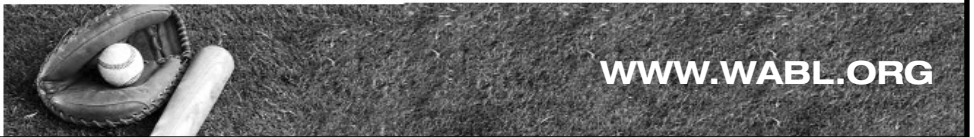




WELCOME TO THE 2006 SEASON!



WWW.WABL.ORG

Hello WABL fans,

Hope your holidays were safe and happy. The 2006 year is under way with a lot of new beginnings in WABL. With the start of a new season came elections for WABL officers. The one big change was the office of President, to which I was elected. It's an honor to be elected President, as WABL heads towards its 50th Anniversary.

When Mr. Clough stepped down, he left some pretty big shoes to fill. I will do what needs to be done, to the best of my ability, so WABL can continue to be a great organization and have enjoyable games for all the boys and girls involved. Making WABL function can not be done by me alone, it will take the help of the WABL Board, coaches, umpires, parents, sponsors, and volunteers. So, if you have any suggestions, please feel free to share them with us. We can always use new ideas for improving the WABL program for our kids.

We have a great season about to start. Let's make it our best yet. There will be games, tournaments, Day of Champs, and fundraisers. Help support our WABL program by being at the games, volunteering, at fundraisers or any other way you can think of to help. Our kids will appreciate it and so will the WABL Board. E-mail me at: madame_president@wabl.org.

Now let's get ready to PLAY BALL!

Pamela J. Foster, WABL President

P.S. Don't forget about WABL on 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 2005 sponsors. Please patronize these businesses that have so generously supported WABL. If you are interested in sponsoring a team for the 2006 season, please contact **Doug Bryson at By Design Sportswear: 330-867-9029.**

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2006 Draft Day Information
- 2005 Season Highlights
- 2006 Registration Form
- 2006 Calendar of Events
- 2006 Golf Outing Registration Form

A quick reminder..

Please help us find more kids between 6 and 14 to play softball or baseball. For more information, contact info@westakronbaseballleague.org

A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF UMPIRE



I am looking forward to the start of the 2006 baseball season. This will be my first year as Chief of Umpires, and I am also looking forward to this challenge. I love working with the kids and I enjoy watching the boys grow as players throughout the season. When dealing with so many parents, coaches and players, throughout a baseball season, there are

bumps in the road. With co-operation from all parents and coaches, my goal will be to have my umpires do their best to keep the bumps at a minimum. We all must

remember that we need to work together and make this season the best that we can for the kids.

I am looking for umpires for this season. Anyone who is interested in umpiring can contact me at 330-733-9272 or email me at boysumpire@wabl.org. There will also be an umpires' clinic at Hardesty Park on Saturday April 1st, at 10:00 a.m.

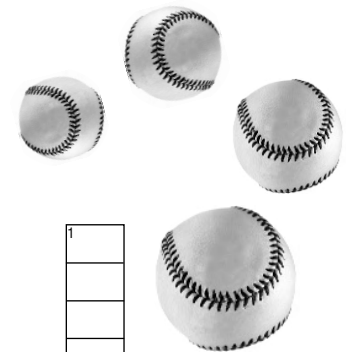
Once again, I am looking forward to working with all of you this season, and especially making West Akron Baseball the best place to play!

Mike Dies
Vice President-Umpires

RULE CHANGES FOR BOYS



Some of the rule changes for the boys program for 2006; in G league, the bat size is now 2 3/4 barrel size – 7 weight; in F league barrel size is 2 5/8 and –3 weight. One of the biggest changes is in the suspension side of rules, managers/coach are now 2 game suspensions, in the general rules if a manager/coach makes a substitution mistake it will result in a suspension for the coach/manager, **the kids will not pay the price for a coach's mistake.**



W.A.B.L.'S WORDS!

