

Welcome to the 2011 Season!



Happy New Year WABL fans,

What a year WABL had in 2010! There were many exciting reasons to be a WABL fan. In 2010, WABL had T-Ball for the first time in our history. What a huge success it was - not only for WABL, but for the 150+ boys and girls that participated. Thank you to T-Ball commissioners Kevin Floyd and Jim Weber, along with all of the coaches and parents who helped make our first season of T-Ball so successful. WABL also launched a new website. You can find all of the WABL news that you need including photos, schedules, standings, rosters, and much more by visiting www.wabl.org. Also in 2010, WABL introduced the West Akron Americans, our tournament teams. Like anything new, there were some bumps along the way and it was a learning process. We are committed to this program and we will continue to work hard to make the necessary improvements and provide our boys with this great opportunity. The 2010 season was capped off with an outstanding Day of Champs celebration. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this possible.

The WABL Board and I are eager to start the 2011 season. I personally want to let all of you know that WABL appreciates everyone's time and effort that goes in to a successful season. Our WABL board members are a team of fantastic and hard working people who makes sure the business side of WABL runs smoothly, but we need more help to grow our board and create

more committees. The primary areas they oversee include: finances, sponsors, baseball & softball operations, fields, administration, umpires, uniforms, rules, publications, public relations, equipment, insurance and fund raisers. If you are interested in helping, we'd be more than happy to have you. Just contact us via the WABL web site, call a board member, or just simply check the "WABL Board" box on this year's registration form.

The 2011 calendar of events has changed slightly from last year, so please check it out so that you are aware of all important dates. WABL Day with the Akron Aeros is an enjoyable event that provides those who attend a chance to see the Aeros play and hang out with our WABL players and their families. We provide 3 tickets for each player in the league. There are special events provided for our players, the biggest of which is a parade around Canal Park prior to the game. WABL has a similar outing for our Girls Softball program, where we attend an Akron Racers game and provide three tickets for each of our softball players. There is also the annual golf outing/scramble: 18 holes of golf, fun and prizes.

Lastly, I appreciate any feedback, even if it isn't always positive. Your input will help us continue to improve our league for the future. Thanks again for all your help!

Sincerely,
Mike Dies, - WABL President - mikedies@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 2010 sponsors. Please patronize these businesses that have so generously supported WABL. If you are interested in sponsoring a team for the 2011 season, please contact Doug Bryson at By Design Sportswear: 330-867-9029.

A QUICK REMINDER...

If you know of any children between the ages of 5 and 18 that are interested in playing Tee-Ball, Softball or Baseball, please have them contact us for more information at our mailing address or at www.WABL.org.

★ 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 event will only consist of the Annual Golf Outing Scramble. Events such as these 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

★ GOLF OUTING REPORT ★

THANK YOU to the participants and to the Hospitality Sponsors for WABL's 10th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser. It was a beautiful afternoon for a round of golf, AND a successful fundraiser for WABL! This year, we had more participation and an increase in sponsorship, a key factor in making this our only fundraiser for the season. WABL has been a favorite childhood memory and formative experience for many people growing up in the Akron area for the past 53 years. Due to the continued support from the community and the generosity of sponsors and donors, that tradition continues today. Through our fundraising efforts, WABL has been able to keep the participation fees the same for over 10 years. This golf outing continues to be a program helps to defray some of the increased costs of equipment, field maintenance, field permits, etc.... and your help and participation more important than ever, as these costs continue to grow.

Thank you again to the following Hospitality Sponsors for the 10th Annual WABL Golf Outing Scramble:

Akron Legal News, By Design Sportswear, Logistic Concepts, Play It Again Sports, Prime at Anthe's, and Thomas Presper. A special thank you also goes to Ed and Pam Foster for their coordination and preparation of the dinner following the outing.

We are looking forward to planning the 11th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser, so save the date — June 18th, on your calendar.

