

UTLL OPENING PITCH

Celebrating a half century of organized baseball in the UpperTonka area.

Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2006

STARTING LINES

Dear Little League Parents:

There are a few changes to the board this year. Darcy Arone, who has served as your league president for the past five years, is now vice president. She is remaining on the board to help the transition of my role as president. When you see her this spring, take a minute to thank her for the valuable contribution she has made to organize and improve our league. We also welcome new members, Amy Landon and Bill Brandt. Amy will serve as secretary and Bill Brandt is our new coaching coordinator. Bill Johnsen, our former coaching coordinator will be moving to North Carolina before the season begins. We will miss you Bill; thank you for your hard work and good luck!

My Little League experience began when I coached girl's softball in 1988 and 1989! Since having my own child, I coached a 5 & 6 year old team in 2002 and 2003. I became a board member in 2004, serving as secretary. As president for the 2006 season, I am excited to continue to serve the needs of you and your children in the Little League organization.

As a group, the board has accomplished a number of new things to help our league run more smoothly such as:

- Parent Manual
- Coaches Manual
- Clinics for coaches run by the Minnesota Gopher staff
- Website
- Field Improvements
- Concessions and restroom remodel
- New cement and picnic tables
- NW Tonka Lions Club provided funds and volunteers to upgrade the field at Thor Thompson Park.
- Plans for City of Mound to upgrade parking lot in August 2006
- Proposal to City of Mound to upgrade city parks

Our main goal is to make little league a great experience for our kids and parent volunteers. Let's play ball!

Deb Bennyhoff
President, Upper Tonka Little League

DATES TO REMEMBER

WALK IN REGISTRATION DATE

Saturday, February 25, 9:00am to 1:00pm,
at Grandview Middle School

COACHES' CLINIC

To be announced on website

PLAYERS' CLINICS

Saturday, March 4

11-12 year olds 8:30 to 10:00am

9-10 year olds 10:00 to 11:30am

Saturday, April 22

5-6 year olds 9:00 to 10:30am

7-8 year olds 10:30 to 12 noon

Saturday, April 29

5-6 year olds 9:00 to 10:30am

7-8 year olds 10:30 to 12 noon

TRY-OUTS*

Saturday, March 11

11-12 year olds 9:00 to 11:00am

9-10 year olds 11:30 to 1:30pm

all at Mound Westonka High School

*SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

OPENING DAY

9-12 year olds, Saturday, May 6th

5-8 year olds, Saturday, May 20th

at WOLNER FIELD

New this Season

On-Line Registration*

**For families who have participated in UTLL last year we are offering on-line registration.*

**Just log into our website
www.utll.org.**

**On-Line Registration opens
January 23, 2006**

(CLIP AND SAVE)

2006 Little League Road Show

You are invited to the Little League Road Show on Saturday, January 28, 2006 from 8:00am—3:00pm at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center. The Little League Road Show is presented by staff from the Little League Headquarters and local administrators. It provides an opportunity to review the latest information on the Little League rules, equipment, programs and to speak

directly to Little League staff members. The Road Show is for all Little League coaches and volunteers and admission is free! **Lew Ford of the Minnesota Twins will speak and sign autographs. The Twins have donated items for a raffle as well.** For more information, contact Jerry Sandler at 763-541-9346 or visit www.littleleague.org.

DIRECTORY OF PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES, WEB PAGES

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
www.littleleague.org

DISTRICT WEB SITE
www.eteamz.com/MND1

UPPER TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE
www.utll.org

WOLNER FIELD
INTERSECTION OF CYPRESS LANE AND MAYWOOD ROAD

INFORMATION/RAIN OUT 952-472-3541

UPPER TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD 2006

President:

Deb Bennyhoff 952-472-4941
deb@utll.org

Vice President:

Darcy Arone 612-961-2929
darcy@utll.org

Treasurer:

Martine Hewitt 952-472-6708
martine@utll.org

Secretary:

Amy Landon 952-472-4195
amy@utll.org

Coaching Coordinator:

Bill Brandt 952-472-2959
bill@utll.org

Safety Officer:

Jim Ihli 612-619-6197
jim@utll.org

Player Agent:

Dick Kunz 952-472-4213
dick@utll.org

Communications' Coordinator:

Andrea Nelson 952-472-2114
andrea@utll.org

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

All the excitement of baseball season begins with registration, this year we are offering on-line registration to those who have played with us last year. Just go to our website at www.utll.org. If you are new to our program please head to Grandview Middle School, 1881 Commerce Boulevard (see page 1 for dates and times) to complete your registration.

To comply with Little League rules, **baseball** players who did not play with our league last year must provide a birth certificate to validate that their birthdays are between **May 1, 1993 and April 30, 2001.**

First year **softball** players who did not play with our league last year must provide a birth certificate to validate that their birthdays are between **Jan 1, 1993 and December 31, 2000.**

UTLL is pleased to inform parents of new and returning players that we have re-structured our fee schedule to include the opening day fundraising tickets for players in both leagues. See UTLL fees below.

After March 5th , players may get late-registration information via our new website at www.utll.org, or they may sign up at a player clinic. A \$10.00 late fee will be added, and players will be put on a waiting list or placed on a team if there are openings in their age group . Only one late fee will be required per family.

Registration fees go far to ensure that every player has a baseball season that is both exciting and safe.

