, Jackson realized his lifelong dream of owning and operating a ranch in South Texas.

TALLAHASSEE-LEON CLASS OF 2016

DEAN PALMER—Dean Palmer helped make history as a member of the 1984 Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth All-Star team that won the organization's first World Series. The power-slugging third baseman starred at Florida High and was a third-round selection in the 1986 MLB Draft by the Texas Rangers. A right-handed hitter, Palmer developed into one of the American League top power hitters during his professional career that spanned 14 seasons with the Rangers, Detroit Tigers and Kansas City Royals. He saw his first major league action in 1989, playing in 16 games during the season's final month. Palmer was a lifetime .251 hitter with 275 career home runs and 849 RBI when he retired following the 2003 season. He was also a two-time Silver Slugger winner and an All-Star selection in 1998, when he hit 34 home runs and knocked in a career-high 119 runs with the Royals. In 1992, Palmer became the first Texas ballplayer to ever homer in the first three games of a season, a feat that was later matched in 2011 by Ian Kinsler and Nelson Cruz. With 38 home runs in 1996, Palmer, at that time, became just the fourth third baseman in American League history to reach that total, joining Harmon Killebrew, Al Rosen and Jim Thome. Palmer played in 1,357 career games. He has volunteered at the youth level, served as an assistant coach at Tallahassee Community College and has been a special hitting instructor for the San Diego Padres in spring training.



JOHN WASDIN—John Wasdin was on the Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth baseball team that appeared in the 1988 World Series. Born in Tallahassee, Wasdin was drafted in the 41st round of the 1990 MLB Draft by the New York Yankees right out of high school. However, Wasdin opted to attend hometown Florida State. The right-handed pitcher went 16-4 with a 3.17 ERA and 229 strikeouts in 193.1 innings pitched over three seasons. Following his junior season, Wasdin was selected 25th overall in the first round of the 1993 MLB Draft by the Oakland Athletics. He enjoyed a productive and lengthy professional career that spanned 17 years, playing for 13 different minor-league teams and seven Major League teams -- Oakland A's, Boston Red Sox, Colorado Rockies, Baltimore Orioles, Toronto Blue Jays, Texas Rangers and the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was 39-39 with a 5.28 ERA, 527 strikeouts and 252 walks in 793.1 innings pitched. Wasdin's most notable outing of his career came on April 7, 2003, as a member of the Triple-A Nashville Sounds in the Pirates organization. Wasdin became the first player in Nashville Sounds history to pitch a perfect game. It was only the second nine-inning complete perfect game in the 100-year history of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League. Wasdin has remained in professional baseball following his retirement as a player in 2009 at age 37. He is currently a minor-league pitching coach with the Oakland A's. During his first six seasons with Oakland, Wasdin's pitching staffs have been in the league's top-3 in ERA and twice as the league leader in ERA. His teams also have made the playoffs every year and won the Double-A Texas League Championship in back-to-back years (2015-2016).



TALLAHASSEE-LEON CLASS OF 2016

CINDY MEREDITH—Cindy Meredith is the cornerstone of longevity for the Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth League, serving as a volunteer for Babe Ruth League for more than 30 years. She has held such positions as District and Assistant State Commissioner. She is also the only woman to have coached for the Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth League. Meredith gave up her positions at the state level to dedicate 100% of her volunteer efforts to the Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth League, where she now serves as a Board of Director. With the influx of age-group travel teams in the area affecting participation, she took the lead in getting the league back on its feet. With the help of several people who shared a similar ideal, Meredith's efforts resulted in a major change in the way teams were selected. Instead of having a team draft, players are now selected by non-parent coaches who work with six area school coaches. This system is working great, especially for the kids who plan to also play school ball. And as part of the revitalization efforts, Meredith added physical training to existing preseason baseball drills. Cindy Meredith is a hard-working volunteer who has impacted the lives of thousands of young athletes. She continually goes above and beyond for the Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth League, her community and for the Babe Ruth League program.