We will be changing the time & format of the golf outing for this year by having a shot gun start at 8:30am rather than a later afternoon start. This will allow WABL to have exclusive use and be the only golf outing on the course in the morning. During the cold, drab winter months, your children can work on their baseball swings while you work on your golf swing and get your foursome together. We hope to see you there and to once again increase attendance... **"PLAY GOLF!"**

2011 WABL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....Mike Dies
 VP of Administration..... Carol Weber
 VP of Finance.....Bob Heffern
 VP of Personel, Baseball..... Jamie Daniels
 VP of Equipment..... Kevin Floyd
 VP of Fields.....John Heffern
 VP of Umpires..... Sara Roxbury

VP of Post Season..... Augie Micozzi
 VP of Web Services.....Brad Carr
 VP of Sponsors and Uniforms.....Doug Bryson

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

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic
 Akron City Council
 2010 WABL Sponsor of the Year: Ken Dies, Dies Electric
 2010 WABL Volunteer of the Year: Augie Micozzi
 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 for their participation in
 our Day of Champs parade

The Firestone High School Baseball program for providing
 refreshing concession services
 Saint Sebastian Parish
 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

★☆☆☆ 2011 WABL CALENDAR OF EVENTS ☆☆☆★

January 29th	10AM-Noon	WALK-IN SIGN UPS <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
February 5th	10AM-Noon	WALK-IN SIGN UPS <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
February 9th	6-8PM	WALK-IN SIGN UPS <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
February 14th	MAIL-IN REGISTRATION DEADLINE	
February 19th	10AM-Noon	WALK-IN SIGN UPS <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
February 23rd	6-8PM	WALK-IN SIGN UPS <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
March 5th	10AM-Noon	WALK-IN SIGN UPS <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
March 19th	12:00PM-6:00PM	BOYS' BASEBALL & GIRLS' SOFTBALL TRY-OUTS/DRAFT* <i>St. Sebastian Byrider Hall</i>
Boys' age groups include:		Girls' age groups include:
Instructional League (ages 6-8)*		Instructional League (ages 6-8)*
H League (ages 9-10)** 3:00 – 5:30 PM		American League (ages 9-10)** 12:00 – 1:00 PM
G League (ages 11-12)** 2:00 – 4:00 PM		National League (ages 11-12)** 1:00 – 2:00 PM
F League (ages 13-14)** 1:30 – 2:30 PM		Junior League (ages 13-14)** 12:30 – 1:30 PM
Chronological Schedule:		
American League (ages 9-10) 12:00 – 1:00 PM		
Junior League (ages 13-14) 12:30 – 1:30 PM		
National League (ages 11-12) 1:00 – 2:00 PM		
F League (ages 13-14) 1:30 – 2:30 PM		
G League (ages 11-12) 2:00 – 4:00 PM		
H League (ages 9-10) 3:00 – 5:30 PM		
*There are NO I-League Boys/Girls tryouts on Saturday, March 19th. ALL H-league players will be automatically placed on a team.		
** E-league, and EE-League are based on player age as of June 1, 2011. ALL other Boys & Girls based on player age as of May 1, 2011		
March 26th	9AM-Noon	MANDATORY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL MANAGERS' CLINIC <i>Balch Street Community Center</i>
March 27th	TBA	MANDATORY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL MANAGERS' CLINIC <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
April 2nd	WABL PRACTICE SEASON BEGINS	
April 30th	BOYS' BASEBALL & GIRLS' SOFTBALL GAMES START	

May 7th ALL TEAMS	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM	WABL PICTURE DAY <i>St. Sebastian Byrider Hall</i>
May 8th	Mother's Day No Games	
May 28-30th	Memorial Day No Games	
June 5th	Game Time: 1:05 PM	 WABL DAY WITH THE AKRON AEROS <i>West Akron Baseball & Softball League Day – Canal Park</i>
June 18th	7:30AM Check-In 8:30AM Shotgun Start	2011 ANNUAL WABL GOLF OUTING & FUNDRAISER <i>Mayfair Country Club</i>
June 19th	Father's Day No Games	
June 20th	WABL T-BALL PRACTICE SEASON BEGINS	
June TBA	Game Time: TBA	WABL DAY WITH THE AKRON RACERS <i>Firestone Stadium</i>
June TBA	Girls Softball All-Star Games <i>Firestone Stadium</i>	
	4:30PM American League Game 6:00PM National League Game 7:30PM Junior League Game	
July 4th	Independence Day No Games	
July 9th	2011 DAY of CHAMPS games and parade	
	PARADE TIMES: 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM Parade Drop-off 11:15 AM Parade Line-up 11:40 AM Parade Step-off	
	CEREMONY: The 2011 WABL Day of Champs ceremony starts at 12:00 PM and ends at 1:00 PM at Perkins Field on Mull Avenue	
July 11th	WABL T-BALL GAMES START	
July 12th	BOYS' BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAMES	
July 14th	BOYS' BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAMES (makeup date)	
July 26th	10AM - 12PM	Mandatory Equipment Drop-off <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>
July 23rd	12PM - 2PM	Mandatory Equipment Drop-off <i>Northwest Family Recreation Center</i>

