



WELCOME TO THE 2008 SEASON!

www.wabl.org

Hello WABL fans,

I want to thank all the children, parents, coaches, umpires, board members, sponsors, and the community for their support and participation during our 50th anniversary and 2007 season.

I'm excited to take over as President of WABL and continue the work of my predecessors. It is an honor to serve my community in such a capacity and I will do my best to lead this program into the future.

WABL has been a non-profit organization in service for West Akron children since 1957, and we continue to serve the largest number of children participating in roster ball around the area. We have every intention of continuing our WABL program traditions and will adjust as needed to keep us viable. Our program will remain strong, reliable, and stable when moving into the future with the largest number of children in

mind. WABL has a wonderful group of children playing ball, with coaches that are willing to teach the game plus its life lessons while putting the interest of our players first.

Our WABL sponsors are fantastic and continue to contribute to our program, even under challenging economic times. If you are interested in volunteering for the WABL program please contact us, because we welcome your help and ideas.

Thank you all for your continued support of the West Akron Baseball & Softball League, let's continue to work together to keep America's Great Pastime a reality.

Sincerely,
Edward B. Foster,
WABL President



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 2007 sponsors. Please patronize these businesses that have so generously supported WABL. If you are interested in sponsoring a team for the 2008 season, please contact **Doug Bryson at By Design Sportswear: 330-867-9029.**

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A quick reminder...

If you know of any children between the ages of 6 and 14 that are interested in playing softball or baseball, please have them contact us for more information, at our mailing address or at info@westakronbaseballleague.org.

2008 WABL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Edward Foster
V.P. Administration	Pamela Foster
V.P. Fields.....	John Heffern
V.P. Finance	Bob Heffern
V.P. Personnel, Boys Baseball.....	James Daniels
V.P. Personnel, Girls Softball	Christopher O'Connell

V.P. Sponsors	Doug Bryson
V.P. Uniforms	Doug Bryson
V.P. Web Services and Communications.....	Scott Cooper

Please feel free to contact any of the officers listed above with your comments, complaints, compliments, or questions.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUT GOING PRESIDENT

Out with the old and in with the new! My reign as WABL President has come to an end, so I've passed the gavel on. Serving as WABL President for the past two years was an interesting and exciting time for me.

As my first year began, I jumped right in preparing for the upcoming season while learning my Presidential duties. The 2006 season was a good year for us, but I was looking forward to an even better 2007 season. Last year's season was a special one for WABL, because it marked the 50th Anniversary of the West Akron Baseball and Softball League. Not only did we have to prepare for another season, we also had to plan special events to commemorate such a momentous occasion.

We had many 50th Anniversary events throughout the 2007 season; our first event was the dedication of Resnik Field (formerly Fairlawn Field), and we'd like to thank our special guests, including Councilman Bob Keith and the Akron Aeros mascot, Orbit. Other new and special events during the 2007 season to help celebrate 50 years of WABL included: a reverse raffle and dinner, a 50th Anniversary Celebration with the Akron Aeros with fireworks after the game, and a WABL alumni picnic and game.

As always, 2007 still had our regular WABL activities such as player registration, team tryouts and draft, WABL Day with the Akron Aeros and the Akron Racers, our annual golf outing scramble, baseball and softball playoffs, and the grand finale Day of Champs parade and games. I'd like to thank our special guests, including Mayor Don Plusquellic, Councilman Bob Keith, and WABL Alumni Jim Daly, who took time from their busy schedules to help WABL celebrate its 50th year by participating in our Day of Champs events.

Thanks to the families, coaches, children, Firestone High School Band, the Al-Kaf Youth Group, our sponsors, and all who have given their support throughout the years to make WABL what it is today. Also, thanks to the WABL board members that supported me through thick and thin during my term as President.

Lastly, the time is near for another WABL season to begin, so let's rally round the ball fields for another successful year. Play ball!

Yours in sports,
-Pamela J. Foster, V.P. of Administration

★ WABL FUNDRAISERS ★

The West Akron Baseball & Softball League holds exciting fundraising events each year that are open to our WABL parents, coaches, volunteers, and the general public. This season's events are the Annual Golf Outing Scramble and the Annual Reverse Raffle/Dinner. These events are important to WABL's success and help keep our league fees affordable for player participation and our sponsorship amounts reasonable. We encourage you to participate and find others that would also like to do so, and help keep our organization financially strong.

