



OWATONNA BASEBALL - ISSUE 18

OWATONNA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

The MSHSL has approved a zero week that allows all pitchers and catchers to start one week ahead of all players to allow them the opportunity to gain arm strength. All OHS Pitchers and Catchers will start Monday, March 11th at OJHS starting at 3:30. Each session will last approximately 90 minutes.

All OHS players will officially begin on Monday, March 18th at 3:15 pm at OMS. High School parents should look for a spring newsletter in February.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

McKinley Baseball Fields: the infield was re-surfaced to improve drainage that included added black dirt, sod, and red rock. Clay was added to re-shape both mounds.

Manthey Park: dugouts have been added to both fields. All mounds have been re-shaped and a new batting net has been ordered.

Jaycee Park: a new batting cage net has been ordered. Clay was added to re-shape both mounds.

New Bats for all minor league teams.

LL & ML, EVALS & REG.

Evals: Little League - Saturday, April 6 at OMS.

Evals: Minor League - Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7 at OMS. 2 DAYS.

Little League and Minor League Registration is Monday, February 25 at West Hills Social Commons

SUPPORT OHS BASEBALL

WATER SOFTENER SALT SALE

PRE-SALE BEGINS NOW!

CONTACT COACH TATE CUMMINS FOR SALES

EMAIL: owatonnabaseball@live.com

PRESIDENT'S NOTE BY BILL THEIS

It's a new year...so time to start thinking warm weather and baseball, right?!? It may not seem like it now...but baseball season is not far off! Baseball registration for current 2nd through 8th graders is right around the corner. We will have our in-person registration day on Monday, February 25th. You will have the opportunity to register online prior to that date...but we encourage everyone to attend to try on uniforms and gather additional information about the upcoming season. Check out the Little League/Minor League sections for more information. We look forward to seeing you all!

The Bullpen Club is constantly looking for ways to help make our program better. As we look towards the 2019 season...here are some enhancements we are looking to make at our Little League and Minor League levels.

The Little League (2nd through 5th grade) program will again be a Junior Twins program. This will be the final year of a three-year grant that the Bullpen Club received from the Twins Community Fund. We truly appreciate their contributions in helping make our program better! The grant is meant to help increase interest and participation in baseball. We want more kids enjoying this great game of baseball. Look for more promotional materials (newspaper, social media, flyers, etc...) from the Bullpen Club to help promote this great game to all those young ballplayers! We are also looking to help out our coaches at the Little League level by encouraging more parent participation in practices and drills to help make this a fun experience for the kids.

The Minor League (5th through 8th grade) program has a couple changes in the works for the upcoming season. First, we are making a change to our Baseball Academy program to push these dates to early June (earlier in the season) and also adding back the U14 kids to this program. The Baseball Academy is included in your registration costs and is a great way to get additional practice time with our high school coaches. See the Baseball Academy section for more details. Secondly, we know that "practice time" is something that is needed at this level and is something that can get lost in the shuffle of a busy game/tournament schedule. We are looking to address this and know the importance of this. We have been fortunate enough to receive a Coaching Grant from the Twins Community Fund. These funds will allow us to hire a "practice facilitator" to help out our coaches in coming up with practice plans, help with drills, and help promote better pre-game routines for all our teams. Look for more information to come on this!

I want to thank our great Bullpen Club Board members for all their year-round efforts. Each of our fourteen board members plays a vital role in helping provide a great baseball experience for our kids. If there is anyone out there that is looking to become a part of this great group...please feel free to email me (theisbill@hotmail.com) or reach out to another board member.

Lastly, **THANK YOU** to our partners and sponsors. Without them, youth baseball in Owatonna would not exist. We hope to see you out at the ball fields this summer. Please spread the word and encourage others to participate in baseball through the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club.

RAMP UP - PITCHING DEVELOPMENT

In collaboration with OHS Baseball, Little League, and U11 Baseball - we have developed **RAMP Up**. A program that will develop throwing and pitching mechanics at an excellent rate. One of our areas of improvement the past few years has been our ability to throw strikes at the 4th and 5th grade level. This concern has created the following areas of concern: slow game play, diminishing confidence of players, poor pitching mechanics, and hitters becoming disgruntled or over anxious in the batter's box. Ramp Up will be a step in the right direction.

Our hope is that this will improve the speed of play (games), level of play (games), and will allow our players to become more successful on the baseball diamond. This program will improve the consistency of strikes thrown, an increased level of enjoyment from all players, challenge hitters, and actually - improve our hitters along the way. We are excited to offer this opportunity the following nights at Dartt's Park during the OHS Baseball season this upcoming spring. All sessions will be completed after the scheduled home games or practices (see below).

