



MEDIALITTLELEAGUE.ORG

Illustrated *Media Little League*

WINTER 2010



A formula for teamwork and success

As Media Little League embarks on its 59th year of baseball for the youth of our community, we once again look forward to the excitement that brings our families together. Media Little League is more than bats, gloves and baseballs. It is a leadership-training program that introduces the virtues of character, courage and loyalty to the players throughout the league.

Little League baseball teaches kids the rewards of teamwork, a respect for authority and the self-discipline that will enable the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.

The league's ability to thrive relies on the continued support of its membership. The core of this support is volunteer participation.

Unlike many other youth organi-

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE **JOHN DALY**

zations, Media Little League is all-volunteer. We need coaches to lead nearly 50 teams, umpires to work over 300 games, folks to flip hamburgers in the snack bar, people to empty garbage cans and get the fields ready each spring. By the end of the season, virtually every parent has volunteered his or her time.

We think it is the right formula to keep registration fees reasonable, create a sense of community and provide a great example for our kids.

As you know, ongoing field maintenance and complex improvements require funding. Your support comes in many ways, but it is our largest fundraiser, the Bat-A-Thon®

that makes the greatest difference. Besides allowing us to re-invest in the complex, it allows us to provide the best baseball experience possible. For this support, I thank you.

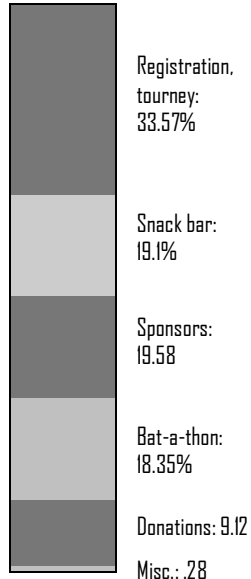
I want to again extend congratulations to our 2009 postseason tournament teams, but especially to our 11/12 district team which advanced all the way to the Pennsylvania state finals. A terrific job by the players, coaches and parents.

Let's get ready for another fun and exciting year. I would like to wish everyone a successful and productive season. If you would like to share a thought or an idea that will make our league better, please seek me out at the complex this spring. I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas and don't forget to come out and volunteer your time.

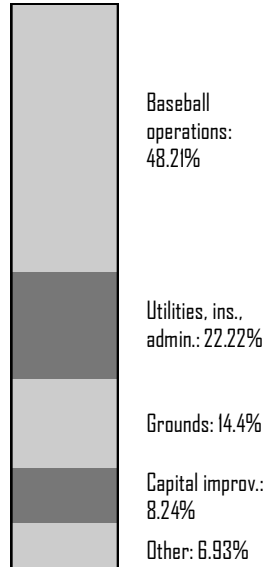
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REVENUE



EXPENSES



2010 WALK-IN REGISTRATION



SATURDAY, JAN. 23: 9 a.m. - noon

MONDAY, JAN. 25: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 1: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

LOCATION: Media Community Center, 301 N. Jackson St.

FEES: All players - \$80; two-player families - \$125; three-player families - \$160

ELIGIBILITY: Anyone ages 5 to 12 as of April 30, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2010

Saturday, Feb. 6

Evaluations for 8-, 11-, 12-year-olds @ Springton Lake

8-year-olds: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

11-year-olds not in the Majors: 12:45-2:00

12-year-olds: not in the Majors: 2:15-3:30

Saturday, Feb. 20

Evaluations for 9-, 10-year-olds @ Springton Lake

10-year-olds: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

9-year-olds: 12:45-2:00

10- to 12-year-olds: 2:15-3:30

Thursday, Feb. 25

Make-up evaluations for 8- to 12-year-olds

@ Springton Lake. All players-6:00-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 6

Final Evaluation @ Maple Zone for all eligible Major League players not assigned to teams 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sun., Tues., Thur., March 7, 9 & 11

Players selected to teams for each League

Saturday, March 13

Equip. distribution and practices start (Majors; Amer; Nat'l)

Saturday, March 27

Field Day @ 9 a.m. (Parents please help), No practices

Sunday, March 28

Field Day #2, 10:00 a.m. (no practices until after 2 p.m.)