Thank you,
Bob Heffern, Vice President-Finance

THE 8th ANNUAL WABL GOLF SCRAMBLE

WHEN: Saturday, June 14, 2008
WHERE: Mayfair Country Club
2229 Raber Road
Uniontown, Ohio 44685

TIME: 1:00 PM Check-In
2:00 PM Shotgun Start

COST: \$75.00 per person (includes green fees)

Dinner, soda & beer are included in the price. Prizes for longest drive, closest to the pin, and 50/50 raffle. Skins will be optional.

ALL RESERVATIONS TO PLAY MUST BE IN AND PAID BY:
SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2008

MAIL PAYMENT TO & MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WABL:
West Akron Baseball & Softball League (WABL)
P.O. Box 5751
Akron, OH 44372-5751

MORE INFO: www.WABL.org/golf/

THE 2nd ANNUAL WABL REVERSE RAFFLE

WHEN: Friday, July 11, 2008
WHERE: St. Sebastian – Zwisler Hall
476 Mull Ave.
Akron, Ohio 44320

TIME: 6:00 pm

COST: \$75.00 per ticket (plus \$20.00 for an additional dinner)
ONLY 200 tickets available!

PRIZES:

- Grand Prize – \$1,200.00
- Two 50/50 sideboards
- Every 25th ticket pulled will receive \$50.00
- Every current WABL player whose parent purchases a ticket will receive a bat bag

EVENT INCLUDES: Buffet Dinner with Beer, Wine, Soda, and Coffee available

MAIL PAYMENT TO & MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO WABL:

West Akron Baseball & Softball League (WABL)
1235 Romaine Drive
Akron, OH 44313-5835

MORE INFO: www.WABL.org/raffle/

2008 WABL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2nd – Noon-2PM

Walk-in sign ups Northwest Family Recreation Center

February 6th – 6-8PM

Walk-in sign ups Northwest Family Recreation Center

February 9th – 10AM-Noon

Walk-in sign ups Northwest Family Recreation Center

ORBIT, the Akron Aeros' #1 Fan & Mascot, is going to be on-hand today during WABL registrations, come on down!

February 9th

Mail-in Registration deadline

March 8th – 8:30AM - 3:30PM

Boys' Baseball & Girls' Softball Try-outs/Draft*
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Leagues based on player age as of July 31, 2008

Boys' age groups include:	Girls' age groups include:
Instructional League (ages 6-8)*	Instructional League (ages 6-8)*
H League (ages 9-10) 1:30 – 3:00 PM	American League (ages 9-10) 8:30 – 9:30 AM
G League (ages 11-12) 1:00 – 2:00 PM	National League (ages 11-12) 9:30 – 10:30 AM
F League (ages 13-14) 10:30 – 11:30 AM	Junior League (ages 13-14) 9:00 – 10:00 AM
Chronological Schedule:	
American League (ages 9-10) 8:30 – 9:30 AM	
Junior League (ages 13-14) 9:00 – 10:00 AM	
National League (ages 11-12) 9:30 – 10:30 AM	
F League (ages 13-14) 10:30 – 11:30 AM	
Break 12:00 – 1:00 PM	
G League (ages 11-12) 1:00 – 2:00 PM	
H League (ages 9-10) 1:30 – 3:00 PM	

**There are NO H League Boys/Girls tryouts on Saturday, March 8th. ALL H League players will be automatically placed on a team.*

March 22nd – Noon-4PM

Mandatory Baseball & Softball Managers' Meeting & Equipment Pick-up @ Balch Street Recreation Center

March 31st

WABL Practice season begins

April 26th – 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM - ALL Teams

WABL picture day
Northwest Family Recreation Center

April 28th

Boys' baseball games start

May 2nd

Girls' softball games start

May 11th

Mother's Day No Games

June 1st – Game Time: 2:05 PM

WABL Day with the Akron Aeros @ Canal Park

June 14th – 1:00PM Check-In • 2:00PM Shotgun Start

2008 ANNUAL WABL GOLF OUTING & FUNDRAISER
Mayfair Country Club • 2229 Rober Road • Uniontown, Ohio 44685
800.262.6891

June 15th

Father's Day No Games

June 25th

Boys' baseball playoffs start

June 26th

Girls' softball playoffs start

July 4th

Independence Day No Games

July 5th

WABL Day with the Akron Racers @ Firestone Stadium

July 5th

Girls Softball All-Star Games @ Firestone Stadium

July 11th – 6:00 PM

2008 ANNUAL WABL REVERSE RAFFLE & FUNDRAISER
St. Sebastian – Zwisler Hall • 476 Mull Ave. • Akron, Ohio 44320

July 12th

2008 DAY of CHAMPS games and parade

July 16th

Boys' Baseball All-Star Games

July 18th

Boys' Baseball All-Star Games (makeup date)

