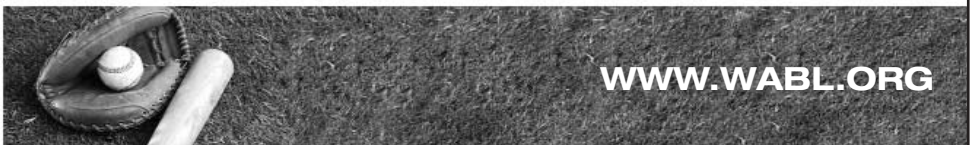




WELCOME TO THE 2005 SEASON!



WWW.WABL.ORG

Hello WABL fans,

I want to thank all the children and parents for their support and participation during the 2004 season. We have made several changes to help improve next year's season for the children and to keep the cost down.

If you have been keeping up with baseball and softball news you may have seen an article in the Beacon Journal and on 20/20 about the decline in participation. We have felt and experienced a drop in our program of about 25% over the past five years. Some of the drop is due to population flux, job availability in Akron, participation in other sports and interests, and parents placing their children in smaller organizations that last one or two years and then disappear or combinations of any of the above.

WABL has been in service for West Akron children since 1957 and has continued to serve the largest number of children in roster ball in the area. We have every intention of continuing the WABL program and will adjust as we need to keep the program viable. Our roster program will remain strong, reliable and stable in preparing to move into the future with the largest number of children in mind. WABL currently is the largest program in the Akron area. We are bigger than Ellet, Kenmore, the city leagues and CYO. WABL has a great group of children playing ball, coaches that have the interest of the children first and are willing to teach the game and its life lessons.

WABL finances are stable, however, due to increases in costs, a change in the registration fees will take place this 2005 season. We will be increasing the fees and in return each upper league player will receive tickets to the WABL day with the Aeros or Racers. Our WABL sponsors are fantastic and continue to contribute to our program, even under tough economic times. A gift contribution helped us purchase pitching machines for the boys and girls to use this year.

WABL's executive board is full and even expanded to adjust to our changing world. We added a Webmaster position to the board due to a need that we can't seem to live without. Our regular board is growing with volunteers who are interested in the well being of our children and dedication to the future of WABL. If you are interested in volunteering for the WABL program or if you have an organization that needs volunteer hours, please contact us. We welcome your interests and help.

To all the children, parents, sponsors, umpires, coaches, board members and volunteers; thank you for your continued support of the West Akron baseball/softball leagues. Let's continue to work together to keep the field of dreams a reality.

Sincerely,
Bruce A. Clough

P.S. Check out the web at WWW.WABL.ORG

THANK YOU!

We want to thank all of the sponsors, coaches, parents, grandparents, and friends who make WABL possible.

Inside you will find a list of all of the 2004 sponsors. Please patronize these businesses that have so generously supported WABL. If you are interested in sponsoring a team for the 2005 season, please contact **Doug Bryson at By Design Sportswear: 330-867-9029.**

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- 2005 Season Highlights
- Registration Fees Changes 2005
- Travel Team News
- Info on Winter Clinics
- 2005 Registration Form
- 2005 Calendar of Events

REGISTRATION FEES CHANGES 2005



We are increasing the regular registration fees for the boys H, G, and F leagues and also the girls American, National and Junior leagues this year to \$95.00. Each player will be receiving \$40.00 dollars worth of Aero's tickets

or \$35.00 dollars worth of Racer's tickets good for the WABL day at each of the prospective stadiums. This is a an increase that we have tried to hold down but with the cost of everything increasing so much over the past 4 years we felt that we could not cut anymore from the budget without reducing services to the players. After doing the math each player will be only paying \$55.00 for the boys and \$60.00 for the girls with the ticket redemption. The "I" leagues will have an increase of \$5.00 to a new fee of \$75.00. If the "I" league families want tickets to the Aeros or Racers day they can purchase them from us. There tickets are not included in the registration fee. Last season we had this ticket system in place as a team sales program and found that it was to difficult for coaches to sell and collect the money along with all of the other duties they volunteered to perform. The actual program raised a fair amount of income for the league to off set expenses not covered by registration fees, sponsor, and endowment gifts.

The new registration fees will still have a discount for families with 3 or more children in the league. We feel this increase is fair and must be implemented to cover the costs and does not even equal the fundraiser monies that we were raising. We will not be running any regular fundraisers for the roster ball leagues this year but we will require the travel ball teams to continue to raise monies to cover their expenses. More tickets will be avail-

able for the WABL day at a discount if you need them. No refunds will be granted to a player this year if they have received his or her uniform.

