

From: Steve Stone [mailto:sjbstone@q.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 08, 2010 10:17 AM
To: keenan@friendsofbaseball.org
Subject: Sellwood Junior Baseball's Stolen Field Equipment

Hi Keenan and thanks again for the nice call last week and moreover the offer to help!

First, the Good News. Sellwood Junior Baseball is and has been a longtime friend of baseball! We are a volunteer-run and fast-growing Junior Baseball (JBO) league located in Southeast Portland. This past season we had over 450 kids playing on 39 teams ranging from Preschool T-ballers to Middle School "Seniors" - up from just 70 registered kids a mere seven years ago. And this year we even branched out to field four girls' softball teams! As such we are heavily reliant on a dozen ballfields scattered around our community, especially fields associated with our kids' schools. The vast majority of these fields we care for ourselves - volunteer parents & coaches mowing and raking shoulder-to-shoulder each Spring - and annually we pump thousands of registration dollars into getting fields prepped and maintained for the season.

Now, the Bad News. On Thursday June 10th, we had our new league cargo trailer (including a year-old John Deere mower, steel mat drag, and heavy spiker) stolen during midday from in front of our fieldkeeper's house near SE 39th and Carlton in the Woodstock neighborhood. This is a huge loss for us - approx \$5,000 in value - especially as it was temporarily uninsured (as is typical for our league gear once it's distributed to coaches in the early spring - but no more!). I have filed a report with the Portland Police (case# 10-152538), notified the news media large and small (e.g., see recent article in Sellwood Bee at <http://www.readthebee.com/letterseditorial.html>) and parents have posted flyers around the neighborhood (see attached) and been monitoring Craigslist in case the crooks try to sell our stuff there. As if the soggy season and rainouts weren't enough already; and finally we get some sunny weather to get fields back in working order - but no tools! Since then I have built a homemade nail drag with the help of my two young lads and been working the fields as best I can. But they are no substitute for the lost items, which include:

- 2009 6'x10' Continental Cargo Utility Trailer; value = \$2,490
- 2009 John Deere Mower LA135 w/ mulch kit; value = \$2,088
- Steel Mesh Mat Drag; value = \$300
- Heavy Steel Spike Drag; value = \$400

Despite our losses we are committed to keeping baseball a vibrant and healthy pastime for the kids in our community. The fact that 7 of our 9 County/travel teams now have berths in the County Championship Tournament (see http://www.ccjba.org/pages/tourney_county.html) is a testament to the dedication and talents of our volunteer organization.

I appreciate any help your organization can offer; you will have truly been a Friend of Sellwood Junior Baseball!

Regards,
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