August 2nd – 10AM -12PM

Mandatory Equipment Drop-off
Northwest Family Recreation Center

September 6th – 10AM -12PM

Mandatory Equipment Drop-off
Northwest Family Recreation Center

September 20th – 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Tryouts for the Lady Shedevils 12U and 14U
Northwest Family Recreation Center Field (Shatto)

2007 WABL SPONSORS – THANK YOU!

Advanced Auto Glass
Akron Aeros
Akron Barber College
All Packaging Services
Andy's Trophies & Awards
Anthe's Restaurant
B.W.I Engineering, Inc.
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs
By Design Sportswear
Chem Technologies, Ltd.
Citadel Financial Group, LLC
Councilman Bob Keith
CP & Sons Landscaping
Dicks Clothing & Sporting Goods
Dies Electric

Ferguson & Hanlon
First Nations Title
Flohr Machine Co.
Great Lakes Installation
Greg Santos Photography
H & M Lawn Care
Hanna, Campbell & Powell, LLP
InfiniteParadigm
JG Pads
Jim Laria - Clerk of Courts
Judge Alison McCarty
Judge Beth Whitmore
Judge Eve Belfance
Judge Kathryn Michael
MEDGroup

National City
Oscar's Body Shop
Play It Again Sports
Player's Choice
Robert J. Events and Catering
Safelite AutoGlass
Scanlon & Gearinger Co., LPA
Scorchers in the Valley
Squires & Sanders, LLC
Stagecoach Antiques
Swenson's Restaurants
The Akron Legal News
Titan Transportation, Inc.
Wadsworth Family Physical Therapy
West Akron Kiwanis
Zack's Frozen Yogurt & Ice Cream

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Don Plusquellic, Mayor
Bob Keith, Councilman Ward 8
Richard Merolla, Director of Public Service
John Valle, Deputy Director of Public Service
WABL alumnus Jim Daley
2007 WABL Sponsor of the Year: Leo Walter – Stagecoach Antiques
Dave Celik
Jim Pulk
Jeff Sloan
The Northwest Family Recreation Center and its friendly staff
The City of Akron Recreation Bureau who issues our ball field permits
The City of Akron Police Department, Fire Department, and EMS for lending their support at our Day of Champs Parade

The Firestone High School Marching Band and AKKaf Youth Group for their participation in our Day of Champs parade
The Firestone High School Baseball program for providing refreshing concession services
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Summit Christian Church
The parents of all of our players
The coaches and assistant coaches for all of their time and patience
Andy's Trophies for all of the wonderful awards
All of our fantastic sponsors who keep us going
The Akron Aeros
The Akron Racers
AND all those we forgot to mention but greatly appreciate

WEST AKRON BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LEAGUE (WABL) WEBSITE – WWW.WABL.ORG



Thanks for making WABL's 50th Anniversary a special year. The 2007 Season was a busy one for everyone on the Board of Directors and for me it was a year I will never forget. I continue to be excited about being a part of this great organization and working to improve upon it.

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.

Please stay tuned as our site continues to improve and mature alongside our WABL players. We remain working on a brand NEW version of the WABL website. We understand that there has been a delay in bringing this new technology to the forefront, but we have the best interest of WABL at heart, and don't want to rush a poor product out into the public. Our volunteer programmers are working hard in their spare time to deliver this new tool, and are eager to launch when we have it perfected.

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. Cheers to a fantastic upcoming 2008 Season, plus best of luck to all of WABL!

-Scott A. Cooper, Vice President-Communications & Web Services

2007 V.P. OF BOYS BASEBALL REPORT

The 2007 season was a very special year for our organization. It marked the 50th anniversary of WABL: man, woman, and child working together to build a community-based baseball and softball program that enriches the lives of all involved. From Board members to coaches, community leaders to sponsors, and parents to kids – all did their part to make our 50th year a huge success. For this I am deeply grateful.

Now, as we move into the 2008 season, I would like to challenge each and every person affiliated with WABL to give just a little bit more of themselves in order to make the next fifty years even bigger and better. I know that

there is greatness in our organization, and that it requires a whole community to bring out its full potential.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for being a major part of the success of WABL, and to thank you in advance for an even brighter future for our organization.

