



HVAA Newsletter

May 2007

HVAA Travel Is Better Than Ever!

In case you haven't heard the great news, we'd like to fill you in: HVAA offers the **best** travel programs available. We now compete in the "Suburban Travel Baseball League". But wait, there's more! We are also nationally affiliated with the prestigious "Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken Leagues". What does that mean for your child? The answer is simple: fun, Fun, **FUN!**

The "Babe Ruth League" caught on nationally, then internationally. It ranks as the premier amateur baseball and softball program in the world. It started with a 10-team league in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, and now has a combined size of over 1 million players on 56,000 teams, in more than 9,100 leagues. It is now one of the nation's premier amateur sports organizations playing throughout the United States and in Canada. The success of the program is due to the millions of volunteers.

Cal Ripken JR. said. *"I couldn't be more excited that Ripken Baseball is partnering with the Babe Ruth League and the American Sport Education Program to develop an online coaching education program for the nearly 200,000 volunteer coaches in all divisions of Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball."*

This partnership (Babe Ruth and ASEP) will allow us to arm even more coaches with the resources that they need to make the game better for even more youth baseball players. If a kid's first experience with the game of baseball is a positive one, the chances are much higher that he or she will fall in love with the game and stick with it.

It's really exciting to know that young baseball players everywhere will be exposed to our methods of instruction and to partner with two organizations that are so respected in their fields."

"A walk is as good as a hit"

As I attended my nephew's baseball game in Maine, I thought "it's a beautiful day for baseball". I unpacked my portable chair and blanket and heard the umpire yell out "play ball". As the game began, I listened to the sounds of the game. In addition to the sounds of the ball hitting the leather and the crack of the bat, I could hear the chatter from the bench. The most often heard instruction from the coach was, "keep your eye on the ball". I thought this to be physically impossible. After I heard "He's really throwing some heat", I removed my blanket, figuring I wouldn't need it. There was mention by a player talking to the pitcher of not needing a "glass of water", apparently he wasn't thirsty. Then the coach was ready to "stick a fork in him", apparently he was hungry. The most curious thing that I heard was "a walk is as good as a hit". I thought what fun is that? How could a walk be as good as a hit, when it's not a hit. A hit is always followed by a sprint to the bag, a smile and a sense of pride. A walk is followed by just that...a walk to first base. While getting on first any way you can is a good strategy for the pros, it doesn't help children to improve their game and self confidence.

In HVAA baseball we want the kids to have fun, learn a sense of fair play and always try their hardest. Our coaches are very important in achieving this and we offer coaching clinics to all the coaches in the program. This season there were two 2 hour sessions conducted by ANC High School Coach Shawn Synnesvedt. Coach Synnesvedt taught coaches the basic skills to teach the kids, as well as proper coaching etiquette. Through teaching both, we hope that our coaches can make a difference with our kids "both on and off the field".

www.HVAA.net

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HVAA is proud to have Bill Hieneman safely return from his military obligation in Afghanistan and to his past role on the HVAA Board. Bill, a soon to be retired Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army, will rejoin the board as Past President in June. Welcome back Bill and thank you for serving our community and our country.

Some of HVAA's In-House Basketball Teams—2007



Jr. Boys Champs—Columbia



Sr. Boys Champs—Lakers



Int. Boy Champs—Iowa



Jr. Girl Champs—Penn



Sr. Girl Champs—Duke

E-Mail Alert!

To receive the HVAA Newsletter Electronically, we need your e-mail address.

Please send it to:

Marketing@hvaa.net

HVAA DAY (in honor of Steve Silverman)

In order to get everybody in baseball and softball together for a day of fun, food and frolic, HVAA will be sponsoring "HVAA Day". It will be an activity filled day on **Saturday May 26th** for the kids participating in HVAA tee-ball, baseball and softball.

The main event will be the kids competing in Olympic style events. The events will consist of baseball competitions, tug of war, an obstacle course and many other fun activities for the kids.

The Olympic portion will be followed by an award ceremony for the participants, where medals and prizes will be awarded for the "Olympians".

Food and drinks will be provided compliments of HVAA. There will be hot dogs, pizza, chips, soft pretzels and other goodies.

After the days activities are over, it's time for the kids to see their coaches in action. The coaches in the league will get together and have a friendly game of softball.

If you're enrolled in our program this spring, make sure you come out and let us treat you to a fun filled day, HVAA DAY!

Another Great HVAA Basketball Season!

This year HVAA basketball season was a great success. We had close to 500 kids playing on 58 teams from the ages of 5 to 16.