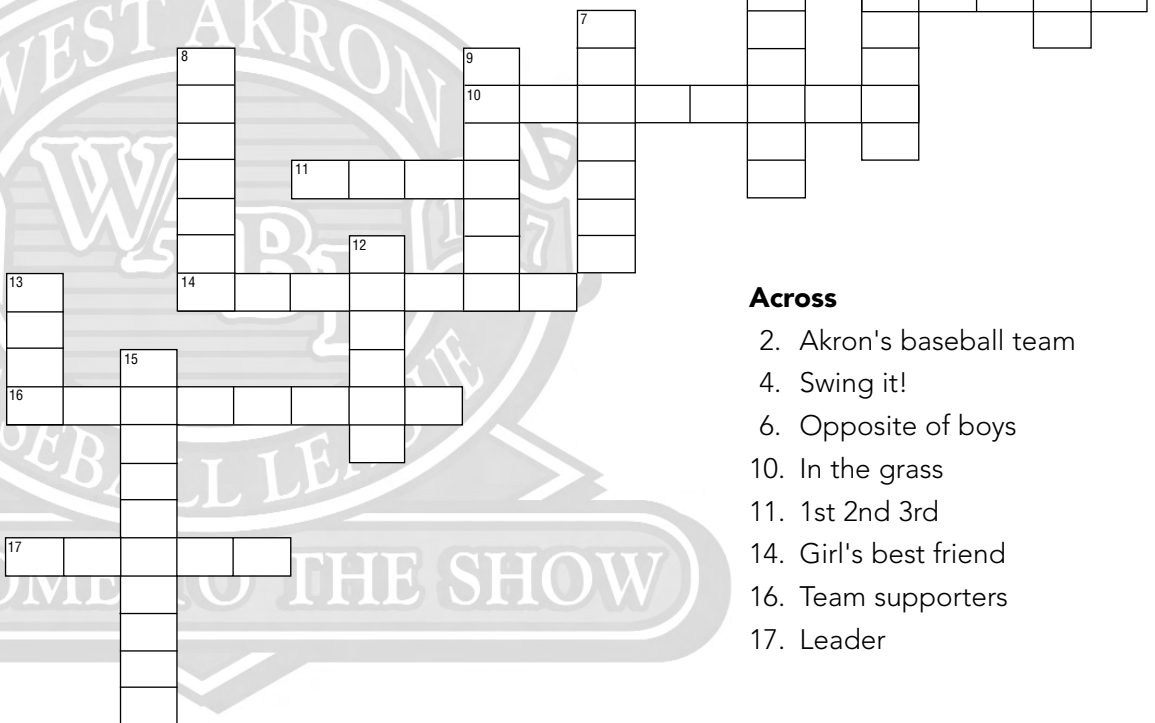
Answers on the Thank You page

Down




1. Head protection
3. Game
5. Team
6. A sponsor
7. On the mound
8. In the dirt
9. Nonstop around bases
12. Yells 'play ball!'
13. Not quite men
15. Game competition

Across

2. Akron's baseball team
4. Swing it!
6. Opposite of boys
10. In the grass
11. 1st 2nd 3rd
14. Girl's best friend
16. Team supporters
17. Leader



