



DYBA

DEERFIELD YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

DYBA at 57 - Annual message from the Comissioner

DYBA as it looks forward to its 58th season. What have we done and what's next?

By the numbers:

- In spring 2007 over 200 girls played softball, 250 boys and girls were introduced to the game through tball, 850 boys played baseball - in total more than 1,300 boys and girls played ball in Deerfield this spring.
- In summer 2007 over 72 boys and girls played tball and 560 boys played baseball, and approximately 30 young girls attended twice weekly softball clinics.
- Additionally our Colt League had 40 boys playing this summer.
- Travel baseball again had 144 boys playing for 12 teams. Travel softball had 4 teams with 48 girls, the largest number of girls playing travel softball in years. Additionally we had a 12U baseball team practicing over the summer and playing in a tournament for the first time.
- In total we played over 1,750 games.
- We had the following volunteers working as coaches and managers in the spring leagues: Softball - 48, T-Ball - 58, Pinto baseball - 82, Mustang - 71, Bronco - 59, pony - 46, Colt - 6. That's 367 people - with the understanding that there is some duplication for those involved in multiple leagues. We had 51 individuals serving on one of our three main committees - baseball, softball and wooden bat tournament and 13 board members.
- We had more than 100 adults and young adults umpiring or working at the shed in 2007 and we had 11 paid coaches for our travel baseball and softball teams.
- Our revenue approached \$500,000 - a milestone that will probably be surpassed in 2008. We are forecasting revenue greater than expenses of approximately \$65,000 in 2007, giving us a fund balance of greater than \$180,000.



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What was new in 2007? All of these programs or policies were new in 2007 and should grow and improve year by year:

- We had a Colt League for Deerfield High School freshmen, sophomores and juniors - the first DYBA Colt League in anyone's memory.
- We had a summer house league baseball all-star team, giving 12 non-travel players the opportunity to experience baseball at a higher level.
- We established an on-line registration system which was fully operational for our 2007 summer season.
- We developed an on-line, interactive game and umpire scheduling system.
- We worked with the Deerfield Park District to turn an underutilized field at Shepard into a full-time Pony field, allowing our Pony league players to play 5-6 more games each in our spring season.
- We became Positive Coaching Alliance partners and trained approximately 40 DYBA leaders and 120 coaches and managers as "double-goal coaches".
- Our travel baseball teams partnered with Keshet School and volunteered to support Keshet's buddy-baseball program. We also contributed profits from our Wooden Bat Tournament to purchase t-shirts for Keshet buddy-Baseball volunteers.
- We instituted a bat safety rule, restricting the influence of technology on the potency of bats used in our Pony League.
- We held a Thillens weekend for all mustang and bronco teams and pony softball teams.
- Concessions at Jewett Park - kudos to the Deerfield Park District



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Other 2007 highlights:

- Another strong group of sponsors in 2007; another strong White Sox outing.
- Softball travel teams sported winning league records and generally outpaced our in-town rival Warriors at all levels.
- We hosted our 5th Annual Wooden Bat Tournament and Deerfield had it's best showing ever with 5 teams advancing to the Championship Game. 12 Red, 11 Red and 1- Red finished 1st while 14 Red and 13 Red finished in 2nd.
- Our overall record for Deerfield teams in the North Shore League was 109 Wins & 55 Losses. Nine of our teams finished in the top half of the league standings and our 12 year olds (both Red & Gray) won the league. Our 12 Red team won the post-season tournament championship as well.
- We had paid coaches for all of our travel softball teams and our 12, 13 and 14 year old travel baseball teams.
- We amended our by-laws to require an enhanced level of experience for our directors of travel softball and baseball.
- We worked more closely with the park district to improve the condition of our fields
- We established a DYBA credit card.
- We improved our interest rate return on our invested cash.
- We held tryouts for the 2008 softball season and attracted approximately 70 girls for our three levels, some of whom are former Warrior players.
- Harley got married!
- We improved our handling of disciplinary action - handling problems early and creating win-win situations.
- We enhanced the anti-drinking wording in code of conduct.
- Presentation of DYBA DHS scholarships with families present prior to spring Pony league championship game.
- Equitable registration fees based upon residence within Deerfield Park District.



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What's ahead for 2008? Plans, dreams and goals (mine and ours):

- PCA double-goal coaching training for all coaches and managers including paid travel managers and coaches.
- In-season skills training for younger baseball and softball players.
- Practical training for house managers on how to run practices and making effective use of pre-game warm-up time.
- Expanding paid travel baseball coaches to 11 year old level - both red and gray teams.
- Use of on-line registration system for spring and summer house leagues (both available earlier this fall). Use of on-line system for clinic registration, promotion, etc.
- DYBA appreciation day to be held in Jewett Park.
- Shepard pony field will be grassed.
- Maplewood fields 2 and 3 to be skinned.
- General improvements at all fields - better watering, improved dirt for mounds, elimination of lips between infield and outfield, etc.
- New / improved shed and / or storage space.
- Expand our relationship with Keshet buddy-baseball program; perhaps DYBA partnership and use of Deerfield facilities.
- Opportunity to sponsor PCA double-goal coaching training for a "needy" youth baseball program.
- Increase the number of Colt players from 2007.



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What's ahead for 2008? Plans, dreams and goals (continued)

- Increase the size and dramatically enhance the quality and enjoyment of our house softball program.
- Standardize pre-season league meetings and forms used by league presidents.
- Enhance umpire training, mentoring and review program.
- Complete board position description and work towards establishing a DYBA handbook for all board members.
- Lobby to improve the baseball and softball facilities at Deerfield High School.
- Establish a relationship with a photographer to provide action pictures to DYBA house league families.
- 100% participation at picture day!
- Fall baseball and softball?
- New scoreboards at Jewett.