After OHS Practice on Wednesday, May 1 starting at 5:30 PM.

After OHS Practice on Wednesday, May 8 starting at 5:30 PM.

After Tuesday, May 14 vs. Red Wing. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

After OHS Practice on Wednesday, May 22 starting at 5:30 PM.

ALL DATES AND TIMES WILL BE HELD AT DARTT'S PARK

ALL PLAYERS SHOULD WEAR AND BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Baseball Pants, 2) Baseball Hat, 3) Long Sleeve Shirt, 4) Cleats, and 5) Glove.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH EMAIL AND OUR WEBSITE BY APRIL 12. SEE OWATONNABASEBALL.COM FOR ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

HOME TOURNAMENTS - 2019

We hope your tournament experience in 2018 was successful and filled with many great memories. We are thankful for the hard work spent by the Owatonna Park and Rec crews getting the baseball fields ready, parents volunteering their time and energy to help run the concession stands and the generous support from our local businesses that help our home tournaments run smoothly. A special thank you to parents, players and board members that helped clear water from the fields after heavy rains rolled through Owatonna during a couple of our home tournaments! Looking ahead to next season, here are the dates for our 2019 home tournaments. **May 31 - June 2: U12AA & U13A. June 7 - 9: U12A & U14/U15A. June 14 - 16: U11A & U14AA. June 21 - 23: U13AA & U14/15A**

Our success continues to hinge on the volunteer efforts of parents and community members of Owatonna. We are hoping that you join us for another year of youth baseball in Owatonna!



ACADEMY DATES & TIMES

U11: 6/10, 6/11, 6/12,
6/18 and 6/19 from
8:00 - 10:00 am
(Jaycee Park)

U12: 6/10, 6/11, 6/12,
6/18 and 6/19 from
10:00 am - Noon
(Jaycee Park)

U13: 6/10, 6/11, 6/12,
6/18 and 6/19 from
1:00 - 3:00 pm
(Jaycee Park)

U14: 6/17 and 6/20
from 9:00 - 11:30 am
(Dartt's Park)



OWATONNA BASEBALL ACADEMY

One of the premier youth baseball programs in **Southern Minnesota** will once again be held this upcoming summer. The **Owatonna Baseball Academy** will begin Monday, June 10th for players in U11, U12, and U13. The cost has been included in your registration fee. Each session will last 120 minutes at Jaycee Park.

New this year, all workouts will be completed at the beginning of the season and will be instructed by OHS Head Coach Tate Cummins. U11 - U13 will have a total of 5 dates/times that will conclude the 2nd week of June. We are excited for this new and improved program. We've also included U14 this year to provide additional practice opportunities for this level of play.

The goal of the academy is to increase skill level, develop leadership skills, and simply - create a **dynamic baseball atmosphere** in Owatonna that all players can enjoy. We will cover a variety of topics including: hitting drill work, pitching mechanics, base running strategies, and defensive drill work.

All practices for U11 - U13 will be at beautiful **Jaycee's Park** in Owatonna. U14 will be held at **Dartt's Park**. Players are asked to supply their own equipment and nourishment(s). This academy has been supported by the **Huskies Bullpen Club** and the **Minnesota Twins** the past 10 years.

*All time changes will be communicated to the Head Coach of their respective team by May 31st.

OPEN GYM SCHEDULE

Thursday nights at OMS from 7:00 - 9:30 PM from now until March 14th.

Tuesdays and Fridays at OHS from 7:30 - 7:55 AM from February 1st until Friday, March 15th.

Minor and Little League times will be communicated on our website and via email.

Check www.owatonnabaseball.com for all other gym times.

LITTLE LEAGUE & U11 BASEBALL REGISTRATION

2019 is going to be a great year for 2nd through 5th graders to play baseball! If you have questions or concerns, please contact either of the Little League Commissioners.

Matt Frantesl - mmfrantesl@gmail.com

Dean Smith - shark06@yahoo.com

Online Registration Begins: Thursday, February 21st at 6:00 am

Register by way of the Owatonna Parks and Recreation website (<http://ci.owatonna.mn.us/293/Online-Registration>). Deadline is Friday, May 10. End of the Early Registration Discount ends on Friday, March 8.

In-person Registration: Monday, February 25 - 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

West Hills Social Commons (formerly Senior Place) - 502 Dunnell Drive

IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, register in person so that you can have your questions answered by Huskies Bullpen Club members, try on uniforms, and pick up all of your necessary information. Registration can be completed at Park and Recreation after February 25.