Note: Public schools are off the week of March 29th

Monday, April 5

Season starts for all leagues

Tues., Wed., Thur., Fri., April 6, 7, 8 & 9

Picture days

Saturday, April 10

Opening Day ceremonies

Saturday, May 15

Bat-A-Thon (this year's major fundraiser)

Friday, June 4

Regular season ends - Majors, American, & National

Saturday, June 5

Playoffs start - Majors, American, & National Leagues

Saturday, June 19

Championship Day / Closing Ceremonies



One crazy game, and 2 tourney titles

Media's 11-year-old District team had a successful postseason run culminating in a second-place finish in the District 19 tournament.

Media started by demolishing Haverford, 22-2, then it scratched out a hard-fought 5-2 win over rival Delaware Valley to advance to the semi-finals versus neighborhood nemesis Aston-Middletown.

Unfortunately, with the game tied at 2 in the bottom of the fifth, Aston hit a timely homerun and closed out a 4-2 victory.

Del Val, came out fired up and jumped out to a 7-0 lead. Somehow, Media regrouped and tied the game at 7. What ensued from that point forward, you would have had to see to believe. Huge, timely hits and



several pitching changes led to multiple lead changes. In the top of the sixth and in its last at bat, Media trailed 15-13. With two outs and two strikes, it hit a three-run homerun to take a 16-15 lead. The boys added an insurance run to take a 17-15 lead.

Del Val loaded the bases with no outs. Media got one out, then ended the game with a circus doubleplay to

advance to the title game. The next day, against a rested Aston, Media – pitching thin – fought valiantly but fell, 11-4.

The kids rebounded to win the Drexel Hill Tournament, again defeating Del Val, this time, 16-6. In addition they captured the championship of the Aston-Middletown Diamond Classic.

The squad was made up of James "Mac" McConnon, Anthony "Amart" Martinelli, Danny "DC" Crawford, Stephen "Mopp" Moppert, Chase "Dark Knight" Luffey, Nick "The Freak" Newman, Joseph "Joey" Cimino, Eric "E" Faillace, Rich "Richie" Sposato, and Corey Fishman" Ziring. Anthony Martinelli was the manager with Mark McConnon serving as coach.

9/10 District team exceeds expectations

After just a few weeks of practice time together, the 9/10 District team put forth a successful effort in the District 19 tournament that we can all be proud of.

Typically, district teams are comprised of players that have played together on previous all-star teams at younger ages. That was not the case with this squad as only three members of the team had played together on a 8- and 9-year-old teams in previous summers. Thanks to the players' commitment to practice and willingness to play any position necessary, we quickly became a tough team to beat.

We started the district tournament by beating Newtown Edgemont, 14-3; Leedom 18-2; and Marple Township, 5-3. The wins over N.E. and Marple were impressive as they had both previously beaten us in the



Mark Dombroski, Devon Laut (front row); Coach Bill Virbitsky, Michael Chang, Max Daugherty, Vince Sposato, Xandy Hammitt, Sam Freedman, Alex Burman, Kyle Virbitsky, Coach Marty Burman.

Drexel Hill Tournament. We faced a heavily favored Aston-Middletown team in the winners bracket final and suffered a very close 12-10 loss. We bounced back to beat Marple again in the losers' bracket final by a score of 8-6.

This set the stage for another showdown between Media and Aston for the 9/10-year-old title. This was the third consecutive year that these two teams had reached the district finals.

The championship was another classic battle between Media and Aston. In a game with several lead changes, Aston prevailed with a bottom of the sixth walk-off RBI double that gave them a 6-5 victory.

Although we came up just short of winning the District 19 title, we clearly exceeded expectations and really proved that baseball is the ultimate team sport.



A historic season for Media LL

Media Little League reached a major milestone when its 11/12-year old District team made a run for the 2009 Little League World Series. For the first time in Media's 58-year history, the 11/12-year-old team made it to the Pennsylvania State finals - just one step from securing a spot in the Little League World Series Tournament. Along the way, the team compiled an 11-1 record in the District 19, Section 8 and Eastern Pa. tournaments.