INSTRUCTIONAL (AGES 5-8)
FEE PER PLAYER \$80.00

MINORS AND MAJORS (AGES 9-12)
FEE PER PLAYER \$100.00

Let's play ball!

UPPER TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE: WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Upper Tonka Little League (UTLL) is a member of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. Our baseball/softball program runs independently of the local school district and the community education program. The UTLL Board meets monthly, contact a board member or check the website for date, time and location.

Baseball

Our program includes boys and girls ages 5–12 years old. The children are placed in groups by age. In the 5–8 year olds group we focus on skill development in a non-competitive environment. The 5 and 6 year olds bat from a T and learn basic fundamentals of baseball. The 7 and 8 year olds are grouped together and are pitched to from a pitching machine. Eight-year-olds may play with teams of 7-8 year olds, or they may try out to qualify for play with 9-year-old boys' baseball teams, or 9-10 year-old girls' softball teams. Nine-year-old boys play in a league of their own and their teams play against one another. Some of the 8 year-olds who try out will be moved up to fill out those teams. Coaches will draft 10-12 year-old players into Major League teams after try-outs in March. The remainder of 10-12 year old players will play on Minor A League teams. We need coaches due to the increased number of teams, so we encourage parents to attend the coaches' clinic. It's a great way to determine if coaching is right for you.

If, after Little League, your player wishes to advance to the next level of baseball or softball, you may contact Loren Davis (952-472-1262) for information about the White-Hawks Youth Baseball Association (WYBA), which provides opportunities for play for boys aged 13-15.

MAKE 2006 THE YEAR YOU GET IN THE GAME!

Sharing your time and skills will help UTLL make this a great season for our players, as well as a strong program for the seasons ahead. Can you help in any of the following areas? Please read our wish list and come and join our team! There are also volunteer sign-up opportunities available during your online registration process.

Organization Positions Open:

- Girls Softball Coordinator
- Assistant Equipment Manager
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Recycling Manager



Little League Day at the Dome ? Upper Tonka Little League Day at a Saint Paul Saints Game? Interested?

Volunteer(s) needed to organize Little League Day at the Dome to watch the Twins play ball and/or our own Upper Tonka Little League Day at a St Paul Saints baseball game.

You would work with a representative from the Twins and/or the Saints. If you're interested in helping out, please call Deb Bennyhoff.

AN IMPORTANT "UMP-DATE"

UTLL will schedule another Umpire's Clinic for 2006. If you are at least 13 and interested in umpiring at minor league games this season, **attendance at the clinic is encouraged.** Check www.utll.org or watch the **Laker** to learn the clinic's date and time. Call Darcy Arone at 612-961-2929 with any questions.

Softball

The girls' softball teams will play in a traveling league against Chanhassen as they did in 2005. Last year, there were three major league teams, two minor league teams, and for the first time two 7-8 year old teams. This year, 7 and 8 year-old girls will again have the choice between playing on a softball or co-ed baseball team. Try-outs will be held to divide players into evenly matched teams. The Board is currently seeking a volunteer to coordinate the softball program. If you are interested, please contact any board member.

If after Little League your player wishes to advance to the next level of softball, you may contact Steve Sandler (952-471-0429) or Theresa Brink (952-472-0377), coordinators of WYSA's softball program for 12-18 year old girls. You can also find more information on their new website, their address is www.wysa.com.

Tournaments

This year we'll have a more exciting and organized end of year tournaments for the 7–8 year olds, the Minor A (10–12 year olds) and Minor B (9 year olds). The tournaments for the children 9–12 will be scheduled beginning June 23rd, so please try and delay those summer vacation plans. The 7-8 year old tournament will take place in the middle of July at the end of their regular season. See website for more detailed information.

The 10–12 year old Major League players will participate in a tournament where they will play other cities in the Metro area. These tournaments also take place the last part of June. Also, some of our 10–12 year old players will be chosen to represent Upper Tonka Little league in the District 1 All Star Tournament. This tournament usually begins the middle of July. See our website for more information.

Upper Tonka Little League

P.O.Box 53
Mound MN 55364

Thanks for a great season!

The Board of the UTLL wishes to thank the following businesses and individuals for their support during the 2005 season.

GMAC-RFC

Mike & Sheila Seats

Concession stand remodel:

Al's Master Plumbing
Bergman Electric
Blackowiak & Son's

Field & Property Maintenance:

Bear Tree Care
Jeff Andersen
Gene Shavlik
NW Tonka Lions
John Eccles

Advertising:

Melissa Easley

Printing:

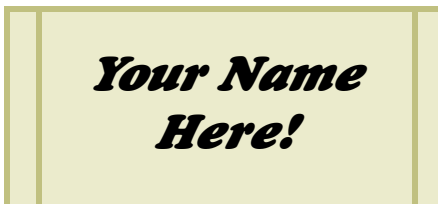
Brant & Andrea Nelson

ALL OF OUR TEAM SPONSORS

VOLUNTEER MAJOR LEAGUE

UMPIRES

Bob Brown
Al Schmidt



Is your business interested in sponsoring a sign on our improved fencing? For more information, contact any board member.

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions during registration 2005, however we would like to recognize the following individuals for their contribution of \$25 and above:

Tim Sheehan &
Chris Naylor-Sheehan
Tim & Claudia Lacy
David Roen
Mark Moonen
Mae Dayton
Laura Stoddard

We would also like to thank all those people who gave their time and energy to make last season a success!!