2006 WABL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 4th – Noon-2PM		Walk-in sign ups Northwest Family Recreation Center
February 8th – 6-8PM		Walk-in sign ups Northwest Family Recreation Center
February 11th – 10AM-Noon		Walk in sign-ups Northwest Family Recreation Center ORBIT, the Akron Aeros' #1 Fan and Mascot, is going there!
February 11th		MAIL-IN REGISTRATION DEADLINE
March 11th – 8:30AM-3:30PM	<p><u>Boys' Times:</u></p> <p>10:30 – 11:30 AM I League (ages 6-8)* 1:30 – 3:00 PM F League (ages 13-14) 1:00 – 2:00 PM H League (ages 9-10) G League (ages 11-12)</p> <p><u>Girls' Times:</u></p> <p>8:30 – 9:30 AM I League (ages 6-8)* 9:30 – 10:30 AM American League (ages 9-10) 9:00 – 10:00 AM National League (ages 11-12) Junior League (ages 13-14)</p>	<p>Boys' Baseball and Girls' Softball Try-outs/Draft St. Paul's Episcopal Church</p> <p><i>*There are NO I-League Boys/Girls tryouts on Saturday, March 11th. ALL I-league players will be automatically placed on a team.</i></p> <p><i>**Leagues based on player age as of July 31, 2006</i></p>
March 18th – Noon-4PM		Mandatory Boys Managers' Meeting & Equipment Pick-up – Northwest Family Recreation Center
April 1st – 10:00AM		WABL Umpire Clinic – Hardesty Park
April 1st		WABL Practice season begins
April 24th		Boys' baseball games start
April 29th	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, April 29th.	
April 29th	Girls' picture day – 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM ALL Teams – I League Girls will be getting pictures along with the I League Boys on Saturday, April 29th.	
May 3rd		Girls' softball games start
June TBA		WABL Day with the Akron Racers at Firestone Stadium
June TBA		Girls' Softball All-Star Games at Firestone Stadium
June 11th – Game Time: 2:05 PM		WABL Day with the Akron Aeros at Canal Park
June 17th		2006 ANNUAL WABL GOLF OUTING and FUNDRAISER – Mayfair Country Club
June 24th		Boys' baseball playoffs start
June 27th		Girls' softball playoffs start
July 4th		Independence Day No Games
July 8th		2006 DAY of CHAMPS games and parade
July 12th		Boys' Baseball All-Star Games
July 14th		Boys' Baseball All-Star Games (makeup date)
August 5th – 10AM - 12PM		Mandatory Equipment Drop-off - Northwest Family Recreation Center
September 9th – 10AM - 12PM		Mandatory Equipment Drop-off - Northwest Family Recreation Center
September 23rd – 12:00PM - 1:30PM		Tryouts for the Lady Shedevils 12U and 14U - Northwest Family Recreation Center Field

2005 "I" LEAGUE BOYS AND GIRLS

WABL I League Report
By Bob Renner, I League Commissioner

WABL I League had another fun and successful year with 9 full teams and 108 total players. 2005 started out with the merging of the 6-8 year old girls with the I League boys. Approximately 8-10 girls played on the various I League teams this year. The girls did very well and enjoyed playing.

The weather in April started out very wet with several practices canceled, but the sun came out starting in May enabling almost all of the 20 game schedules for each team to be played. All the players progressed significantly throughout the year and learned the very basic fundamentals of the game. Most importantly, everyone had fun and enjoyed the playing the game of baseball. My sincere appreciation to all the players, coaches, and parents making this year a very successful year for the WABL I League.



SOFTBALL

Last season there were seven WABL teams that played softball against teams from Copley, Revere and Highland. Thanks to all of the team managers and their assistants for your time, hard work, and patience. Without you, this season would not have been possible. Parents, you deserve a round of applause as well. You made sure that your children got to practices and games and provided the all important drinks and snacks. Thank you for your support and encouragement. We can't forget the umpires who do their best to interpret the rules and call the games as fairly as possible. Thank you all for a job well done.

There were two American League teams, two National League teams, and three Junior League teams. The addition of the teams from Highland made the season more fun

for the girls because they had fewer games against the same teams.

WABL Day 2005 at Firestone Stadium was another success. It featured the Akron Racers playing an exhibition game against The Venezuelan National Team followed by an autograph session. The All Star games for the American, National, and Junior Leagues were after that. It was a fun day for everyone.

Two of the WABL Junior League teams finished first and second in the standings. The team coached by Cindy Alkire was percentage champs with Steve Wilde's team finishing a close second. It turned out to be an all WABL championship game. The same two teams played on The Day of Champs with Steve's team winning. It was an excellent, hard fought game that could have gone either way.

LADY SHEDEVILS

This year the Shedevels travel ball program experienced a great season and even expanded its teams to include 12U players. This increased our team numbers to four. Great job goes to the coaches – Marc Cardarelli, Randy Salyer, Cindy Alkire and Wayne Dickerson for heading up the teams. A special thanks to all the sponsors involved with the Shedevels.