DAVID ROSS—Alumni of Tallahassee-Leon Babe Ruth Baseball have pursued successful professional careers in a variety of fields. David Ross is one of those players. And the ending to his 15-year career in the majors could not have been scripted any better if it had been hand-written in Hollywood. The Chicago Cubs catcher won his second World Series ring when the Chicago Cubs beat the Cleveland Indians 8-7 in a memorable Game 7 to close out the 2016 season. The 39-year-old Ross became the oldest player in MLB history to hit a home run in a winner-take-all World Series game when he connected on solo shot in the sixth inning of Game 7. Ross helped the Boston Red Sox win a World Series title in 2013, but he could have never envisioned a better ending to his professional career than what transpired over his final two seasons in Chicago. For Ross, it was a season of Disney World highlights and memories. He caught his first no-hitter, knocked in his 300th career run and hit his 100th career home run. At home games at Wrigley Fields, fans serenaded him with his walkup song, "Forever Young" or pleaded for "One More Year." Ross played with seven different organizations in the major leagues, compiling 2,280 career at-bats over 883 games. He finished with a career batting average of .229 with 106 home runs and 314 RBI.



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.



BRL employee Margery Inteso was recently inducted into the Midwest Plains Hall of Fame. Pictured above (l-r) MWP Regional Commissioner Tim Kuntz presents Marg with official Hall of Fame plaque.



The Babe certainly knows how to celebrate Halloween!



Congratulations to the Thurmont Babe Ruth League 16-18



Commissioners (l-r) Doug Robinson (FL); Tom Wright (NC) and Paul Link (VA) meet at HQ to discuss BRL Softball

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



Those at the Novato, California BRL Reunion included (front row l-r) Jerry Tresca, Jerry Speicher, Jerry Matheson, Manager Bill Dillon, Rich Jensen, (back row l-r) Dee Fedick, Marty Larsen, Bob Helbing, Jim Thompson, Steve Francis, Marty Hansen, batboy Craig Dillon, Gomez, Manager Paul Chaffee and Coach George Jensen.

Alumni \$5 Challenge



What can a \$5 bill buy today? Not much – perhaps a \$5 foot-long, a few items off the fast-food dollar menu, a few lottery tickets? Actually, the best way you can spend a \$5 bill is when you contribute it to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association. What it can pay for is priceless!

The Babe Ruth Alumni Association is **challenging** all Babe Ruth League volunteers - commissioners, league officials, managers, coaches, etc., to make a **one-time donation of \$5 to the Alumni Association.**

Babe Ruth League and the Alumni Association are about empowering youth to be the best they can be in a fun, competitive and educational environment. Our aim to provide youth with valuable life lessons to encourage their drive for excellence and personal achievement.

There are several obstacles today that are threatening the existence of community-based programs like Babe Ruth League, such as year-round travel ball and early specialization. Babe Ruth leagues are struggling to fill rosters and are struggling to find the necessary operating funds. Less available leagues and teams could result in fewer kids being able to reap the benefits that come from participation in Babe Ruth League.

Growing up involved in Babe Ruth League and high school ball was always the right path to take to provide kids with the best opportunities to succeed in life. Babe Ruth League set the foundation and high school set the stage. And we believe this is still the path to take!

If you believe the Babe Ruth League program offers life-changing moments for youth and volunteers and you would be proud to help carry on the tradition of Babe Ruth League to make sure the program is available for generations to come, please consider **rising to this challenge**. Donate just \$5 to the Babe Ruth Alumni Association. This will be the best \$5 you will ever spend and the investment will provide priceless opportunities for all youth.

Please feel free to visit www.baberuthalumni.org to make an online donation or mail a check payable to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association in the amount of \$5 to 1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619.

