



Dear Friend of Baseball,

April is just a few weeks away and we're in full swing relating to our season. This is always a very exciting time for all! Our coaches' clinic was a great success in January; we nearly doubled last year's attendance. We're making plans to accommodate another doubling of attendance in January 2010!

We enjoyed a terrific afternoon of shared knowledge and collective support for all attendees. I would like to thank NW Star Productions, our clinicians, and all attendees for their commitment to creating rewarding day!

Let the season begin . . .

We've been contacted by leagues who may have additional equipment that they would like to share. Generally this equipment is very usable, but for one reason or another is ready for a new home. Additionally, I have a team that would like to help with a work party for a league or team in need in our region. If you have a specific need and or resources that might fall into these areas please drop me an email at: Keenan@Friendsofbaseball.org Lets share the resources; I will certainly enjoy bringing you together!

A new partner

FOB is very excited to be working with a new partner in our grant making. It's our

board's constant objective to enhance and multiply our grant making abilities through the support of like-minded individuals and organizations. Recently, a national sporting equipment supplier (and owner of McGregor) offered a hand. www.LeagueDirect.com is providing us with an ongoing discount for ALL of our grantees! Thank you to Rob Coffman and his team for their support!! To launch this new relationship, Rob has agreed to provide leagues in our region a **20% Discount** on all orders received by the **End of March**. When ordering, simply use (2w) for the order code and your discount will be applied! Check out their site to determine how they might help your league now and in the future ... *they've got it all!*

Thanks for your help . . .

To those of you who have joined in with our pledge play fundraising program, thank you. With just about two weeks left in this campaign, we invite you to take a run at this fun competition that helps FOB teams! To log in simply visit:

<http://friendsofbball.pledgeplay.com/>

If your league would like to use this exciting fundraising tool for yourselves, please contact me. I will get you in touch with this organization. It's truly a blast!

The Best for last

A few weeks ago I came in contact with Jeff Potter, an author, father, baseball coach and student of our game. Having played as a child, drafted out of high school and now having coached, he provided me with an amazing perspective of our game. In his recently published book, "*Whatever Happened To Baseball,*" Jeff has truly addressed and "undressed" topics and values that have challenged every individual who reads this newsletter! In his charming way he asks all of us to take back the sport we love. One of my favorite passages reads:

"When I was young, I was all about winning. Winning was everything, nothing else mattered, and I never thought of anything else. The difference back then, though, was that the coaches and parents did care about the other things. They kept things in perspective and gave us the proper balance. We could think about winning because the adults found the way to teach the right lessons while we could eat, drink and sleep about winning. The coaches and parents kept us in check."

This is very simply a story that needs to be read and shared! If you have a passion for this game, if you know a coach or parent that would like to continue to strengthen the values of this treasured game, make sure a copy is in their hands. As this book is currently self published, your best bet is to order at Amazon. This can be done from this link:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_ss_gw?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=whatever+happened+to+baseball&x=17&y=18

I Promise it will change your views on team building, fundamental skills and simply playing our game with a grin again! Drop me a note - I would enjoy your comments. If you would like to purchase multiple copies at a discount and or use this book as a fundraiser for your league, please contact me; I will put you in contact with the author.

Watch for some exciting announcements and events we are planning for the summer; details in the weeks to come.

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Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to others who might take interest.

Also Check out our team shop at www.cafepress.com/fobaseball

