

MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE ILLUSTRATED



Key Dates for the 2016 Season

April 4 th	Season Begins For All (except Tee-Ball)
April 9 th	Opening Day Ceremonies /MLL Complex Parade starts at 8:45 am Season Begins for Tee-Ball League
May 7 th	6 th Annual Beef-n-Beer @ SMM Gym
May 14 th	Slugfest (MLL major fundraiser)
May 30 th	Memorial Day 2016 - Complex Closed Friday May 27 through Monday May 30
June 2 nd	Regular Season Ends – ML, AL, NL & CL
June 4 th	Playoffs Start – CL
June 6 th	Playoffs Start – ML, AL, and NL
June 18 th	Championship Day / Closing Ceremonies

*"There may be players who
have more talent than you, but
there's no excuse for anyone to
work harder than you do."*
Derek Jeter



Little League baseball is a time honored tradition that most people never forget from their youth. You are provided memories from your 1st experience as a T-Ball player, to the advancement to coach pitch & machine pitch leagues, all the way up till your final at bat as a 12 year old. Many will look back at these experiences and consider them among the great periods of their youth. Media Little League continues year in and year out to provide these experiences for the children and families of our area.

The 2016 season will mark the 65th Season that MLL will be providing baseball to the boys, girls, and families of our community. We would not be able to continue this without the work of the MLL Board of Directors and our 300+ volunteers we average yearly. It is with the efforts of those individuals who help the league function year after year to be one of the premier youth programs in our community.

We ask and encourage ALL to get involved. You do not need to be a baseball expert to still make a difference in our league, we need Team Parents, Slugfest! Coordinators, Field Day help, snack Bar volunteers, helping set up and break down a field after games is a big help, and even emptying a trash can from time to time helps in the effort to keep our complex looking great and a place we feel safe to have our children call their own. If unsure how you can help, just stop a coach or a MLL Board member, and we will gladly accept your assistance.

In recent years the MLL Board has allocated raised funds each year to projects to improve the experience at the MLL Complex each year. 2016 will not be any different, we have already purchased new bleachers for some of our fields to improve the viewing experience at the fields, replaced the CL backstop, & trimmed trees at complex. We also have purchased several trash receptacles to replace old, broken ones we had been using. These are just the start and we hope to be able to do a few more changes prior to the 2016 season. Thank you to everyone for their help.

Finally, I would like to welcome all of our new families to MLL, and welcome back to our returning families. We hope to make 2016 another great experience for the children, but once again it all starts with us, the adults to provide that experience to the kids. The dedication, time and efforts given by the coaches, snack bar workers, field maintenance, and families as a whole are what makes MLL great. Let's continue the tradition that has been set for us.

Best Regards,

Del Bittle
MLL President



UNUSUAL BASEBALL FACTS

1. Joel Zumaya once missed three games in 2006 after injuring himself playing Guitar Hero.
2. In 1957, Richie Ashburn of the Philadelphia Phillies hit spectator Alice Roth with a foul ball, breaking her nose. As Roth was being carried off the field on a stretcher, Ashburn hit her with another foul ball, breaking another bone in her knee. The odds of a fan being hit by a baseball are 300,000 to 1. The odds of the same fan being hit twice during the same at-bat, and breaking bones both times, are even more astronomical.
3. Gaylord Perry was a notoriously weak hitter. San Francisco Giants manager Alvin Dark joked with reporters, saying: "They'll put a man on the moon before Gaylord Perry hits a home run." Then on July 20, 1969, a mere 20 minutes after Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, Perry hit his first home run in the major leagues.
4. In his very first at-bat as a rookie pitcher, future Hall of Famer Hoyt Wilhelm hit a home run. His career lasted 21 more years and 493 plate appearances, but he never hit another homer.
5. MLB umpires are required by rule to wear black underwear, in case they split their pants.

2016 Snack Bar Coverage Changes

Parents,

As you may already know, Media Little League is an all-volunteer organization. That means we could not operate without people like you who give their time and energy to make each season a fun, enjoyable and memorable experience for every child who joins us. One area where we rely heavily upon each and every one of you is volunteering in our Snack Bar. The Snack Bar is an integral piece of our financial success, which allows us to have the lowest registration fees and one of the nicest complexes in the region. The time you volunteer in the Snack Bar is crucial for its successful operation.

In the past, we have heard from many of you that volunteering your time in the Snack Bar keeps you from seeing your child's games, and we have listened. For the 2016 season, we are implementing a new program to schedule parent volunteer time at the Snack Bar.:

1. Each team within the League will be scheduled for Snack Bar coverage 2 game slots during the season.
2. These time slots will be scheduled so that they do not conflict with your child's scheduled game times. This approach is one used by many other Leagues in the area and will greatly reduce the number of time slots each team (from 7 to 2) is responsible for coverage

Successful implementation of this approach will require that each of you work together with your Manager, Team Parent and the other parents on your child's team to make sure your assigned time slots are covered. Volunteering and teamwork are core values of Media Little League and Little League International. We are certain that all of us parents can work together to continue the successful operation of the Snack Bar, which is so integral to the success of Media Little League.