If you have any misconceptions about giving to the Babe Ruth League Alumni Association, please be advised of the following:

- The Babe Ruth Alumni Association is a **separate group** dedicated to supporting the welfare of the Babe Ruth League program.
- **Contributions are never used to pay salaries.** The Babe Ruth Alumni Association is strictly a **volunteer-driven**, non-profit 501(c) (3) Organization.
- All charitable donations go to where the **need is greatest** - for example, to support players, teams and leagues that otherwise would be unable to participate because of lack of funding or due to catastrophic loss and to support special initiatives, programs and projects that advance the general wellbeing of youth - and to **donor-designated causes**, such as scholarships and endowments, to honor or remember an individual, to support a specific individual, team or league, etc.
- In order to serve all Babe Ruth League Alumni and be a more welcoming association, the Alumni Association does not charge membership dues.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO DONATE JUST \$5 TO THE BABE RUTH LEAGUE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. A mere contribution of \$5 will make a BIG difference in the life of a child.

Thanks to All Who Contributed to the \$5 Challenge

Jim Rivers (New Hampshire)

Mark Watkins (Indiana)

Michael Prentiss (Colorado)

Doug Erickson (Michigan)

Michael Haddad (Florida)

Steve Klein (California)

Don Mathes (Connecticut)

Charles Francis (California)

Jeffrey Brosseau (Vermont)

William Loocke (Texas)

Wayne Stutzman (Florida)

Scott Crawford (California)

Jason Northrup (Tennessee)

Paul Canalori (Connecticut)

Michael Atkins, Sr. (Indiana)

Bill Dal Porto (California)

Al Solanik (New Jersey)

John Pearson (Indiana)

Mike Caudillo (California)

CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI

BABE RUTH LEAGUE GRADUATES MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD

Babe Ruth League Alumni have made their mark all over the world. Being a master of his or her chosen field, they are enjoying all that life has to offer.

The Babe Ruth League Alumni Association proudly notes that 2016 was a banner year for some of our former players.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN AND MICHAEL JORDAN RECEIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM



President Barack Obama recently awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, to 21 groundbreaking innovators. Among them were Babe Ruth League graduates Bruce Springsteen and Michael Jordan. The Presidential Medal of Freedom recognizes especially meritorious contributions to the national interests of the United States, its security and its culture. Obama said the people receiving the medal helped push America forward and inspired millions around the world.

ANGELS' MIKE TROUT NAMED AMERICAN LEAGUE MVP



At just 25 years old, Trout now has his second MVP award -- he won his first in 2014. Trout, a graduate of the Millville, New Jersey Babe Ruth League, is the sixth player to win two MVPs before the age of 26. The Los Angeles center fielder led the majors in runs scored (123), walks (116), on-base percentage (.441) and WAR (10.6). He finished second in the AL in OPS (.991) and tied for second in steals (30). In addition, Trout won a Silver Slugger Award for the outfield.

Continued on next page

CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI

BABE RUTH LEAGUE GRADUATES MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD

RICK PORCELLO WINS AL CY YOUNG AWARD

For the first half-dozen seasons of his career, Morristown, New Jersey Babe Ruth graduate Rick Porcello pitched in the shadows of Cy Young Award-winning teammates Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer. Now, he walks among them. Porcello became only the fourth pitcher to claim a Cy Young Award with the Red Sox, joining Jim Lonborg (1967), Roger Clemens (1986, 1987, 1990) and Pedro Martinez (1999, 2000). Porcello, a 27-year-old right-hander, was a first-round pick of the Tigers in 2007 and made his major league debut two years later at age 20. He was traded to the Boston Red Sox in December of 2014. It was nothing short of a dream season, then, for Porcello, who led the majors with 22 wins and a 5.906 strikeout-to-walk ratio.



Congratulations to the following Babe Ruth graduates who earned distinctive honors in 2016:



Red Sox right fielder Mookie Betts (graduate of the Nashville, Tennessee Babe Ruth League) was named a Wilson Defensive Player of the Year. Mookie also received a Golden Glove and Silver Slugger Award.