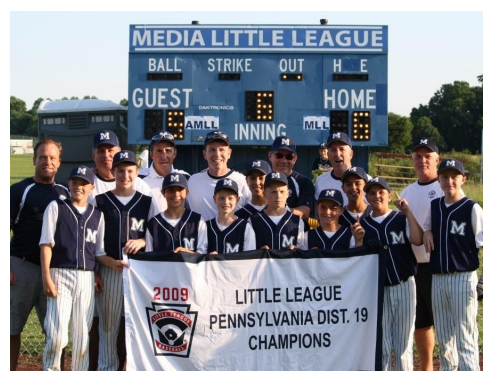
The exciting journey began with the first game of the District 19 Tournament, an 11-4 victory over Newtown Edgemont, which included a leadoff home run by Kevin Mohollen, a 3-run homer by Stevie Furman, a stellar pitching performance by Russell Rhoades and a game-ending, diving, over-the-shoulder catch by shortstop Kevin McGowan.

The excitement continued with wins over Delaware Valley (10-0) and archrival, Aston-Middletown (9-5), putting Media in the District 19 Championship game against Aston-Middletown, which emerged from the loser's bracket. All present could attest to the energy at our home field that left fans on the edge of their seats throughout the tense game. Despite Aston's late comeback attempt, Media players kept their cool and concluded business with a 6-5 victory and the District 19 Championship - the third such title for Media's 11/12's in 4 years.

In Section 8 play, the team delivered nail-biting victories against strong competitors from Districts 21 (Bensalem), 22 (Horsham) and 27 (Berwyn-Paoli). After opening with a close 2-1 win over Berwyn-Paoli, Media launched itself into the tournament finals with strong hitting and a great pitching save by TQ, Timmy Quinn, for a 6-4 victory over Horsham.

Media found itself facing loser's bracket winner, Horsham, in the final, with Media in the driver's seat as the winners-side champ. A slow start had Media down 6-1. Despite a furious rally with the bases loaded in the bottom of the last, our team suffered its first defeat of the postseason, 6-5.

This MLL team was not to be denied, however; and in the second half of a weather necessitated "under-the-lights" double-



header, Media took the Section 8 crown with a convincing 9-5 victory. The tournament series was filled with many exciting moments, including five doubleplays over a 3-game span by infielders McGowan, Nate Engleka and Timmy Quinn; long homerun blasts by Dom Nunag, Mohollen and McGowan; a diving catch to kill a rally by center fielder Michael Solomon followed in the next inning by his key 2-RBI double; and strong pitching performances by Rhoades, Mohollen, Furman and Quinn.

The team next traveled to the Pennsylvania Eastern Region Tournament hosted by the North Pocono's "Dandy Lion Little League" against teams from Sections 5 (Carbino Club), 6 (Council Rock-Newtown) and 7 (Red Land). Once again, MLL did not disappoint.

Game 1 saw MLL draw an old nemesis, Red Land, from



their run to the Eastern Pa. Championship as 9/10 year olds. Red Land got a few base-runners early and threatened with runners on 1st and 2nd and two outs, before a line drive to center was relayed to Mohollen at the plate by Solomon to snuff out the threat. That energy fueled the Media bats, where a 3-run, game-sealing homer by McGowan, coupled with shutout pitching performance by Rhoades and Mohollen, led to a 5-0 victory.

all, Media allowed only 12 runs in the Eastern Pennsylvania Tournament.

As the Eastern Pa. Little League winners, Media proudly went on to represent: 16 Districts, 236 Little Leagues, and between 70,800 to 118,000 players. In a best-of-three series for the State Championship in Dunmore, Pa., Media battled with Western Pa. champs from Moon Township for the rights to advance to Regional Play in the Little League World Series.

Game 1 started with optimism after a solo HR in the 1st inning by McGowan and 3 shutout innings by Rhoades carried Media ahead into the 4th inning. But with 2 outs in the bottom of the 4th, Moon deflated things quickly with a 2 run blast, followed by an RBI double. Moon's vexing pitching led to a 3-1 loss for MLL. Game 2 saw Media jump ahead with a 1-run lead in the bottom of the 1st, but Moon answered quickly with 3 runs in the second and never looked back en route to a 12-5 victory.

Despite valiant play that included strong at-bats from McGowan, Brian Snow, Mohollen, Furman, Nunag and Solomon and another solid pitching performance by Rhoades, the journey to the State Championship and the Little League World Series ended with a hard-to-take 2-0 series loss.