More details will be coming from your Team Parent and Manager.

Thank you again for your support,
Your Media Little League Board of Directors

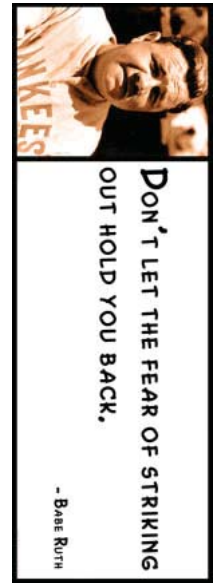
MEDIA LITTLE LEAGUE FAN GEAR NOW AVAILABLE

T-Shirts – Hats – Sweatshirts – Backpacks

Email questions and orders to brad.zilch@techsense.com

Now accepting credit cards, cash or check





The 7 years that I spent at Media Little League!

by Gered Thack

When I was younger and the news arrived that the Phillies had started spring training, one thing ricocheted through my mind, it was baseball season and Little League was right around the corner.

I would read every spring training article, scan to see who my new favorite Phillies would be this year. Since I was a catcher, I couldn't wait to see Bob Boone behind the plate again. Nowadays, kid's favorite players are playing 3rd base in Seattle or hitting home runs for the Yankees. But in our time, we would run out onto the field and imitate our players, our Phillies.

Everyone threw the ball to first base with a side arm quick snap to replicate Manny Trillo. Or cranked their bat counter clockwise and then double hitch clockwise to duplicate Bake McBride as you entered the batter's box.

This is all still true today for me. Once the Media Little League signs hit the yards and the signups begin, I am 12 yrs old again, giddy over the possible season that lay ahead. I had the pleasure of volunteering for 7 yrs at Media Little League and miss it already. The memories that I have could fill up the Grand Canyon.

The kids I got to know, I will now watch them from afar progress through middle school, high school, college, and life. I will see articles in the paper that their Science Fair team just won the states. And I will smile, because deep down, I knew that 10 yr old had it in him. I will hear from a parent as I walk the streets of Media that little Joey is now attending Temple and heading to Australia for a semester abroad. I will read about their engagement in the paper and I will wonder if their kids will play at MLL.

Oh the memories of a players first hit, or the nervousness of the first time they stepped on the mound to pitch. Little League speaks of building confidence and courage and community. I have found that this is especially true at MLL. There is a kinship that runs deep within this community and it begins with the positive attitude of the volunteers.

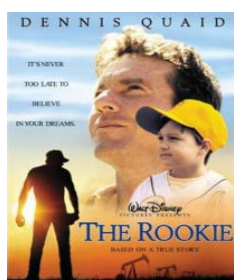
The hard work it takes to run the league, the coaches, the team parents, the snack bar assistants, the umpires. All exude the qualities that we want our children to be engulfed with when coming to the complex. We strive to protect our children, keep them safe, but at Media Little League they are free to explore and learn about life, sports, and lifelong friendships. Don't miss out on shaping our Community - GET OUT AND VOLUNTEER!

“

Whether you have a great game or a terrible game, tomorrow is another day and you've got to come out here and play.

”

- David Wright
(Met's 3rd Baseman)



Baseball Movies to Watch with your Children

The Bad News Bears (the original)

The Sandlot

Field of Dreams

The Rookie

Rookie of the Year

Little Big League

Three Generations of Media Little Leaguers

Throughout the history of Media Little League there have been a number of players whose fathers also played their youth baseball on the fields of Media. In the case of the Ryder family, not only did father Derek Ryder and sons, Will and Jack begin their baseball careers in Media Little League but the grandfather, Fred Ryder also graced our fields as a youngster. The family boasts considerable baseball prowess. Each generation of Ryders played for the 12 year old district tournament team and Derek went on to play baseball for Penn State and have a professional baseball career.

The past baseball season was a special one for all the Ryder men. Derek got to coach both of his sons, Will who played for American League team, Pazulski Carpet & Tile and Jack with Baker Printing. Grandpa Fred also volunteered his considerable baseball wisdom to the boy's teams and attended just about every game. Baseball didn't end after the playoffs for Fred, Derek and Jack as the trio kept the season going well into the summer as coaches and players for the 12 year old tournament team.



The senior Ryder, best known as Freddy, was actually a member of the storied 1957 Media tournament team. That team played for the state championship; a remarkable feat considering Media Little League was just founded only four years earlier in 1953. Freddy recalled, "I was a ten year old alternate on that team. Media was a great League in those days. Our field was Hess Field (located in the area now occupied by the Rose Tree Corporate Center) and it was the premier field in the district. There were only four teams in the Majors then, Upper Providence, Nether Providence, Media AA and Media JC." Freddy played for Media AA coached by Irv Malseed. Other star players of his era were Tim Malseed, Ronnie Powell, Mike Flanagan, Tom Pepler and Chubby Golatz. Twenty-odd years later, Freddy returned to MLL to coach his sons, Brett and Derek. Now he's in his third go around with MLL, this time as a grandfather. When asked about his experience this past season, Freddy replied, "It was awesome. The best part was getting to watch my son coach my grandsons. I also enjoyed helping out a bit here and there."