New York Giant shortstop Brandon Crawford (graduate of the Pleasanton, California Babe Ruth League) received a Gold Glove Award.



New York Giant second baseman Joe Panik (graduate of the East Fishkill, New York Babe Ruth League) received a Gold Glove Award.

Boston Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia (graduate of the Woodland, California Babe Ruth League) was named one of the Wilson Defensive Players of the Year.



A Little Bit of Humor



It got crowded in heaven, so for one day it was decided only to accept people who had really experienced a bad day on the day they died. St. Peter was standing at the pearly gates and said to the first man, "Tell me about the day you died."

The man said, "Oh, it was awful. I was sure my wife was having an affair, so I came home early to catch her with him. I searched all over the apartment but couldn't find him anywhere. So I went out onto the balcony, we live on the 25th floor, and found this man hanging over the edge by his fingertips. I went inside, got a hammer, and started hitting his hands. He fell, but landed in some bushes. So, I got the refrigerator and pushed it over the balcony and it crushed him. The strain of the act gave me a heart attack and I died."

St. Peter could deny this was a pretty bad day, and since it was a crime of passion, he let the man in.

St. Peter then asked the next man in line about the day he died. "Well, sir, it was awful," said the second man. "I was doing aerobics on the balcony of my 26th floor apartment when I twisted my ankle and slipped over the edge. I managed to grab the balcony of the apartment below, but some maniac came out and started pounding on my fingers with a hammer. Luckily I landed in some bushes. But then the guy dropped a refrigerator on my!"

St. Peter chuckled, let him into heaven and decided he could really start to enjoy this job.

"Tell me about the day you died," St. Peter said to the third man in line.

"Ok, picture this, I'm naked, hiding inside a refrigerator...."

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

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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!

Catching Up with Gary Gilmore

(Article from November 22, 2016 Insidepitchonline.com)

Gary Gilmore led his Coastal Carolina Chanticleers through a gauntlet of challenges to the 2016 national title. Down to its last strike in the Raleigh Regional, the Chants dug down deep to upend North Carolina State. The following weekend, CCU traveled to Alex Box Stadium and upset the perennial powerhouse LSU Tigers. Their award for advancing to the College World Series was a first round matchup with the Florida Gators, the nation's top seed.

A Babe Ruth League and Coastal Carolina alum, Gilmore has been a head coach for 27 years at the college level, 21 with the Chanticleers. His 1,100th win as a head coach was one that claimed the 2016 national championship trophy. Inside Pitch recently chatted with "Gilly" about the "stepping stones" that his program took on the way to the top (including living in a camper just beyond the outfield fence during his first year at CCU), his family life, and how his team "monkeyed around" in the dugout this past year... all the way to a national championship.

Coaching at alma mater

It's been a fantastic experience. It's kind of funny when you look back; it's really the only school I ever dreamt of coaching at in my lifetime. I've always wanted to come back to Coastal Carolina, I had an incredible undergrad experience and it's where my heart has been all along. I had a great experience at USC Aiken as a coach, but my heart yearned to be back here.

I took a \$6-7,000 pay cut to come to Coastal Carolina, that's how bad I wanted to be here. I had to leave my family behind and we couldn't afford a rental down here at Myrtle Beach in the summertime. We had a pop-up camper with AC in it and I took it down here and plugged it in behind the baseball stadium. Believe it or not, I lived in there with my pitching coach, who was my only full-time assistant. We were on each end of that thing sleeping every night and on the road all the time. We did that for five or six months before my wife was able to get a teaching job down here and we sold the house. People tease me about it now, even back in those days it was primitive, it didn't have an indoor bathroom or anything!

Fundraising

At smaller programs and mid-majors, day-to-day finances and resources can be such a challenge. We've done golf tournaments, programs where people pledge money for stolen bases or homeruns, and we do a lot of stuff where parents get involved. I think it all comes down to what you're willing to do to get what you need to be successful. For me, we've always tried to use our fundraising to target something we need to make the team better. Not necessarily for our budget, but items like a pitching machine, video cameras, tangible things that I can sell to the parents and say 'if your child has these things, they can become a better player.' When you do that it's easier to get people involved.