The Coed Bantam League (5 and 6 year olds) had 10 teams and were taught basic skills and fundamentals with a short session of scrimmaging every Saturday morning. The Boy and Girls Stars League (7 and 8 year olds) had weeknight practices to hone their skills and played games on Saturday afternoons. These kids will be ready to move up to full court action next year.

In the height of March Madness, the other five HVAA Leagues had their own Championship Sunday. After a week of elimination playoffs the top two teams in each league battled it out at the High School Gym for the Championship. The results are as follows:

Jr. Girls - Penn over Drexel, 21-12

Jr. Boys - Columbia over Yale, 12-11

Int. Boys - Iowa over Wisconsin, 34-29

Sr. Girls - Duke over Old Dominion, 27-20

Sr. Boys - Lakers over Clippers, 35-25

A special thank you to all the coaches and parents that helped out during the season. Without your help, we wouldn't have the quality programs that we have.

HVAA would also like to thank the parents of the Bantam and Star Leagues for their patience and understanding this season during the final few weeks when an unexpected roof leak caused floor damage. The Township is working hard to fix the problems and the gym will look better than ever for next season.

HVAA Chess Scores, Again, With 6 Trophies at Championships!

Ten HVAA chess players went to the Carlisle Convention Center to compete in the annual Pennsylvania State Scholastic Chess Championships. By the time they were finished, they had captured a total of 6 trophies.

The team was made up of two co-champion, a 9th place in the state, a 6th grade champion, a 3rd in the state, and scholarship winner for Top Female in the tournament. In the team category, players from Murray Avenue were awarded the Top School AND Top Club trophy for the K - 6 section. Special thanks goes to the parents of these players who contributed their time and financial support for the weekend competition and additional thanks goes to the HVAA and the Murray Avenue Corporate sponsor, Windswept Holdings, for defraying the costs of the tournament entrance fees for these students.

Murray Avenue Middle School:

Seth Furman 5th Grade
Mitchell Harmatz 5th Grade
Brandan Holmquist 6th Grade
Joseph Kovacs 5th Grade
David Lakata 6th Grade
Joshua Pilchik 4th Grade
Blake Rosenn 5th Grade

Lower Moreland High School:

Elizabeth Lakata 12th Grade

Pine Road Elementary:

Christopher Buss 3rd Grade
Jedkeen Tam 1st Grade

Dinner and a Game for 3 bucks!

It's a beautiful summer evening. The still air vibrates with the sound of a c..r..a..c..k. as you watch it skim across the slick surface. And then it happens. You stand and yell – **SCORE!** This excitement doesn't occur at some enormous, crowded, high priced stadium. No sir-ree – it happens in your own neighborhood at the Bryn Athyn Skating Rink on Huntingdon Pike.

Monday-Thursday evenings throughout July and August you can watch HVAA's incredible roller hockey teams. You'll get a kick out of the little ones a-slipin' and a-slidin' trying to move a little ball across the rink. Your heart will pound as you watch the older teams maneuver the puck in ways you never thought imaginable. But wait – there's more!

Wafting through the air is the unmistakable smell of hot dogs. And not just any hot dog – a juicy special oven roasted frank baked by master hot dog chef – Morry. If a hot dog isn't your thing – you can have a special brick oven baked pizza slice. Complimenting your entrée is a wide assortment of Gatorade, spring water & various snacks.

Now you have something to do this summer. Come join us for all the excitement. It's free to watch the game. And if you want to spend 3 bucks (all proceeds go to HVAA for the kids) you'll get a dinner that will make your mouth water.

SIGN UP FOR SOCCER!!!

So it is summer. So your kids are playing baseball. And, so you are making vacation plans. But, if you want to spend your brisk, windy fall days on the sidelines of your child's soccer game, you need to register NOW. Please go to our website (www.hvaa.net) and register before you forget! DO IT NOW.



We need your help!

HVAA currently has a position open for Director of **Basketball**. This is a chance for you to volunteer and make a difference in your community.

BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

You will have the opportunity to develop and fine tune the program.
You will be ensuring that the kids are playing ball during the winter.
Your time on the board can make a difference.

BENEFITS TO YOU

Experience the awards and benefits of helping develop the youth of our community.
The prestige of serving as a Director on a non-profit Board.
Making new friends and numerous contacts.

While serving on the Board you will not be alone; you will have the support and help of the HVAA Board and members from the community. If you have any interest in the position and would like further information please contact us by email at basketball@hvaa.net or call 215-947-9823



Huntingdon Valley Activities Association
P.O.Box 155
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www.hvaa.net

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See What's New with HVAA.....inside!