For the first time in its history, Media's 11/12 year-old tournament team captured the Pennsylvania Section 8 and Eastern State titles. This season capped a three-year run as a team, during which these players claimed six Little League banners, which will be proudly displayed on the backstop at MLL's Major Field. Throughout this journey, many friendships were forged and a strong foundation and appreciation for the game was laid out for the team by Manager Ed Snow, Head Coach John Mohollen, and Assistants Tom Furman, Shawn Quinn, Tony Antonello and Leo McGowan.

Though the run ended sooner than the team hoped, their journey is summed up best in the words of the 'team song' as performed by Green Day:

*"It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right;
I hope you had the time of your life."*

Game 2 saw another 3-run homer, this time delivered by Colin Maguire, which led to a 10-4 win over Council Rock-Newtown. After Media dug an 8-run hole early in Game 3 against Carbino Club, Media's manager, Ed Snow, and coach, John Mohollen, proved their baseball savvy (or at least their survival skills) by revising their planned pitching rotation, trotting Rhoads, the staff ace, out to the mound amid heckling from a hostile home crowd. Rhoads wasted little time in shutting down Carbino and the team's bats exploded for 18 unanswered runs, completely silencing the hopeful but unsuspecting home club and their fans with a dominating 18-8 victory. Next, Media coasted to an easy Game 4 win to clinch the Eastern Region Title in a 10-run rule shortened 4-inning, 11-1 victory over Council Rock-Newtown, featuring homers by Rhoads and Maguire and a rock-solid pitching performance by Mohollen. In



WHY ARE YOU UP HERE?

Why are you up here?
My kids need a coach.

Why are you up here?
Practice.

Why are you up here?
Gotta game.

Why are you up here?
Watching my kids' friends play.

Why are you up here?
Snack bar.

Why are you up here?
I have to ump.

Why are you up here?
Watching my friend's kid play.

Why are you up here?
Batting cages.

Why are you up here?
Pick up trash.

Why are you up here?
Work on the field.

Why are you up here?
Kids like the fries.

Why are you up here?
Equipment needs fixing.

Why are you up here?
Bathroom needs cleaning.

Why am I up here?
Not so my kid gets on a good team. Not to win a championship. Not to get my kid on a district team. Not to be named manager of the year. I'm here because I love these people and this community. I'm here because there's a need. I'm here to be a part of the solution not the problem. I'm here for these kids. I'm here to help.

Why are YOU here?

- Anonymous



Patriot constructs Major championship

The 2009 Major League season began well before the first pitch was thrown with an expansion from six to eight teams. It was the most Major League teams in the 57-year history of Media Little League.

The teams were sponsored by Advocare Children's Medical, Baker Printing, Campbell's Boat House, Carman Corporation Insurance, Hagan's Funeral Home, Mopert Brothers Inc., Patriot Construction and William Young Construction.

Nearly every regular season game had the outcome determined in the final innings with favorites not always prevailing. The top five teams were separated at the end of the regular season by only four games with two teams tied at the top of the standings.

Carman Corp Insurance was striving for an unprecedented "fourpeat" - plus it captured the crown five of the past six seasons - under the watchful eyes of coaches Ed Snow and John Mohollen.

The double elimination playoff tournament saw teams knock off higher ranked teams, notably Advoca-

2009 MAJOR LEAGUE RECAP SCOTT KOTCAMP

care Children's Medical losing in the opening round by Hagan's Funeral Home. Advocare was unfazed, winning every game in the losers' bracket to reach the finals.

The winners bracket saw fantastic baseball the with the winners-bracket final pitting the Carman Corp dynasty against the youthful Patriot Construction team.

This was no David vs. Goliath matchup, since Patriot Construction and Carman tied for the regular-season title at 11-4. Patriot won in a thriller and advanced to the finals to await the winner of Advocare vs. Carman. Most expected a Patriot-Carman rematch, but Advocare played magnificently against Carman, sending the defending champions home.

The championship game was scheduled between raindrops and although Advocare battled valiantly, Patriot Construction proved to be too much and became the 2009 champs.



Why Little League has pitching limits

Overuse injury is damage to a bone, muscle, or tendon that has been subjected to repetitive stress without sufficient time to heal. With many children participating in sports year-round or on multiple teams simultaneously, overuse is a common cause of injuries.

"Little League elbow" refers to medial elbow pain attributable to repetitive throwing by skeletally immature athletes. While pitchers are most likely to be affected, it can occur in other positions also.