There was a time we had to raise \$50-60,000 to survive here and that number has dwindled down; we're able to use monies for a vision program or a sports psychologist to come in and help us all be mentally stronger. Tangible, achievable goals that help every single member of our team get better is what we strive for. Getting it out there and selling it to people is key and like anything, some people pitch in more than others and just like anything with fundraising, you have to show people a lot of love.

Continued on next page

Gary Gilmore

Stepping stones

The first was 2001 when we made it to the last pitch of a Regional down in Georgia against Coach Polk's club that went to the World Series. That was our first Regional since I'd been here, that team helped us turn a corner. In 2005 we had a great team, we were a number one seed but we didn't have a stadium to play in. What we had wasn't nice enough and the pro park wasn't available, so we went to Arizona State as a one seed, *that* was a lot of fun! I feel like it opened some eyes. As a result, the resources began to pick up and that dream of Omaha became more real.

In 2008 we hosted again [at home this time], won our Regional and went to North Carolina against that Major League pitching staff. We lost in that Super but it really energized our community and our players. In 2010, we were the number four national seed. In all honesty, on paper most everybody in the country would agree that it was probably a better team than the one we had that just won it all. But ironically enough, South Carolina's team that year was very similar to our 2016 club; they were kind of a team of destiny. It didn't really matter what we did, they found a way to counteract it and ended up winning a National Championship. They had Michael Roth come up and pitch bigger than life, just like we did this past year when [Andrew] Beckwith was bigger than life.

The 2010 team was the type of club we had been trying to get back to. We were top two or three in the country in home runs with 119, we were among the top in stolen bases, top ten in ERA. I must not have coached well enough!

What's the same for you as a head coach whose team has just won a national title? What's different?

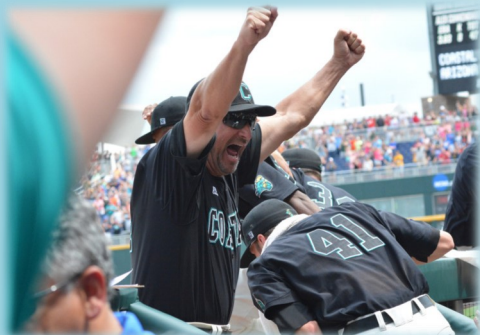
Well, it's the same when I pull into the driveway and my wife is on my rear end, that feels the same! What doesn't feel the same is when I go out in the community. When you're in the moment, you're paying so much attention to what you're trying to get done you don't really notice it. It's been crazy, basically everywhere I go, someone knows who I am. I've never ever been anywhere where people recognize who you are, who your school is. Just wearing a teal shirt out anywhere, people are going to say something, they'll walk by and say 'we were locked in, you guys were awesome!' it's the most unbelievable thing. I'm so happy for our program and so happy for our school. It's a huge wave of positivity for our university, it's incredible.

I don't feel like I was truly nervous during the postseason, other than our conference tournament. The group of kids we had had never won a conference tournament, never won a ring. They were very close to being a first team in a long time that had not won a ring during their time here. We wanted to get to Omaha, but incrementally we needed to prove to ourselves we could win a conference championship. I wanted it so bad for them, it was the one goal we truly had. My guys tell me I was a little tight in the conference tournament this past year, and I probably was!

Heck, that first game in the World Series against Florida, we screwed up something on the base paths and I'm like, *I coach that stuff!* Years ago I'd be slamming stuff in the dugout, but this past year I just said 'not a problem, we're going to get it done,' and sure enough, we lead off the next inning and hit a homerun, and you forget about how you screwed up the last inning.

