

# UTLL OPENING PITCH

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

**Volume 5, Issue 1**

**Spring 2007**

## STARTING LINES

Dear Little League Parents:

We are looking forward to seeing your families this spring. The board members have been busy in the off-season, working to make the program better for all participants.

The board has new members this year as Jim Ihli, Amy Landon and Bill Brandt have "retired". Jim volunteered for many years and will be missed! Amy and Bill will continue to volunteer as non-board members. We appreciate all their contributions.

Ed Treat will fill the role of Equipment/Safety Officer. Our new coaching coordinator is Matt Troyak, and Linda Wharram will serve as the softball coordinator. I am excited to have these individuals participate in our program; please welcome Ed, Matt and Linda when you see them this spring!

The following projects are completed or in progress for the 2007 season:

- \* Storage shed at Thor Thompson field
- \* New outsourced training for coaches and players
- \* On-line credit card payment registration
- \* Plans to improve drainage on both Wolner fields
- \* Improvements to Shirley Hills' fields
- \* Parking lot project rescheduled for August 2007
- \* New home for batting cages
- \* Opportunities for a new field in Minnetrista

We will need many volunteers to accomplish some of these projects; please make 2007 the year to donate your extra time to the little league program. Watch the website and read the volunteer opportunities in this newsletter to see how you can help this great program we have for our children.

Deb Bennyhoff  
President, Upper Tonka Little League

***New this season  
On-Line Registration with your Credit Card.***

***On-Line Registration opens  
February 10, 2007.***

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **COACHES' CLINIC**

***Sunday, February, 25th***

***6:30 to 8:30pm***

At Grandview Jr. High School

### **TOM NEVER'S PLAYER CLINIC\***

***Saturday, March 3rd***

9:00 to 10:30am 9 & 10 year olds

10:30 to 12:00 noon 11 & 12 year olds

### **TOM NEVER'S PITCHER CLINIC\***

***Saturday, March 31st***

9:00 to 10:30am 9 & 10 year olds

10:30 to 12:00 noon 11 & 12 year olds

### **Player Clinics\***

***Saturday, April 21 & Saturday, April 28***

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

10:30 to 12 noon 7 & 8 year olds

1:00 to 4:00pm Girls Softball

### **TRY-OUTS\***

***Saturday, March 10***

9:00 to 10:30am 11 & 12 year olds

10:30 to 12:00 noon 10 year olds

12:00 to 1:30pm 9 year olds

### **Girls Softball Major and Minor League**

#### **Tryouts**

2:00 to 3:30pm 9 to 12 year olds

***\*all of the events above are located at  
Mound Westonka High School unless  
indicated otherwise.***

\*SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

### **OPENING DAY**

9 to 12 year olds, Saturday, May 5th

5 to 8 year olds, Saturday, May 19th

**at WOLNER FIELD**

(CLIP AND SAVE)

## VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteering is an important aspect of the success of the Upper Tonka Little League program. Not only do volunteers allow the Upper Tonka Little League to keep its fees low, it also provides an environment of teamwork and community pride. Other Little leagues in the metro area charge an extra fee by either requiring a specific amount of time spent volunteering or by selling candy, etc.

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 volunteer sign-up opportunities available during your online registration process.

### DIRECTORY OF PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES, WEB PAGES

#### LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

[www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org)

#### DISTRICT WEB SITE

[www.eteamz.com/MND1](http://www.eteamz.com/MND1)

#### UPPER TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE

[www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org)

#### WOLNER FIELD

INTERSECTION OF CYPRESS LANE AND MAYWOOD ROAD

**INFORMATION/RAIN OUT** 952-472-8855

#### UPPER TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD 2006

##### President:

Deb Bennyhoff 952-472-4941  
[deb@utll.org](mailto:deb@utll.org)

##### Secretary:

Darcy Arone 612-961-2929  
[darcy@utll.org](mailto:darcy@utll.org)

##### Treasurer:

Martine Hewitt 952-472-6708  
[martine@utll.org](mailto:martine@utll.org)

##### Coaching Coordinator:

Matt Troyak 952-472-5350  
[m.troyak@utll.org](mailto:m.troyak@utll.org)

##### Softball Coordinator:

Linda Wharram 952-472-5096  
[linda@utll.org](mailto:linda@utll.org)

##### Safety Officer & Equipment:

Ed Treat 952-446-9693  
[edtreat@utll.org](mailto:edtreat@utll.org)

##### Player Agent:

Dick Kunz 952-472-4213  
[dick@utll.org](mailto:dick@utll.org)

##### Communications' Coordinator:

Andrea Nelson 952-472-2114  
[andrea@utll.org](mailto:andrea@utll.org)

### TOM NEVER'S BASEBALL CLINIC IS COMING TO UTLL

Upper Tonka Little League will be bringing in the Tom Nevers Baseball Clinics to assist us with our players' clinics. He'll lead our 9-12 year old player clinics on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and again on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Tom has been successful with his baseball clinics, but he also has a credited past. To learn more about Tom, go to our website at [www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org).