★ 2010 WABL SPONSORS – THANK YOU! ★

Advanced Auto Glass
Akron Aeros
Akron Barber College
All Packing Services
Andy's Awards & Trophies
Blooming Designs
Chem Technologies
Clear Shot Sports
CP & Sons Landscaping
Dies Electric
Greg Santos Photography
Heavy Lift Systems
Hanna, Campbell & Powell

Impact Landscaping & Irrigation
Illumetek
Judge Beth Whitmore
Judge Eve Belfance
Jim Laria - Clerk of Courts
Judge Alison McCarty
Judge Donna Carr
Judge Jerry Larson
★ Judge Kathryn Michael ★
KDS Restoration
Krugliak, Wilkens - L.P.A.
Leading Edge
Logistic Concepts

Market Hatch
Montrose Toyota
Northwest Family Recreation Center
Play It Again Sports
Robert J Events & Catering
Safelite Auto Glass
Smithers Scientific Services
Stagecoach Antiques
Swenson's
Wadsworth Family Physical Therapy
Williams Hardwood Flooring
Zack's Frozen Yogurt & Ice Cream

T-BALL NEWS AND EVENTS

WABL was asked by the City of Akron's Northwest Community Center to take over their highly successful T-Ball program due to the City's budget issues, effective for the 2010 season. This brought in an additional 150 boys and girls into WABL, providing a natural feeder system into our established baseball and softball programs.

We would like to thank all of the coaches and sponsors for making this a smooth transition to WABL and we look forward to many more successful T-Ball seasons in the future. If you are interested in coaching a team for the 2011 season, please contact us at 330-867-4332, or at admin@wabl.org.

- Kevin Floyd and Jim Weber, T-Ball Co-Commissioner

Our teams for this first WABL T-Ball season were:

A's – Coach Eric Howell
Sponsored by: Councilman Michael Williams
Aeros – Coach John York
Sponsored by: Oscar's Aeros

Cardinals – Coach Antuane Hammond
Sponsored by: Players Choice
Cubs – Coach Jeff Phillip
Sponsored by: Bernlohr, Niekamp & Weisensell
Indians – Coach Will Christie
Sponsored by: Pat's Computer Repair
Mets – Coach Mike Shaeffer Jr.
Sponsored by: PRL Photographics
Orioles – Coach Kevin Floyd
Sponsored by: Dies Electric
Phillies – Coach Noah Hargrove
Sponsored by: The Eye Opener
Pirates – Coach Jen Hanlon
Sponsored by: Ferguson & Hanlon
Reds – Coach Tom Arp
Sponsored by: Chem Tech
Tigers – Coach Rich Zahoranski
Sponsored by: Summa Orthopedics
Yankees – Coach Matt MacLean
Sponsored by: Akron Tracto

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
1/29/2011 - 5/21/2011	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	NW Community Center	Registration
6/14/11	6:00 p.m.	Balch St. Comm. Center	Coaches Meeting
6/20/11	5:30 p.m.	Fields	Practices Begin
7/5/11	5:30 p.m.	NW Community Center	Picture Day T,TH
7/6/11	5:30 p.m.	NW Community Center	Picture Day M, W
7/11/11	5:30 p.m.	Fields	Games Begin for M,W
7/12/11	5:30 p.m.	Fields	Games Begin for T,TH
8/3/11	5:30 p.m.	Fields	Games End M,W
8/4/11	5:30 p.m.	Fields	Games End T,TH