Continued on next page

Gary Gilmore



At NC State we were down to our last strike, and it was completely out of my hands. We coached our guys before they went to bed, we coached them that morning, we reviewed the video and at the end of the day, you have to go out there and do it. Everybody doing something different led to some incredible things. Honestly, those games in the World Series, those games at LSU, I probably enjoyed them the most because I wasn't beside myself in the middle of it all. Everybody around me, the fans, my family, I thought my wife was going to lose it, how nervous they all were. I hope I can coach the rest of my career like that, it was truly fun and I think you saw our kids have fun.

Our program had set that benchmark of 'we can do it.' This class of seniors flat bought into that when they first came here. Pretty much all of them- including our coaches- had experienced a tragedy of some sort with illness or family, there always seemed to be something going on that our guys had to battle through and continue to play and get an opportunity to chase a championship. Our older guys had to pitch in and basically coach themselves, and that was a turning point in this particular season that made them the people you ultimately saw in the very end, I truly believe that.

Describe your family and the challenges of balancing work life with home life.

I've got the greatest baseball wife in the world, and I'm sure a lot of other coaches feel the same way. I'm not proud of some of the choices I made earlier in my career when I chose baseball over family. There are times I look back and think 'if I hadn't gone to this event I could have spent that quality time with my kids and it wouldn't have made a difference.' There are things that can be really challenging with deciding what's right and what's wrong in that area.

I think being able to balance everything is the challenge these days, because you're recruiting two or three classes at a time, having team practice and have so many other things going on. I don't know that we've gone on too many vacations that weren't baseball-driven. It's not like my wife and kids don't love baseball, but it is an incredibly time demanding sport these days, seven days a week about ten or eleven months out of the year.

What's your advice to young coaches? To a young Gary Gilmore?

Be a grinder. Come every day and bring your lunch pail. Love it and dream your dream. Not everyone gets to have the great fortune that I've had, but dream it, man. Dream it, chase it and work towards it.

I've had my challenges but I think every one of my challenges was an opportunity to battle and grow as a person and a coach. With that, I'd just say 'do it,' man. Go for it. Keep battling and give it everything you have and at the end of the night when you look yourself in the mirror, ask yourself if you've given a relentless effort, all day long.

FRIENDS we will miss...

WILLAM HOWARD BURNS, 78, of Lusby, Maryland, passed away at his home on August 30, 2016, after a determined and courageous battle with cancer.



Bill was an outstanding three letter athlete for track, football and basketball. He played college football on a scholarship for St. Ambrose College before he enlisted in the Air Force. His final duty station was Andrews AFB, where he supported critical airborne communications for the President of the United States and senior leaders. While in the Air Force, he met and married Virginia Cole in 1965. He continued his career at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration until he retired.

Bill love life and sports...playing, watching, coaching, he was involved with other great athletes in and out of the family. It wouldn't be a stretch to say he probably was involved with thousands of young people in both Prince George and Calvert Counties, where he became a legend and icon during his 40 year coaching career.

Bill translated his love for sports and people into a coaching career that began in the late 1970s with football in Suitland, Maryland. Shortly after moving to Lusby, he helped organize the SYB Babe Ruth League and eventually served as Cal Ripken State Commissioner for Maryland. Bill also helped build a Boys & Girls program that went from several hundred children of all ages into a program that is well up into the thousands in Calvert County.

MANUEL "MANNY" A. GOUVEIA, 90, of Clifton, New Jersey, passed away on October 2, 2016.



In 1955, he married Helen Van Dongen, and they enjoyed 44 years together before her passing in 1999. Together,

they raised three daughters. While attending Clifton High School, Manny was drafted into the Army in WW II. He was a combat veteran who served with the 36th Division, 143rd Regiment Co. K in Germany. After the war ended, he returned home and attended night school to earn his diploma. Manny was employed as a truck driver and maintenance worker for Howe Richardson Scale Company for over 45 years before his retirement in 1992.

Manny's lifelong passion was sports. He played semi-pro ball for various teams around the Clifton area, raced 3/4 midget cars and played softball for his company team. He lost his chance to try out for a professional football team when he broke both wrists in a semi-pro game a week before the tryout.