WABL has cut cost and expenses over the past 3 years to try and keep the fees low but with the increase in cost of just about everything created a need to restart a fund raiser program that everyone would contribute to. Bingo worked for several years but had very few volunteers and also had some belief issues, so we had to stop the program for lack of participation. The ticket sales worked but were too much for the coaches and many did not want to participate. In 2004 we increased the sponsor fees by 20% to help future costs.

The city of Akron has reduced its contributions to leagues such as ourselves and increased our fees to rent the fields for the season. We pay for infield mix, paint, benches, lime for the lines, bats, helmets, face guards, softballs, baseballs, catching gear, bases, locks, locker boxes, keys, bags, rakes, shovels, tapes, scorebooks, umpires, umpire fees, phone service, insurance, paper, printing, stamps, web-site, domain, tees, advertising, maintenance fee, power rake, computer programs, new uniforms and many other costs associated with running a non-profit organization year round. All this is for our children, so they can have a great time for three and a half months almost every day and a great parade at the end.

This increase will keep the program financially strong for the next several years. The small fee you are contributing gives more back to you than you invested just in value alone. More importantly, you help your children; you do not have to take time away from your family to volunteer an evening or two and you get 4 tickets to go to a game with your children, friends and teammates at the stadium on WABL DAY.

RULE CHANGES FOR BOYS

The 2005 season will see some changes to the boys' rules that will hopefully improve play for the players. We have addressed the issue of rainouts and have adjusted the rules and format for scheduling to give teams an opportunity to make-up some of their regular season games if cancelled or postponed due to rain. We had several teams miss out on a complete or close to complete season due to the 2004 rain. There were 38 days of rain with only 7 sunny or partly sunny days in 2004.

Most of the rain seemed to occur in the late afternoon causing playing problems.

We are also adjusting the roster ball boys game schedule and increasing the number of games that the roster ball teams will get to play.

Rules will be distributed addressing the play-offs, tournament teams and all-star selections to help clarify how these areas should be handled. All of the rules are on our web site for all to read.

DID YOU KNOW...



Test your WABL history knowledge and see the answers at WWW.WABL.ORG!

-Pamela Foster, WABL Historian



- 1.) What was the 'original' newsletter name?
- 2.) What year was the 'first' newsletter produced?
- 3.) What year was WABL founded?
- 4.) How much was WABL registration fees in 1965?
- 5.) What popular magazine did an article about a WABL team player in a 1967 issue? What was the WABL team and who was the player?
- 6.) Who was the WABL President in 1985?
- 7.) "Diamond Dust: A WABL Time Capsule" ...know anything about this?

2005 WABL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 22nd	The University of Akron Softball Clinics	
January 23rd	Kent State University Softball Clinics	
February 5th – Noon-2PM	Walk-in sign ups Northwest Family Recreation Center	
February 10th – 6-8PM	Walk-in sign ups Northwest Family Recreation Center	
February 12th – 10AM-Noon		Walk-in sign-ups Northwest Family Recreation Center ORBIT, the Akron Aeros' #1 Fan and mascot, is going there!
February 12th	MAIL-IN REGISTRATION DEADLINE	
February 13th	Kent State University Softball Clinics	
March 12th – 9AM-3:30PM	9:00 AM - I League (ages 6-8)* 11:30 AM - F League (ages 11-12) 12:30 PM - H League (ages 9-10) 2:30 PM - G League (ages 13-14)	Boys Baseball Try-outs/Draft St. Paul's Episcopal Church *I League Girls will be trying out along with the I League Boys on Saturday, March 12th.
March 12th – 12:30PM-5PM	Kent State University Softball Clinics	
March 19th – 8:30AM-12:30PM	8:30 AM - American League (ages 9-10) 10:00 AM - National League (ages 11-12) 11:00 AM - Junior League (ages 13-14) I League (ages 6-8)*	Girls Softball Try-outs/Draft St. Paul's Episcopal Church *I League Girls will be trying out along with the I League Boys on Saturday, March 12th.
March 19th – 1-3PM	Mandatory Boys Managers' Meeting & Equipment Pick-up – Northwest Family Recreation Center	
April 1st	WABL Practice season begins	
April 25th	Boys baseball games start	
May 3rd	Girls softball games start	
May 8th	Mother's Day No Games	
May 9th	Girls picture day – 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ALL Teams* *I League Girls will be getting pictures along with the I League Boys on Saturday, May 14th.	
May 14th	Boys picture day – 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM ALL Teams* *I League Girls will be getting pictures along with the I League Boys on Saturday, May 14th.	
June 19th – Game Time: 2:05 PM		Father's Day No Games WABL Day with the Akron Aeros at Canal Park
June 24th	Boys baseball playoffs start	
June 26th	Girls Softball All-Star Games at Firestone Stadium – WABL Day with the RACERS: TBA	
June 27th	Girls softball playoffs start	
July 4th	Independence Day No Games	
July 9th	2005 DAY of CHAMPS games and parade	
July 10th	2005 ANNUAL WABL GOLF OUTING and FUNDRAISER	
July 12th	Boys Baseball All-Star Games	
July 14th	Boys Baseball All-Star Games (makeup date)	
September 10th – 10AM - 12PM	Mandatory Equipment Drop-off - Northwest Family Recreation Center	
October 8th – 10AM - 12PM	Mandatory Equipment Drop-off - Northwest Family Recreation Center	