-James Daniels, V.P. of Baseball



2007 H-LEAGUE REPORT

2007 was WABL's fiftieth anniversary year, and it proved to be yet another great season for our H-League. We two divisions this year, with five teams in each:

Bob Feller Division

MEDGroup Indians, managed by Brian Kovalchick
Zack's Frozen Yogurt A's, managed by Dave Kormushoff
Wadsworth Family Phys. Therapy Orioles, managed by Ed Buehrle
Robert J. Events & Catering Pirates, managed by Dion Seminatore
Advanced Auto Glass Reds, managed by Scott Diese

Rocky Colavito Division

Safelite Auto Glass Aeros, managed by Scott Ouellette
JG Pads Cardinals, managed by John Renner
Oscar's Body Shop Dodgers, managed by Sean Yost
Jim Laria, Clerk of Courts Phillies, managed by Jerry Williams Jr.
National City Bank Yankees, managed by Paul Perantinides

We enjoyed a very nice season, with the playoffs culminating on our Day of Champions in a game of division winners. The Indians, finishing with a record of 14-1, ended up losing to the Phillies, who completed their regular season with a record of 13-3 and took home the Champions trophy.

I would like to thank all of our sponsors, without whom our season would not have been possible. Much appreciation as well goes to the coaches and assistants, whose time and efforts mean so much to our players and our league. Finally, I would like to thank the parents and families of our players for their support – it goes a long way towards enriching the lives of these great kids.

We look forward to yet another great season in 2008 as WABL continues to improve and to expand. Thanks again to all for helping make our 2007 season a success!

-Dion Seminatore, H League Commissioner

2007 G-LEAGUE REPORT

G-League consists of 11 and 12-year-old players, and for the 2007 season we had one division with a total of seven teams: the Chem Technologies LTD Indians, managed by Anthony Purefoy; the Squires and Sanders LLC Reds, managed by Jim Eberly; the Great Lakes Installation Phillies, managed by Paul Tharan; the Greg Santos Photography Cardinals, managed by Mark Constance; the Swenson's Restaurants A's, managed by Eric Johnson; the Andy's Trophies & Awards Aeros, managed by Chris Pfeiffer; and the Buckingham, Doolittle, & Borroughs Yankees, managed by Jeff Davis.

Each team played three division games, plus one home game and one away game against Green, for a total of twenty

games. It was a very exciting race in which the Indians finished a perfect season at 19-0, and the Phillies came in second place with a record of 15-5. And then for the playoffs, we used a double elimination format. Two very strong teams met for the final game on the Day of Champions; it was a great game in which the Indians came from behind to defeat the Reds by a score of 14-6.

I would like to thank all of the coaches, players, parents, fans, and sponsors that made this a very successful fiftieth year for WABL.

-Paul Tharan, G League Commissioner

2007 F-LEAGUE REPORT

The 2007 WABL season continued a three-year affiliation with the North Akron Chapter of Ohio Hot Stove Baseball. WABL sponsored two teams in F-League, one made up primarily of 14 year olds and the second consisting primarily of 13 year olds.

This year's F-League teams were the Aeros, sponsored by the Akron Aeros and managed by Kevin Gruber, and the Indians, sponsored by B.W.L. Engineering and managed by Jesse Cathey.

In addition to North Akron, communities such as Goodyear Heights, Firestone Park, Hudson, Stow, Tallmadge, and Mogadore routinely compete in Hot Stove. Our teams play both home and away games with all other teams in the league. It is anticipated that most of the F-League home games for the 2008 season will be played at Perkins No. 2, which is presently undergoing renovation.

Thanks for your interest and your support. 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.

2007 EE-LEAGUE REPORT

In 2007, WABL expanded it's affiliation with the North Akron Chapter of Ohio Hot Stove Baseball by sponsoring two EE-League teams for the first time. The North Akron Chapter of Ohio Hot Stove consists of teams of 15 and 16 year olds from northeastern Ohio, including the communities of North Akron, Ellet, Ravenna, Springfield, Mogadore, Crestwood, Aurora, and Kenmore. The games are played on full-size fields such as Summit Lake Park, and require the use of -3 bats (Ohio High School Athletic Association standard). Last season, one of WABL's two teams was made up almost exclusively of Firestone High School freshmen and sophomores.

This year's EE-League teams were the Greens, managed by Tim Campbell, and the Falcons, managed by Chris Fuller.