V.P. OF BOYS BASEBALL REPORT

After a few years as a part of this organization, I am still amazed at how the West Akron Baseball and Softball League can sustain itself....The first concern is always that we won't have as many kids as we did the previous year - but when all is said and done, we usually match or exceed the prior year's participation. The next area of panic is whether we will have enough coaches for all of our teams. There have been many times that it has come down to the wire - or even a little past the wire - but someone has always stepped up and taken the reigns. I guess that's what you get in an organization driven by volunteers such as ours. I have not lived my whole life in West Akron; only about 15 years actually, but I am proud to call it my home... and WABL represents just a part of that pride: From the great kids we have coming out to play ball, to their parents who coach and cheer them, and to the

community businesses and leaders that support us in too many ways to mention, we have an outstanding community that loves their youth baseball. With all this being said, we can never have enough help. As such, I would like to take this time to invite anyone who would like to help out in any way to step up and do so. You don't even have to know anything about baseball! There are many things to do, with varying levels of time commitment. Whether it's helping out your child's coach, or joining the Board, or just bringing a foursome to the golf outing, it all helps the organization. You can contact us through the wabl.org website, or call **330-867-4332** to inquire about getting involved. We would love to have you.

- James Daniels, Vice President - Baseball

H-LEAGUE REPORT

We had a very good year in 2010, with a mix of young teams and veterans taking the field. There were a total of 10 teams that competed in a single division this season.

After a great regular season, with tight competition down to the wire, the top four teams going into the playoffs were the CP & Sons Cubs, the Leading Edge A's, the Logistics Concepts Indians, and the Jim Laria Clerk of Courts Phillies. The playoffs were exciting, with some great plays and close games. When it all played out, the Cubs met the A's in a hard fought game at Perkins Field. In the end it was the Cubs that claimed the 2010 H-League Championship on the Day of Champs!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors. Their support is truly a gift to the community, benefiting our children, and bringing us all together through baseball. I would also like to extend my thanks to all of the coaches, assistant coaches, and bench moms (and dads). All gave so generously of their time and talents to make our 2010 season a resounding success.

**We are all looking forward to another great year in 2011.
PLAY BALL!**

- Augie Micozzi, H-League Commissioner

G-LEAGUE REPORT

The 2010 season brought us another fun and growing year of baseball for 11 and 12 year olds. Players at this age really understand the game better and start making better decisions as far as stealing bases, hitting good pitches, and concentrating on the fundamentals of baseball.

There were about 100 players in G-League this season, a growth which allowed us to field 9 teams. Those teams were as follows:

A's – Coach Sean Yost;
team sponsored by Advanced Auto Glass
Aeros – Coach Mike Leslie;
team sponsored by Williams Hardwood Flooring
Cardinals – Coach Paul Parantinides;
team sponsored by Chem Technologies
Cubs – Coach Ed Buehrle;
team sponsored by Wadsworth Family Physical Therapy
Dodgers – Coach Micah Posten;
team sponsored by Impact Landscaping and Irrigation
Indians – Coach Dave Kormushoff;
team sponsored by Market Hatch

Phillies – Coach Paul Tharan;
team sponsored by KDS Restoration
Pirates – Coach Mike Dies;
team sponsored by Dies Electric
Reds – Coach Scott Ouellette;
team sponsored by Safelite Auto Glass

The regular season ended with the Cardinals in first place with a record of 14-1, followed by the A's, who posted a record of 11-4. There were some exciting games during the playoffs; ultimately, the Cardinals and the Cubs won their playoff bracket and earned their way to the Day of Champions game. We had nice weather and a good turnout for this final game, which the Cubs won to become 2010 G-League champions.

I would like to thank all the coaches, parents, sponsors, players, and fans for making 2010 another successful WABL season!

- John Renner, G-League Commissioner



F-LEAGUE REPORT

The F-League 2010 season was a great success. Growing from 2 teams in 2009 to 4 teams in 2010 there were some challenges. With neither of the coaches able to return from 2009, we had 4 first-year coaches that all did a remarkable job! Special thanks to managers Corey Munnel (PIRATES), Ted Walter (INDIANS), John Galonski (REDS), and Joe Burgess (AEROS) for volunteering their time and energy. F-League competes in the CBL with teams from Copley, Revere, Highland and Norton. This offers a great opportunity for the kids to play against their peers from neighboring communities. For the first time, WABL had a team make it to the CBL Championship game!