AMERICAN, NATIONAL, JUNIOR

Congratulations to all 9 coaches for doing such a fine job with all the girls this year. We had several compliments from parents and many of the girls I talked to said, "They had a great time and learned a lot". This is a great sign knowing that 5 of the 9 coaches were new to this type of job.

The WABL board wants to thank the coaches for all of the time, mentoring, patience and good sportswomanship that you showed to all the players. Without your volunteering some girls may not have had a chance to experience WABL softball. THANK YOU!



SOFTBALL

The girls had a very exciting and busy season in 2004. Most of the teams had some rain-outs but ended up with a full season in spite of Mother Nature. We had some field problems at times and had to do some scrambling but everyone found a field to play on anyway.

The WABL Day and All Star games went well at the Firestone Stadium this year. The girls had a chance to see the Racers Pro team play before the All Star games, along with a meet and greet afterward for the pros to sign autographs. This was open to all the players in the league and

we will be doing this again in 2005. The Racers had the second largest crowd of the year with our league of ladies in attendance. The crowd stayed for the All Star games and made it a very loud and exciting day!

The girls of WABL made the Day of Champs very special this last season by having a team from each league in the Day of Champs championship games. This has not happened to the best of my memory since the mid 90's. The girls and coaches should be very proud. Thanks to all the players, coaches, parents and umpires for a great season!



"I" LEAGUE GIRLS

The "I" league had a very tough season last year. The size of each team and the unfortunate problems with scheduling made it the season to forget. Several attempts were made to correct the schedule but once things went south things just did not want to fall back into place. We have not had a problem like this before and we will not have this problem again.

We have moved the girls "I" league over into the boys "I" league. This was how the girls started out about 12 years ago. Once the girl's numbers increase enough to support at least 5 teams, we can separate them from the boys again if we need to. The girls will be mixed in with the boys. The boys use an incrediball and the coach pitches to them, just like in the girl's league. This will solve the problem of not having enough players or teams to schedule.

Vouchers have been sent out to each of the girls who played last year and the sponsors have received a credit. Hopefully, this will soften the pain that we caused all of the parents and the disappointments many of the girls felt. This voucher is good for the 2005 season and we hope you will use it. If your daughter is moving up she can play in the American league or "H" league. Both leagues have more than enough players and teams and do not have scheduling problems.



GIRLS WABL

KENT STATE SOFTBALL CLINICS

Visit WWW.WABL.ORG for locations, times and forms

- January 23rd:** PITCHING, HITTING, SLAPPING/BUNTING CAMPS
- February 13th:** PITCHING, HITTING, SLAPPING/BUNTING CAMPS
- March 12th:** PARENT/CHILD OFFENSE & DEFENSE SKILLS CAMP

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Head Coach Karen Linder at the Kent State Softball Office 330-672-2162 or Camps Director Alicia Longstreth at the Kent State Field House 330-672-8458.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON SOFTBALL CLINICS

Visit WWW.WABL.ORG for locations, times and forms

- January 22nd:** PITCHING AND HITTING CAMPS

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the U of A web site, or call 330-972-4943 and leave name and phone number

LADY SHEDEVILS 12U

CONGRATULATIONS to the 12U Shedevils. They played in four tournaments with better results in each one. Best of all, they finished first in their doubleheader league and won that league's tournament.

LADY SHEDEVILS 14U

The 14U Lady SheDevils had a very exciting season this past year. They competed in a Tuesday night double-header league and played in five tournaments during the season. They were 8 - 4 in their league and came in second place in both the league and the end of season play-offs. During the tournaments they took their lumps in a few games, only to come back and shoe their pride in others. Throughout the year they continued to improve and were seeded 6th at the Orville 4th of July tournament after playing very well in their pool play. In the Copley tournament, the Lady SheDevils were seeded first going into the elimination tournament undefeated and took second place overall.

