



*. . . The Friends of Baseball Newsletter. . .*

**Vol. 2, No. 4**

December 19, 2007

Dear "*Friend of Baseball,*"

**F**irst and foremost, our Trustees would like to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season. It might be difficult to imagine "our game" this time of year, yet we are just a few months away from hitting the field one more time, one more season. As it is for many of you, FOB looks at baseball as a year-round opportunity to keep the sport we love strong. In a season of thanks, we would like to thank all of you for all that you have given to "your game" over the past twelve months.

***Our Coaches' Clinic Is Less Than A Month Away!***

As announced in late September we, along with Jerry Gatto of Northwest Star Productions and Academy, are sponsoring a youth coaches' clinic at the Embassy Suites Portland Airport on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited about this inaugural opportunity to assist our local youth coaches in making the game stronger! Just take a look at the day's speakers and their presentations:

***Dave Gasser – Astoria High School***  
*Essential Tools in Working with Kids*

***Rob Vance – Concordia University***  
*Team Defense and Fundamentals*

***Casey Dyer – Cleveland High School***  
*Community – H.S. Team Relationships*

***Korey Kier – Columbia River High School, WA***  
*Pitching Necessities*  
*Fundraising and Fun in the Master Plan*

For more information, please check our website at [www.Friendsofbaseball.org](http://www.Friendsofbaseball.org). Because we have secured the ballroom for this event, we are now opening up the registration to all youth coaches within our region who can attend. Please send details and number of reservations to [info@friendsofbaseball.org](mailto:info@friendsofbaseball.org). Don't forget to forward this information to all of your coaching contacts. Thanks to N.W. Star and FOB, these clinics are presented at NO CHARGE to all attendees.

Jerry is also holding his full weekend coaching conference the same weekend at this facility. He has graciously agreed to provide a limited number of reduced-price registrations for the full weekend January 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>. The complete conference includes: 20 clinic sessions, and a hosted lunch and dinner. I attended last year, and it is truly an amazing event! For more information, visit [www.nwstar.net](http://www.nwstar.net). If interested, give them a call and reference the FOB weekend special. Their local phone number is 503-635-4520, and the cost of this offer is \$80 (to cover the food). Thanks again Jerry and NW Star!

### ***Thanks to Our Trustees***

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our trustees for their dedication and the amazing direction they provide. After fulfilling their two year commitment to our board, three of our original trustees are now stepping down. **Dave Hickman, Darrel Buttice and Katie Bethell** each provided essential pieces to the evolutionary puzzle of FOB. I cannot thank each of you enough. These wonderful individuals have agreed to continue their support and guidance as advisors in the New Year.

Beginning in 2008, we have added two new Trustees: **Kellie Walker** and **Barbara Pearson**. Both Kellie and Barbara are “key team players” in our youth baseball/softball community. We are honored to welcome them to this board. Ben and I would like to also thank **Drew Mahalic, Sally Longcor and Dick McClain** for all of their past and future efforts going forward as Trustees. The New Year holds many new opportunities; we’re excited!

### ***Friends of Baseball Announces Four Grants***

Our Trustees are pleased to announce a new group of grants. David Douglas Junior Baseball of Oregon has a wonderful tradition of youth baseball in Portland’s east county. We are delighted to provide a matching grant of \$1,100 toward the purchase of a John Deere lawn tractor to assist in maintaining their fields. This group has worked amazingly hard to meet the needs of their baseball community. It is a pleasure to be able to assist in meeting this need.

Additionally, our trustees have formally approved **three** team sponsorships for the development of *new teams* in our region. We understand the need for leagues to expand their number of teams; often the initial cost can be prohibitive. If you know of a league that may qualify, please review the criteria on our website under the “headlines” link. For further information, you can also contact us at [info@friendsofbaseball.org](mailto:info@friendsofbaseball.org). Nominations can also be forwarded to this email address. Please help spread the word, as plans for next season develop. FOB will be providing up to \$2,000 in funding and or equipment for each sponsored team.

### ***Portland Beavers Reach Out With Team Fundraising***

With Spring just around the corner, the Beavers’ season is not far behind! Many of you might not be aware of a wonderful team fundraising opportunity available through the Portland Beavers. Teams and leagues may purchase Beavers tickets at a discounted price, resell them at the face value, and keep over 35% of the profits to assist your group. And the tickets can be redeemed at ANY future game ... how easy is that?! For more information check out the Beaver site at [www.portlandbeavers.com/tickets/fundraising](http://www.portlandbeavers.com/tickets/fundraising) or give Ashley Bedford a call at 503-553-5429.

## ***Watch For the 2008 Coach & Volunteer of The Year Awards***

It has recently been announced that The Portland Beavers and Friends of Baseball will again Co- Sponsor this great event to honor two outstanding individuals this season. Full criteria will be posted early in January on both organizations' web sites, and via a special news letter. This was such a wonderful event in 2007 - we are very excited to expand upon its success in the New Year. Nominations will be accepted beginning in February 2008. Watch for additional details in the weeks ahead. I am willing to bet that we all know of a very special Coach and Volunteer that deserves to be recognized!!

## ***FOB to Speak at the Oregon State Little League Conference***

My son Ben and I will be attending the Little League state conference on Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup> in Eugene. We are honored to have been invited, and look forward to sharing a bit of our vision and meeting many league administrators from throughout the state. If you are attending, please take a moment to introduce yourselves, as we want the opportunity to thank each of you for your efforts in the community of baseball.

## ***Don't miss the Old Timers & Active Players Association Banquet!***

I have attended this banquet the past two years, and it is an evening you simply can't miss! This year's banquet is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Multnomah Athletic Club. Pat Casey of the Oregon State Beavers will provide the keynote address. Along with other noted speakers, this group will be honoring students by awarding scholarships and grants for worthy baseball programs; this is a wonderful evening. Please contact one of their board members, or Art Larrance, at [art@northwest.com](mailto:art@northwest.com).

*Wow this sounds like a busy weekend in January. . . Hope to see you at the Little League Conference, the Old Timers Banquet on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Coaches Clinic on the 13<sup>th</sup>!*

*Have a wonderful Holiday. See you in the New Year,*

*Keenan*

[Keenan@friendsofbaseball.org](mailto:Keenan@friendsofbaseball.org)

*Please feel free to forward this newsletter to others who might take interest!*

*Also check out our Team Shop at [www.cafepress.com/fobaseball](http://www.cafepress.com/fobaseball)*

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[newsletter-unsubscribe@friendsofbaseball.org](mailto:newsletter-unsubscribe@friendsofbaseball.org)**

***“A life is not important except in the impact it makes on other lives. . .” Jackie Robinson***

**Friends of Baseball - 1631 N. E. Broadway #118, Portland, OR, 97232**

**[Friendsofbaseball.org](http://Friendsofbaseball.org)**