The WABL Indians played a very competitive game against Highland – but lost in the end 4-2. WABL also held its own Championship game where the 2nd seeded Pirates were 3 outs away from upsetting the 1st seeded Indians. The Indians rallied to win in the end – both teams left it all on the field and entertained the crowd with a game that both players and fans alike are sure to remember. All 4 teams had some great highlights – thanks to players and parents for a great season! 2011 looks to add more F league teams and to be another fantastic year!

Special Congratulations to Sam Renner and Chris Morris for winning the 2010 WABL Sprit Award!

- Sean Yost, F-League Commissioner

I-LEAGUE REPORT

The 2010 season was another successful one for WABL's I-League, thanks to our sponsors and to the time and effort of the coaches, players, and parents involved. Your dedication is most appreciated!

The players in I-League are as varied as can be: boys and girls ages 6-8, some of whom are new to baseball and some of whom think they're ready for the majors! The coaches in our league do a great job of bringing this all together in a fun environment that mixes basic baseball fundamentals with team awareness.

Our I-League season ended with a series of games just for the 8-year-olds moving up to H-league next year, in which they played "real" baseball rules – with players pitching, strike counts, outs and scores. We've seen that this "post-season" helps the players develop for the next step, it is now a regular part of our schedule. I'd like to especially thank all the coaches that took the extra time to make this a good experience for these players.

On behalf of WABL, I want to extend my appreciation to all the people involved in our 2010 season: the coaches, sponsors, parents, and friends and families of our players – it is you that makes this whole organization work for the kids. We thank you again. **Anyone interested in coaching for our 2011 season should contact me at 330-310-9363, or at ileague@wabl.org.** I'll be happy to explain our process and to get you a team!

- Jeff Neusser, I-League Commissioner

The eleven teams making up the 2010 WABL I-League were as follows:

A's, managed by Mike Johnston;

sponsored by Krugliak, Wilkens LPA

Aeros, managed by Tom Kelley;

sponsored by Akron Aeros

Cardinals, managed by Steve Deitrich;

sponsored by Zack's Frozen Yogurt & Ice Cream

Cubs, managed by Robert Harris, Jr;

sponsored by Judge Donna Carr

Indians, managed by Ryan Sacha;

sponsored by Illumitek

Mets, managed by James Daniels;

sponsored by Smithers Scientific Services

Orioles, managed by Kevin Floyd;

sponsored by Greg Santos Photography

Phillies, managed by James Anson;

sponsored by Judge Kathryn Michael

Pirates, managed by Steve Bordenkircher;

sponsored by Play It Again Sports

Tigers, managed by Sean McFalls;

sponsored by Judge Jerry Larson

Yankees, managed by Chris Kirven;

sponsored by Judge Eve Belfance

V.P. OF GIRLS SOFTBALL REPORT

In the 2010 season, WABL Softball competed against teams from Copley, Highland, and Revere. Our four teams for 2010 were as follows:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Force Northwest Family Recreation Center, Sponsor
Racers Heavy Lift Systems, Sponsor

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Racers Andy's Awards & Trophies, Sponsor

JUNIOR LEAGUE

Racers sponsored by Blooming Designs, Sponsor

As Co-VP's of Girls' Softball, my wife and I would like to give thanks to the many generous parents for their time, patience, and dedication to this organization as well as their kids. We would also like to thank the field maintenance staff and all the umpires for their tireless and often under-appreciated effort.

The players deserve the biggest congratulations – and applause – for their effort, inspiration, and priceless entertainment.

WABL Softball looks to build on its foundation of fundamental skills and recreational level of fun. Our goal this year is to get more girls involved, keep parents aware of opportunities to play, and pursue higher levels of play for those girls that are ready.

We are looking forward to a great 2011 season.

Thank you,
-Jim Diestel, Vice President - Softball



V.P. OF UMPIRES REPORT



WABL's 2010 season was one of the best seasons we have had in years. Our umpires were punctual and well trained. I am proud to say that we only had two games that did not have umpires, a vast improvement over recent years. The weather seemed more cooperative than usual, which always helps for a smooth season. I really enjoyed my job this year as VP of Umpires, and look forward to continued success next year.

The 2011 season brings new opportunities for our organization and I look forward to training new umpires. If anyone is interested in umpiring for the new season please contact our VP of Umpires, Sara Roxbury at 330-703-3658 or by email at millersa317@yahoo.com.

Thank you all so much for your support and cooperation,
- Sara Roxbury, VP of Umpires