Because of his love of sports, Manny was an avid youth football and baseball coach. He took coaching seriously and made sure the players were well coached and well educated in the art of playing the game. He never forgot one thing as a coach: the object was to have fun, and he made sure that happened.

Involved with Babe Ruth League, Inc. for 61 years, Manny first served as a manager and league officer with the Clifton Babe Ruth League, then as Northern New Jersey State Commissioner and as an Assistant Middle Atlantic Regional Commissioner. He received numerous awards from civic groups over the years for his dedication to the youth of Clifton. In 1998, he was elected to the Babe Ruth League International Hall of Fame, and in 2012, to the newly formed Middle Atlantic Babe Ruth League Hall of Fame.

Manny sincerely cherished the countless hours he was able to spend at the ballpark. He enjoyed an occasional cigar and a package of cheese doodles. He was a man with simple tastes, but more importantly, he was a man who had a huge and lasting influence on all who knew him.



Sincere Thanks to Those Who Donated During the Past Quarter

In Memory Of...

Ronald Tellefsen

By Nancy and Robert Faherty

Manny Gouveia

By Donna Mahoney
By John/Judith Coogan
By Ed/Jeanne Culbert
By Steve Klein
By Harris Corporation
By Mark Watkins
By Al Solanik

Miscellaneous Contributions

By Sandra Eldridge
By Frank Rocca
By Larry Grondahl
By Rich Gross
By Paul Unrau
By Mike Marks (Louisiana BRL)
By Jerry Bodden
By Matthew Lally

Thanks again to all who contributed to the \$5 Alumni Challenge—Refer to Page 14

In Honor Of...

Pennsylvania Cal Ripken Commissioners

By Tony Tucci (Pennsylvania CRL)

Joseph Cormier

By Chevron



Welcome New Alumni Members

Daniel Presley – Jacksonville, FL

Paul Canalori – Woodbridge, CT

Michael Atkins, Sr. – New Castle, DE

Robert Evans – Bloomfield, IN

Richard Lussier – Wrentham, MA

Jason Northrup – Springhill, TN

Scott Crawford – Elk Grove, CA

Robert Eak – Westfield, MA

Steven Stake – APO AP, CA

April Pizano – Klamath Falls, OR

Matthew Lally – Salem, MA

Brain Teasers/Trivia—Do You Know the Answer

Answers appear at the bottom of the page.

1. Here are six clues to six words. When arranged in the correct order, each word is an anagram of the previous word with a letter removed: Capital of France, Snake, Headache Tablet, Single Article, Twisted Ankle, Coarse File and Equally.
2. A black cat stands in the middle of a street in a city with houses painted black. None of the street lights are working due to a power failure. A car with two broken headlights is heading right for the cat but turns at the last minute to avoid hitting him. How could the driver have seen the cat at the last moment?
3. What occurs once in every two minutes, twice in every moment, yet never in a thousand years.
4. Which two cities have the oldest stadiums in Major League Baseball?
5. What Governor was on hand at home plate to greet Hank Aaron when he broke Babe Ruth's home run record?
6. Supply the missing number.
2 3 5 8 13 21 34 _____
7. How could the 22nd and 24th US Presidents have the same parents, but not be brothers?
8. At age 40, Babe Ruth was tired and felt that he was betrayed out of a managing job. In what year did he retire?
9. Ruth ended his career with what team?
10. What three-letter word can be placed in front of the following words to make a new word?
____LIGHT ____TIME ____BREAK



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Answers to Brain Teasers

1. Aspirin, sprain, Paris, rasp, as, a.
2. It was daylight.
3. The letter m.
4. Boston (Fenway Park) and Chicago (Wrigley Field Stadium).
5. Jimmy Carter.
6. 55. Each number is the sum of the previous two.
7. They were the same person—Glover Cleveland.
8. 1935.
9. Boston Braves.
10. DAY