Derek and Jen Ryder have three children, sons Jack (12), Will (10) and daughter, Libby (7). When it came time for the family to move from Havertown, the main goal was to get back to Derek roots in the Nether Providence area. "I have a lot of good memories of playing in Media and at Strath Haven High School", Derek explained.

As a nine year old little leaguer, Derek had the experience of facing a big league pitcher. The son of Phillies reliever Tug McGraw was a player in MLL at the time and Tug pitched batting practice to the boys. Derek went on to play for the MLL tournament team in 1984 and again in 1985. One of his teammates on those teams was Steve Grandizio who also played pro baseball. Other teammates and coaches that now have children playing in the league or volunteer their time include Mike Grace, Jamie Yannacone and George Plotts.

Success in Media Little League led to higher levels of baseball for Derek. In his senior year as the catcher for Penn State, Derek was drafted by the California Angels. He played for three years in the Angels system rising to the Double A level. He finished a five year pro career with the Chicago White Sox organization playing alongside many future big leaguers along the way.

When his boys started playing baseball, Derek thought he would enjoy just being a spectator. Somehow, he found himself as the manager of last year's 10 year old tournament team which, for those who are unfamiliar with the position, requires a major effort. This past season, Derek coached two regular season teams, followed by coaching the 12 year old tournament team. He also volunteers as a MLL board member. When asked how it happened that he left the casual comfort of the bleachers to return to the competitive arena, Derek replied, "My kids wanted me to coach. If they wanted me to do it, how could I say no to them?" He added, "I also hoped to help some young players to find the passion for the game that I developed under previous Media Little League volunteers."

When it comes to success on the baseball diamond, Jack and Will have a tough act to follow in their dad and grandfather, who they affectionately call "Big Daddy". When asked if there was any added pressure to be good at baseball like dad and Big Daddy, Will responded with the frank honesty of a nine year old, "No. I don't really care."

Jack and Will are aware that they are the third generation of Ryders in MLL. Both boys acknowledge this as being, "Pretty cool." Jack added, "I try to live up to their expectations. It motivates me."

Contributed by Tony Antonello



2015 Media Little League Champions

Baker Printing Gold on Black	TriBen Insurance Solutions, Inc. White on Red	Indians / New Spring Capital Red on Navy	A's / Cavanagh FuneralHome Gold on Kelly
<p>Dave Smith, Manager Tony Antonello, Coach Ryan Donnelly, Coach Tim Edwards, Coach Derek Ryder, Coach Fred Ryder, Coach Chrissy Smith, Team Parent Jen Ryder, SlugFest! Coordinator</p> <p>Ivan Bienkowski Cole Donnelly Luke Edwards Kevin Fernandes Dylan Hermann Quinn Martin Aaron Pagan Blaise Penn Will Reger Jack Ryder David Scanlan Kevin Smith</p>	<p>Bill Kane, Manager Jim Cawley, Coach Bob Corritore, Coach Christopher Mack, Coach Jason Sutherland, Coach Tara Bernhardt, Team Parent Jess Anderson, SlugFest! Coordinator</p> <p>Ryan Anderson Cole Bernhardt Joseph Breen Jimmy Cawley Nicholas Corritore Evan Golato Matt Kane Jeremy Mack Justin Mennig Leah Stern Aidan Sutherland Ruben Yanez</p>	<p>Del Bittle, Manager Steve Cohen, Coach Brad Ettien, Coach Doug Maull, Coach Dan Rebuck, Coach Suzanne Brophy, Team Parent Emily Coury, SlugFest! Coordinator Jenn Maull, SlugFest! Coordinator</p> <p>Cooper Bittle Tristan Blair Maeve Brophy Will Cohen Jason Coury Benjamin Ettien Ben Liebman Sarah Liebman W. Harrison Maull Michael Piscopo Michael Skerritt Alex Turmel</p>	<p>Matt Broomall, Manager Jeff Cohen, Coach Dave Crawford, Coach Mike Rossi, Coach James Smolarski, Jr., Coach Diana Rossi, Team Parent Lettie Smolarski, SlugFest! Coordinator Pete Naugle, SlugFest! Coordinator</p> <p>Luke Averill Will Badura Luke Broomall RJ Closs Zachary Cohen Mason Coutts Luke Crawford Maverick George Devin Kennedy Keane Naugle Anthony Rossi Jameson Smolarski</p>



MLL Board Members

We Welcome our newest board members

Brad Ettien
Mike Gorman
John Gill

...and we Thank each of our retiring board members!

Dave Crawford
Pete O'Kane

MLL Awards for 2015

Coach of the Year
Bill Kane

Volunteers of the Year
Randy & Michele Cropper

Umpire of the Year
Bob Fanelli

Media Little League's 6th Annual **Beef-n-Beer**



\$35

**May 7, 2016
7:00 to 11:00PM**

**St. Mary Magdalen
2400 N. Providence Rd.**

All proceeds benefit Media Little League

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