In response to concerns about Little League elbow, guidelines are in place to limit the stress placed on young pitching arms. Pitchers have pitch limits based on

age with mandatory rest periods between pitching appearances. It is important that coaches and parents adhere to these limits.

Youths who exhibit symptoms of Little League elbow must get adequate rest in order to properly heal.

Preseason conditioning programs, teaching players proper pitching mechanics, and gradually increasing the amount and intensity of throwing throughout the season, may reduce the incidence of throwing injuries.

Adapted from American Academy of Pediatrics Risk of Injury from Baseball and Softball in Children Committee on Sports Medicine and Fitness



Regular season, tournament rules line up

Recent rule changes adopted by the Little League International Board of Directors will bring pitching rules for tournament baseball in line with regular season rules. Administrators and volunteers sought more consistency.

The most noticeable change is a new rule eliminating the game required in between pitching appearances while increasing the number of days of rest. Adoption of the rules

makes pitching regulations the same for tournament and regular season play.

Previously, a 12-year-old pitcher in the regular season who threw the

maximum 85 pitches in a day was required to have three calendar days of rest and one game before pitching again. In 2010, that pitcher will be required to have four days of rest.

2010 LITTLE LEAGUE PITCHING RULES

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches, four calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51-65 pitches, three calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36-50 pitches, two calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21-35 pitches, one calendar day of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches, no calendar day of rest is required.



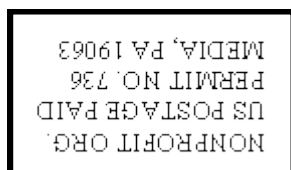
10-YEAR-OLDS PLAY DEEP INTO SUMMER

The 10-year-old tournament team compiled an 8-4 record. It competed in the Newtown Edgemont and Drexel Hill tournaments, making it to the championship of the DHLL tournament, before falling, 9-5, to Lower Merion.

Pictured are (top row, from left) coaches Tom Scanlon and Darryl Ruffin, players David Moore, Chris Cosenza, Jack Kichula, Seamus Scanlon, Peter Solomon, Austin Peters, Aaron Brown, Richie Hess and Manager Rich Hess. Kneeling are (from left) Ari Feldman, Manny Ruffin, Solomon Bayuk and Jack Barbee. Devin Van Garden and Devon Turner are not pictured

GET YOUR NEW MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE GEAR

Hats, shirts, hoodies and more available at registration



MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE
P.O. Box 1752
Media, Pa. 19063

2009 MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

MAJORS Patriot Construction

Thomas Bacchia
Robbie Brown
Christopher Byrd
James Finnegan
Stephen Furman
Anthony Martinelli
Colin McGuire
Jason McLarney
Andrew Panzo
Ryan Shaughnessy
Teddy Silva
Brendan Welsh

Anthony Martinelli, manager
Thomas Furman, coach
Donal McGuire, coach
Ann Brown, team parent
Ann Brown, BaT® coord

AMERICAN Sposato Homes

Michael Arndt
Christopher Betts
Casey Calloway
Gerald Dati
James Hennelly
Harrison Hotham
Willem Hotham
Ryan McDevitt
Colin Mohollen
Patrick O'Kane
Christopher Rushton
Vincent Sposato

Vince Sposato, manager
Peter O'Kane, coach
Patricia O'Kane, team parent
Sean McDevitt, BaT® coord

NATIONAL Winners Circle

Jared Brower
Daniel DiMichele
Nathan Furman
John Hasson
Mariah Jackson
Eric Loper
Dan Maguire
Caleb Mahalik
Benjamin Pinheiro
Dylan Riley
Jamie Simpson
Brian Virbitsky

Dan Maguire, manager
Jeff Brower, coach
Bill Virbitsky, coach
Terri Maguire, team parent
Judy Brower, BaT® coord

CONTINENTAL Burman's Health Food

Tommy Bradley
Leo Burman
Aidan Carroll
Michael Dimondo
Matthew Grace
Jared Hoefner
Kenny Jensen
Joshua Kleiman
Alexander Lombard
Reid Morfei
Andrew Pak
Kevin Smith

Dave Smith, manager
Thomas Bradley, coach
Marty Burman, coach
Bryan Carroll, coach
Ken Jensen, coach
Chrissy Smith, team parent