The 14U Lady SheDevils continued their season by playing in a fall league. They were 7 - 1 during league play, which gave them first seed for the end of season play-offs, in which they placed second.



GIRLS THANK YOU

The girls, parents, and WABL would like to thank the sponsors and those special donations that were given to WABL. If they had not given what they had we would not be playing. Many Thanks!

2004 WABL SPONSORS – THANK YOU!

A. Schulman
ADM Board County of Summit
Andy's Trophies & Awards
Akron Aeros
BAC Construction
Berkey, Brendel & Sheline
Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.
Brouse McDowell
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs
By Design Sportswear
Coco's Coffee Bar
Cooper's Custom Cabinetry & Design
Crawford & Crawford
Dicks Clothing & Sporting Goods
Evergreen Property Management

Frank Cianciola & Son
Greg Santos Photography
H & M Lawn Care
Hanna, Campbell & Powell, LLP
Holland Oil Co.
How to Construction
Illumetek
InfiniteParadigm
Infrastructure
Ingenium Packaging
Janna Industries
JG Pads
Kastner, Westman & Wilkins LLC
Kinderdance
Knights' Runners Club

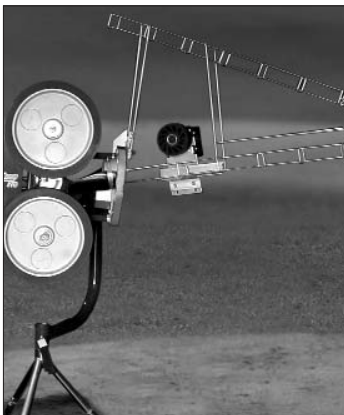
Labeltape Inc.
Lew's Plumbing & Drain Co.
MJ Beaven Agency
Northcoast PCS
Ruch Chiropractic & Massage Therapy
S.A. Comunale Co. Inc.
Safelite AutoGlass
Scanlon & Gearing Co., LPA
Scolaro
Stagecoach Antiques
Summa Orthopaedics
Swenson's Restaurants
The Caterers by Papparazzi's
Trifiro Painting
Yocono's Restaurant

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

WABL 2004 Benefactors: Jim & Sue Gruneisen, Columbus, OH, \$300.00 and Steve & Liz Arn (Arnie's S.R.O.), Akron, OH, \$100.00
The Firestone Marching Band for their 20+ years of participation in our Day of Champs parade.
The Akron Police Department & The Akron Fire Department for protecting our kids and for the trucks in the parade that all kids love.
The coaches, assistant coaches, and umpires for all of their time and patience.
The University of Akron & Kent State University Softball Teams for their great clinics.
West Minster Church and St. Sebastian's Church
All our sponsors who keep us going and the parents of all of our kids.
Bob Keith - Councilman Ward 8
Andy's Trophies
Lisa Cooper, InfiniteParadigm, WABL newsletter layout and design
All those we forgot to mention but greatly appreciate.



GIRLS NEW PITCHING MACHINE



BOYS NEW PITCHING MACHINE

NEW PITCHING MACHINES – A HUGE APPRECIATION!

On behalf of WABL, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the anonymous donation of \$5000 towards new girls softball and boys baseball pitching machines. They are greatly appreciated and will be put to good use! **Thank you for your support!**

West Akron Baseball & Softball League (WABL) Website – WWW.WABL.ORG

We want the WABL website to be your first stop for the latest information about WABL, including forms, league calendar of events, boys' baseball and girls' softball schedules and standings, field locations, sponsors, and other information. If we overlooked anything that you may need, feel free to let us know what it is, and we'll do our best to put it on the site ASAP.

We encourage everyone in the WABL organization to support our sponsors and affiliates by using the banner ads and links on our site to visit their websites. The banner ads are just another way for our sponsors to advertise their great services and for WABL to gain additional funds to put back into fields and equipment. Please stay tuned as our site continues to improve and mature alongside our WABL players.

Here's to a fantastic season, and best of luck to all of WABL!
Scott A. Cooper, Vice President-Web Services & Communications

ATTENTION PROUD PARENTS!

