



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

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March 13, 2008

Dear "*Friend of Baseball,*"

**T**his has been a very eventful winter and early spring. Many teams are in the process of forming, and league play is just around the corner ...Yippee! This has been the most active "off season" that our trustees have encountered. As many of you know, two leagues in our region suffered devastating losses to their fields and equipment in the December floods. Thanks to all of your efforts, both teams are currently preparing to get back on their fields this spring! A rousing CONGRATULATIONS to these teams, and to all of you who've assisted in many ways as we plan to "finish what we started" over the next few weeks!

***Vernonia Youth Baseball and Clatskanie Little League Update!***

We sent out the call in mid January relating to the tremendous losses these leagues sustained. Vernonia lost all their equipment due to their flooding and Clatskanie found themselves with a field under four feet of water. With your help, and grants from FOB, we've been able to transfer nearly \$25,000 in goods, services and funding to these leagues thus far! With all of your help we were able to triple our own funding! Let's take a moment to acknowledge some of those who stepped up to the plate when our call went out:

Metro Baseball, Tom Petke and Portland Lutheran High School, Lakeridge Pacer JBO and Gladstone Junior Baseball of Oregon each contributed equipment. Additionally, Lakeridge JBO and Lake Oswego Little League made significant donations from their fundraising drives during team registrations. Miller Paint has provided paint, and Exterior Wood Inc. of Washougal provided lumber for twenty picnic tables! Enstrom Landscaping provided sod while Nike, Adidas and DeMarini provided new equipment. The frosting for the cake came from Little League International when they contacted me this week announcing a check for \$5,000 in support of Clatskanie!

We've made it to third base, and are clearly headed to home. At this time we still need funding – yep, cold hard cash in order for these teams to once again become whole. Hundreds of man-hours have been committed to the Clatskanie fields. Although each community has amazing volunteer support in restoring their programs, there are items that simply have to be paid for with cash. **Should you wish to help these teams, ANY amount would be appreciated. To help, just stop by any U.S. Bank branch and make a deposit in the name of: Oregon Sports Authority/ Friends of Baseball Fund.** Funds that may exceed the needs of these two teams will be used by FOB for other teams with significant need in our region. Once again, thank you very, very much.

## ***Friends of Baseball Announces Five Grants***

After careful evaluation, Friends of Baseball recently announced the following grants:

***Clatskanie Little League ~ \$5,000 for field recovery***  
***Vernonia Youth Baseball ~ \$2500 in scholarships to families suffering loss***  
***Forest Grove High School ~ \$2,564 netting for batting facility***  
***Redlands Baseball and Softball ~ \$1,898 for storage facility***  
***Forest Grove Junior Baseball ~ \$2,000 funding for infield dirt***

It's been a true honor to work with each of these leagues, because each represents the partnership that FOB looks for in its grant making. As an individual, little can be accomplished; as a team, there are no limits to our accomplishments.

## ***The 2008 Coach & Volunteer of The Year Awards are in full swing!***

Once again, sponsorship of this program is shared with the Portland Beavers. We've begun accepting nominations for these coveted awards, and will continue to accept nominations through May 15<sup>th</sup>. To view criteria and full details for this year's awards please visit [www.Friendsofbaseball.org](http://www.Friendsofbaseball.org) (Headlines) or [www.Portlandbeavers.com](http://www.Portlandbeavers.com) (Community). *A tip: While you're on the Beaver website check out the awesome new logo and apparel. You'll love it!*

This year's on-field awards are scheduled for June. Last year's event was such an amazing success! We're looking forward to another year of recognizing these tireless individuals and their accomplishments in youth baseball and softball. You just can't allow your favorite coach or league volunteer to be overlooked!

## ***Speaking of Significant Awards . . .***

At the recently completed FOB/N.W Star Productions coaches' clinic, Ben and I presented a very special award. Our foundation relies heavily on the generous support of our many Partner Providers. A league came to us a year ago and asked how they could help. This organization has, time and time again, answered the bell, often well before it became silent. It was truly an honor to present Sean Calhoon and Lakeridge Pacer JBO with the 2007 Friends of Baseball Founders Award at this well attended event. This organization has repeatedly asked for no recognition; Sean, sometimes it simply must be done. Our Trustees and all the kids that you've helped collectively wish you the greatest season of all!

Well, I guess this wraps up the latest news. I'd like to thank the coaches and guest speakers attending our January coaches' clinic. It was truly a great day (with the exception of the moment the microphone died just as I began speaking). We're working on our next clinic; this one was such a success we simply have to make it happen again.

Warm Regards,

*Keenan*

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

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