Tom Nevers baseball clinics offer premium personalized baseball instruction from professional and ex-professional baseball players. Located in the Twin Cities of Minnesota, these coaching, pitching, and general baseball clinics draw baseball players from all around the Midwest area.

- Advanced fundamentals of mechanics. Learn thorough advanced teaching methods, drill work, and quality repetition.
- How to hit off-speed pitches, become a great situational hitter and add power and strength to your swing.
- Pitching with the "How-To" for mechanics balances, grips, pick-off moves and playing the position defensively.
- Learn infielder skills such as footwork and throwing mechanics.
- Catchers receive instruction on blocking balls, footwork, and throwing.
- Outfielders will learn pre-pitch movement, catching, first step quickness, routes to fly ball, and throwing mechanics.
- Coaches will learn HOW TO TEACH: hitting, fielding (infield and outfield)

Any questions about our clinics, check out our website at [www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org).

# 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, you may contact Loren Davis (952-472-1262) for information about the WhiteHawks Youth Baseball Association (WYBA), which provides opportunities for play for boys aged 13-15.

## 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](http://www.utll.org).

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, 1994 and April 30, 2002**.

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, 1994 and December 31, 2001**.

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 10th, players may get late-registration information via our new website at [www.utll.org](http://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**



## New Baseball Pitching Rules

Little League Baseball has always taken the lead on baseball safety issues, from helmets to bases to catcher's gear. Now it is changing its regulations to protect the arms of young pitchers.

Starting with the 2007 season, the actual number of pitches delivered—not the number of innings pitched—will decide how long pitchers in all divisions of Little League baseball stay on the mound and how much rest they need.

The change was implemented by Little League International in hope that the regulation will give more players the chance to pitch, while also teaching them how to be better and more efficient pitchers.

For more information, including how much rest the regulations require (it's different based on your age and number of pitches throw), log on to [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org).

## SOFTBALL

Last year we experienced a growth in numbers in our softball program and we were able to host our own "in house" leagues. We had four minor league teams comprised of 7-10 year olds. We also had two major league teams comprised of 11/12 year olds. We are excited about the growth of girl's softball and want to extend this opportunity to other families in our community and surrounding communities. Encourage and promote our program to other families that may be interested in looking for a softball program for their child.

When registering your daughter for the 2007 softball season here are the options for the upcoming year. For this year we will be try to divide the girls into these divisions:

- 5/6 year olds: T-Ball
- 7/8 year olds: Girls Softball Minor League
- 9/12 year olds: Girls Softball Major League

This year we will be offering girl's softball clinics that will address the fundamentals of hitting, pitching, bunting, catching and sliding. Theresa Brink, high school girl's softball coach, will be providing these clinics for players, coaches and other interested parents. The clinics will be held April 21<sup>st</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00 at MWHS. The UTLL website will provide detailed information as the date approaches. We encourage all girls and interested coaches to attend this clinic.

If you have any questions about the Little League Softball Program, contact Linda Wharram via our website at: [www.utll.org](http://www.utll.org). If after Little League your player wishes to advance to the next level of softball, you may contact Theresa Brink coordinator 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](http://www.wysa.com).

## 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 2006 season.

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#### **GMAC-RFC**

Mike & Sheila Seats

#### **RES-CAP**

Residential Capitol Corp

#### **Field & Property Maintenance:**

Dave Briggs  
Gene Shavlik  
NW Tonka Lions  
John Eccles

#### **Advertising:**

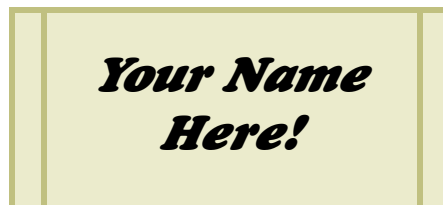
Melissa Easley

#### **Printing:**

Brant & Andrea Nelson

**ALL OF OUR TEAM SPONSORS**

**WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING 2007  
TEAM SPONSORS, PLEASE CALL  
MARTINE HEWITT ON 952-472-  
6708 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.**



**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 2006, however we would like to recognize the following individuals for their contribution of \$25 and above:

Tim & Claudia Lacy  
Jim & Melissa Easley  
Darren & Melissa Poikenen  
David & Rachel Roen  
Ted & Wendy Storlie  
Dave & Jenny Boies  
Matt & Kathy Dolliff  
Dan & Lynne Robertson  
Scott & Dena Spanjers  
John & Kathy Timberg

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