This year, with the cooperation of Firestone High School, we are working on arrangements for the EE-League home games to be played at the brand new Firestone High School baseball field. Ohio Hot Stove EE-League does not start until after school ends in June, yet completes a busy 18-20 game season by mid-July.

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.

2007 I-LEAGUE REPORT

I-League had another fun and successful year in 2007, with 13 full teams and approximately 150 players aged 6-8. Interest in the league is surely growing, as this represents an increase of 3 full teams and 30 players over 2005. This was the second year that girls have been included on teams with the boys, and we had 10 girls play this season in I-League.

In 2007, WABL I-League included the following teams:

Dies Electric A's, managed by Bob Renner
First Nations Title Aeros, managed by Rob Lord
Player's Choice Cardinals, managed by James Donohue
All Packaging Services Dodgers, managed by James Weber
Judge Kathryn Michael Indians, managed by Justin Herideen
Judge Beth Whitmore Orioles, managed by Mathew Beaven
CP & Sons Landscaping Phillies, managed by Chris Pfeiffer
Ferguson & Hanlon Pirates, managed by Augie Micozzi
Judge Eve Belfance Rangers, managed by Jamie Daniels
Stagecoach Antiques Reds, managed by Sean Walter
Councilman Bob Keith Sox, managed by Mike Jozic
Judge Allison McCarty Tigers, managed by Mike Wear
West Akron Kiwanis Yankees, managed by Dan Gunther

The weather was, for the most part, cooperative with us this season, with only a few games rained out. But the sun finally came out starting in June, enabling most of the scheduled games to be played. All of this year's players progressed significantly throughout the year as they learned the very basic fundamentals of the game of baseball. Most importantly, everyone had fun and enjoyed playing this game!

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all of the players, coaches, and parents who helped make 2007 a very successful year for WABL's I-League.

-Bob Renner, I League Commissioner



V.P. OF GIRLS SOFTBALL REPORT

During the 2007 season, WABL fielded a total of five teams, spanning three leagues, and playing teams from Copley, Revere, and Highland. I would like to thank the sponsors of our softball teams, as they made our season possible:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

WABL #1 (*Racers*), sponsored by Buckingham, Doolittle, & Burroughs, and managed by Jennifer Wilson

NATIONAL LEAGUE

WABL #1 (*Force*), sponsored by West Akron Kiwanis, and managed by Paul Wilkinson

WABL #2 (*Racers*), sponsored by Citadel Financial Group LLC, and managed by Jim Diestel

JUNIOR LEAGUE

WABL #1 (*Racers*), sponsored by Scanlon & Gearing Co., LPA, and managed by Rocky Laubscher

WABL #2 (*Force*), sponsored by Flohr Machine Co., and managed by Pete Drouhard

Many thanks to all the managers and assistants for your time, hard work, and patience! We always appreciate, the parents' support, encouragement, and carpool duties. We cannot forget to thank the umpires as well; they always do their best to interpret the rules and call the games as fairly as possible. Again, special thanks to our coaches for their time and their dedication to supporting our young ladies of West Akron.

The WABL Softball program has steadily improved over the years, and the organization continues to make the necessary adjustments to make it better each year. The 2008 season looks very promising, and we look forward to yet another great year! See you at Spring Training!

-Christopher O'Connell, V.P. of Girls Softball



2007 V.P. OF UMPIRES REPORT

Players and parents of WABL,

I would like to take the time to thank each one of you for helping my umpires and I make WABL the best place for you to play. In the two years that I was Chief of Umpires, we made great strides. But I, along with my umpires, didn't do it alone. You all were a large part of our success in creating a positive environment which fostered our

enjoyment of youth sports. I am very confident that my successor will have similar achievements that I had as Chief of Umpires.

Let us all continue to remember why we are apart of WABL, and why West Akron is the best place to play youth sports.

Thank you all again,
Mike Dies, V.P. of Umpires

WABL MEMORIAL FUNDS

You may have already noticed on our website or seen in the paper that the West Akron Baseball & Softball League has two new Memorial Funds. Before the beginning of the 2008 season, WABL lost two very special people that meant a lot to our organization: Tracey L. Foster (1991-2008), and Thomas P. Sherlock (1944-2007). This season is dedicated to them, and the memorial funds are a great way for all of us to honor them. **Please use an online donation form to make a contribution to one or both funds at www.WABL.org, or mail a check payable to WABL at P.O. Box 5751, Akron, OH 44372-5751.** Your gift will be very much appreciated and fully deductible as a charitable contribution.

Thank you,
Scott A. Cooper, Vice-President-Communications & Web Services