Would you like to feature your sports superstar? Your photos will be featured in next years newsletter! Please submit your digital photos to our webmaster at WWW.WABL.ORG or mail a copy to: WABL, P.O. Box 575, Akron, OH 44372-5751

VP BOYS REPORT



Overall, the 2004 Boys West Akron Baseball League was another successful year for our youth. Although there were some concerns, due to some decrease in our numbers, the leagues were still very competitive. The I - League played with 10 teams this season and all our players received a participation medal at the end of the year. The H - League remained at 12 teams and had a very exciting season. We want to congratulate the Summa Orthopedic Royals managed by Don DeKemper and the Greg Santos Photography Cubs, managed by Marc Cararelli for winning their divisions. The G - League dropped down to eight teams this year and the Brouse McDowell Dodgers managed by Ralph Gatti had a very good season at 13 - 1 to win the league. The F - League

increased their numbers to six teams and had a very competitive season this year. In the end the Berkey, Brendel, Sheline Reds managed by Dan Mocny came out on top.

The reason that WABL continues to be successful each season is because of all our volunteers. I want to thank all the managers, assistant coaches, parents, and umpires for all the time and effort you give to our kids, so they can play ball. From the first pitch of the season until the last out on the Day of Champs the boys gave their best and that is why the season was so exciting for everyone. Thank you all again for a great season and we look forward to seeing you all in 2005.

Randy Salyer, VP Boys Baseball

Instructional League



There were 10 teams in our Instructional program this season. We want to thank all the coaches for all their efforts and time they spent with the youth in teaching them the basics of the game. We look forward to all these players continuing to understand the game and moving into the next level of our program. All the players received a participation medal at the end of the season that

they proudly displayed as they walked in the Day of Champs Parade. The following is a list of the team managers: A's - Rob Renner, Aeros - Fred Carque, Brewers - John Hayes, Giants - Sean Walter, Indians - Brian Kovalchick, Orioles - Marc Seaman, Pirates - Steve Paolucci, Tigers - Scott Ouellette, White Sox - John Faetinini, and Yankees - Dan Gunther.

2004 H League Review



The 2004 H League season saw many of the weather-related challenges that other leagues experienced. Despite the rain, most H League teams were able to complete close to the originally scheduled 17 games by making up games late in the season. The top-ranked Royals, coached by Don DeKemper, and the No. 2 Orioles, led by Jim Eberly, made it through the post season playoffs to face each other in the Day of Champs. The Orioles finished in second place in the Bob Feller Division with a 12-3 record (.800 percent) to the Royals' 13-2 mark (.867). The Royals, and Rocky Colavito Division champion Cubs, coached by Marc Cardarelli, earned division titles and trophies. However, the Orioles survived the rain shortened 12-day, double-elimination postseason with a Day of Champs victory and a championship title for their players.

Thanks goes out to all the parents, umpires and over 135 WABL H League players this season. Special recognition should be shown to the dedicated assistant coaches and head coaches, who devoted hours of instruction and game leadership. They included Greg McKeever (Tigers), Steve Jun (Giants), Eberly (Orioles), Mike Wear (A's), DeKemper (Royals), Dan McMahon (Reds), Steve Null (Aeros), Cardarelli (Cubs), Ray Spannbauer (Yankees), Sean Dougherty (White Sox), Chuck Maddern (Indians), and I coached the Dodgers.

The final regular season standings available at WWW.WABL.ORG or by request.

Don Coughlin, H League Commissioner

2004 G League Review



As the players move into the G League, which is our 11 and 12 year olds, they begin to play the game at a higher level. The players now learn to lead off, steal with the pitch, and are more involved in a strategic game. The coaches begin to use players in positions and strive to help them become more rounded in their game. We had eight teams return for the 2004 season and saw some players make some great strides throughout the season.

We want to thank all the parents and coaches, who have supported the league during the year. The following is a list of all the managers this year: Dodgers - Ralph Gatti, Indians - Rick Burke, Reds - Tim Campbell, Yankees - Curtis Barclay, Pirates - Mike Dies, A's - Mike Cianciola, Phillies - Paul Tharan, Twins - Chris Miller. We also want to recognize Paul Tharan, who has been the G League Class Chairman for numerous years in the W.A.B.L.

2004 F League Review



If you had the opportunity to see the F League program this season, you saw some real ball being played. Although we only had six teams in the program this season, there are some very talented athletes participating. This is the level where we are helping these players prepare for their high school teams. The 13 and 14 year old program has been able to supply our local high school programs with some players that you will be reading about over the next few years. We would also like to thank all the parents and

assistant coaches for all their help and support in making this league a huge success. Jeff Davis served again as the F League Class Chairman, while managing the Royals. The following is a list of the remaining managers for the season: Reds - Dan Mocny, Tigers - Paul Nasrallah, Indians - John Cavileer, A's - Mike Cistone and Tom Delagrange, and the Yankees - Val Pips and Henry Payton.