2005 SRIRT OF WABL

Each league awards the Spirit of WABL trophy to the player who personifies the spirit of what the West Akron Baseball League stands for. The recipient receives a plaque with his/her award and name on it to keep and their name is placed on the trophy.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Dick Mapes Award:
2005 Recipient—Susan Salyer

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Jim Daly Award:
2005 Recipient—Cristin Reed

JUNIOR LEAGUE

Dick Gross Award:
2005 Recipient—Katy Alkire

H LEAGUE

Bill Dunningham Award:
2005 Recipient—Marcus Anderson

G LEAGUE

Fred Maggio Award:
2005 Recipient—Claude Christensen-Diehl

F LEAGUE

Kurt Klein Award:
2005 Recipient—Kyle Brett

MESSAGE FROM THE OUT GOING PRESIDENT

The 2004/2005 WABL Board performed fantastic things for our kids this year. The board worked hard to obtain and secure grants, donations, gifts, and equipment to better the program. A grant was obtained for approximately \$27,000 from the City of Akron to complete the Shatto benches, fence, and construction of a new batting cage for our kids. We obtained an additional \$5,000 from a benefactor to purchase pitching machines for both the boys and girls along with the accessories.

This could not have happened without the Board, the City of Akron Engineers, the City of Parks and Recreation, the City Service Director, and our Councilman – Bob Keith. We obtained a grant to receive 60 new batting helmets with face guards from the Ohio Ophthalmological Society valued

at \$35 per helmet. Please thank Dave Celik and his committee for working on this project over the past two years. We worked with Hot Stove to create a partnership to help our F League boys. Tim Campbell was instrumental in getting this project done.

Members repaired and painted the storage boxes and obtained dirt. Please also thank the Firestone Band, the Firestone Baseball Team for concessions, APD, AFD, all our sponsors, the Aeros, the Racers, and most importantly the Board, coaches, and all behind the scenes for doing such a great job!

Sincerely,
Bruce Clough

Fundraiser RECAP

AKRON AEROS' FUNDRAISER

The Aeros' Fundraiser is in its second season and went very well. A great group of WABL fans enjoyed the parade and game on Fathers Day, June 19, 2005. Please thank Matt Kurilec from the Aeros and Scott Cooper for their help. I expect next season to be even better.

AKRON RACERS' FUNDRAISER / ALL-STAR GAMES

The Racers' Fundraiser and All Star Games went very smoothly as always. This is the 5th season that we have had a Racers' day for the girls. It has grown each year. Everyone enjoyed a pro game with the Racers' and a meet and greet for autographs after. The All Star Games for each league followed at the main field and gave all the girls great memories. Please thank Joey Arietta, Cathy Hale and Gary Mankowski for making this project happen. We hope to see all the girls here again next season.

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!



2005 WABL SPONSORS – THANK YOU!

DCO International, Inc. - Marc Ganz
 ADM Services Board
 Andy's Trophies & Awards
 Akron Aeros
 BAC Construction
 Brockman, Coats, Gedelian & Co.
 Brouse McDowell
 Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs
 By Design Sportswear
 Crawford & Crawford
 Cutler/GMAC Real Estate – Patti Renner
 Dicks Clothing & Sporting Goods
 Greg Santos Photography
 H & M Lawn Care

Hanna, Campbell & Powell, LLP
 Holland Oil Co.
 How to Construction
 Illumetek
 InfiniteParadigm
 Janna Industries
 JG Pads
 Jack Duffy & Assoc. Inc.
 Jim Laria, Clerk of Courts
 Judge Edna J. Boyle
 Judge Alison McCarty
 Judge Kathy Culver
 Kastner, Westman & Wilkins LLC
 Knights' Runners Club

Lew's Plumbing & Drain Co.
 MED Group
 MJ Beaven Agency
 National City
 Ruch Chiropractic & Massage Therapy
 Safelite AutoGlass
 Scolaro
 Stagecoach Antiques
 Summa Orthopaedics
 Swenson's Restaurants
 The Caterers by Papparazzi's
 Trifiro Painting
 Zazo's Sand Run Pizza, Wings & More...

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Akro-Mils for Powder Coating the field boxes – www.akro-mils.com

WABL 2005 Benefactor: Timothy C. Campbell, Akron, OH – \$500.00

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



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

VP BOYS REPORT

I'm excited to be taking over this year as Vice President for the boys' program. Randy Salyer did a great job last year and certainly made my role as H League Commissioner much easier. Thank you, Randy.

I grew up in Akron, and after spending 8 years on the West Coast, I returned home in 2004. I played in WABL from I League all the way through E League, and those have always been my finest memories. My life as a child absolutely revolved around those summers spent playing little league. I contacted WABL about coaching opportunities as soon as I

moved back to Akron, and here I am a year later, taking over as boys' VP. I'm very appreciative of this opportunity, and I want to stress that my focus is on the finer points of baseball: good sportsmanship, fairness, fun, and learning a little something about both baseball and life. That means learning not only how to win, but learning how to lose as well. I hope to see a lot of participation in this wonderful program in 2006 and in the years to come. Good luck to everyone this year!

Jason Woodruff, VP Boys' Baseball

2005 H League Review

We added four games to each team's schedule in 2005, and with the relatively dry summer, we were able to play a lot of baseball. We lost a few teams this year, and that made for stiffer competition and an exciting season. The Reds, coached by Peter Skove, won the Bob Feller Division with a 16-5 record, finishing just a game ahead of Jim Eberly's Orioles.

The Tigers, coached by Gregg McKeever, won the Rocky Colavito Division with a 16-5 record. With three teams over a .700 winning percentage, playoff competition was heated, especially among some of the underdogs. After surviving a double-elimination format, the Dodgers, coached by Mark Constance, faced off against the Tigers for the H League Day of Champs title. By the end of an amazing game, the Tigers had outpaced the Dodgers 5-1.

Congratulations to all the teams for a wonderful season; to all the players for their hard work, practice, and sportsmanship; to all the coaches for their hard work and patience throughout the season; to all the parents for their support and selfless dedication; and last but not least, to all the umpires for doing a very difficult, and sometimes thankless job. Special thanks to all the assistant coaches and parents who gave that little extra effort by helping in any way that they could.

The eight teams (and their coaches) that made up the 2005 H League were as follows: A's (Mike Wear), Aeros (Steve Null), Dodgers (Mark Constance), Giants (Brian Kovalchick), Orioles (Jim Eberly), Reds (Peter Skove), Sox (Fred Carque), and Tigers (Gregg McKeever).

Jason Woodruff, H League Commissioner

2005 G League Review

G League consists of 11 and 12 year olds, and this year there was 1 division with 7 teams. The Trifiro Painting A's, coached by Mike Cianciola, led the division with a 19-2 record, followed by the Browse McDowell Dodgers, coached by Kevin McIntyre, with a 17-4 record.

The other teams and their coaches were the Greg Santos Photography Yankees, coached by Don Coughlin; Judge Kathy Culver Twins, coached by Chris Miller; Jim Laria, Clerk of Courts

Phillies, coached by Paul Tharan; The Scolaro Pirates, coached by Marc Cardarelli; and the How to Construction Indians were managed by Ray Spannbauer. In the Day of Champs game, the Dodgers beat the A's for the Championship.

Thank you to all the parents, players, and coaches who helped make this year very successful.

Paul Tharan, G League Commissioner

2005 F League Review

Last year, WABL's four F-League (13-14) teams played in the North Akron Chapter of Ohio Hot Stove. Some call it travel ball without the travel. Although very good, all of the teams are roster, not travel teams. One of WABL's teams (Royals) finished at .500. The Tigers were not far behind. The Reds and Yankees didn't do so well. However, both the Tigers and Yankees won their semi-final WABL playoff games, and participated in a well-played, hard fought, exciting championship game which was won by the Yankees. The Tigers had two men on base in the 7th inning which ended when their batter hit a "rocket" to the Yankees second baseman who turned it into the 3rd and final out of the game.

WABL is going to continue its F-League affiliation with Ohio Hot Stove Baseball again this year. However, changes are in the works. Most of the Hot Stove teams (from North Akron, Stow, Hudson, Mogadore, and Goodyear Heights) are mostly 13-year-old or 14-year-old teams. Last year's WABL teams were, as usual,

a combination of 13 and 14-years-olds. This year we are in the process of working out a procedure to field teams which are primarily made up of either 13 or 14-year-olds.

Yet, the best thing about Hot Stove is that it is an all-inclusive, roster team league. As such, Ohio Hot Stove Baseball is philosophically very close to that of the average recreational league. As our players get older, the better ones end up playing high school baseball and beyond. Participation drops off because most players don't have anywhere to play. WABL's F-League (and this year EE-League affiliation) rectifies that situation.

Should anyone have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please contact F-League Commissioner Tim Campbell at (330) 670-7312 or tcampbell@hcplaw.net.

Tim Campbell, F League Commissioner