Costs: Scholarships are available through the Owatonna Youth Scholarship Fund.

Level 1 - Current 2nd and 3rd Graders

\$55 to Owatonna Park and Recreation (\$65 after March 8)

\$25 to Huskies Bullpen Club for the Taco Johns Fundraiser coupons

Level 2 - Current 4th and 5th Graders

\$75 to Owatonna Park and Recreation (\$85 after March 8)

\$25 to Huskies Bullpen Club for the Taco Johns Fundraiser coupons

U11 Travel Baseball - Highly recommended to all current 5th Graders

\$250 to Huskies Bullpen Club

\$25 to Huskies Bullpen Club for the Taco Johns Fundraiser coupons

Kick Off - Coach/Player/Parent Meet for all Levels: Tuesday, May 28th at the Four Seasons Center (1525 S. Elm - Owatonna) - 6:00 pm. Start your year off well by meeting your coach, receiving important information, and picking up your uniform.

Evaluations for all Levels: Saturday, April 6th at Owatonna Middle School (500 15th St NE - Use the rear parking lot entrance). Every player will be on a team. The evaluation process helps the League Commissioners assemble balanced rosters. You'll receive specific time and information as we approach the date.

Additional Little League Information

Level 1 (Current 2nd and 3rd Grade Players) Program Information

Pitching machine league with emphasis on participation and development of fundamental baseball skills. All participants receive a full uniform (pants, socks, belt, and jersey) with a Major League Baseball hat.

Practices & Games

Parents are encouraged to assist coaches with coordinating drills at practices and helping out during games. This is a great way to be part of your child's world, and it takes some of the burden from our volunteer coaches.

2nd Grade - Mondays and Wednesdays (June and July)

3rd Grade - Tuesdays and Thursdays (June and July)

Level 2 (Current 4th & 5th Grade Players) Program Information

Player pitch in-house leagues intended to continue the development of fundamentals and the skills of game. All participants receive a full uniform (pants, socks, belt, and jersey) with a Major League Baseball hat.

The Huskies Bullpen Club will be hosting an end of the year weekend tournament for all 4th/5th grade in-house teams in late July. We look for this to be a fun experience for these teams as they prepare for traveling baseball.

Practice/Games: Parents are encouraged to assist coaches with coordinating drills at practices and helping out during games. This is a great way to be part of your child's world, and it takes some of the burden from our volunteer coaches. Mondays and Wednesdays (Starting in early June and ending in late July).

U11 Travel Baseball - Recommended for all 5th Graders

Practice / Games: Practices will occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Games will be played in South Central League.

Tournaments: A total of 3 tournaments will be played in the months of May and June.

State Tournament Play: A U11 team must qualify to play in a state tournament (July).

All 5th graders that meet age qualification (must not reach age 12 before April 31st) may register for U11 travel team(s). U11 participants in 5th grade will receive a uniform (2 dry fit jerseys, pants, socks, belt) with a Minor League Baseball hat.

Players will be divided up into even teams that will compete in 3 tournaments and a possible state tournament as well. The number of U11 teams will be determined based on the number of registered players. The goal of U11 is to introduce a travel and tournament baseball experience for 5th grade players.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Online registration for the 2019 season will begin in early February through our website (communication will be sent). All players/parents are encouraged to attend in-person registration on Monday, February 25th between 4:00 - 6:00 pm at The West Hills Social Commons located at 502 Dunnel Drive in the West Hill Complex. (SW of the Owatonna Parks and Recreation office). Late registrations are not guaranteed placement and will be charged a late fee if accepted. Late registrations can be taken to Owatonna Park and Recreation.

U12 - U15 Cost: \$325 for player fee + \$50 Taco John's Fund Raiser for a total of \$375. Checks can be made payable to the Huskies Bullpen Club. A \$100 check is also needed as a workers deposit for your commitment to working the concession stand. This check is only cashed if you DO NOT fulfill your requirement of working the concession stand.

Kick off/meet your coach: Sunday, April 28 at Dartt's Park - 6:30 p.m. start.

Practice/Games: Beginning in May

Evaluations: Again for 2019. Two days of evaluations will start on Saturday, April 6th and Sunday, April 7th at OMS. Communication will be sent at a later date with exact times.

All evaluations will occur at the Owatonna Middle School. They will be followed by a team selection meeting. Parent meetings for all ages and teams will be held the first week of May to officially kick off the Minor League season.

We will be participating in Metro Baseball for AA. Our A teams will play in the South Central League. All teams will also compete in home and away tournaments throughout the summer months. Remember to check the website for additional information.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Major League information for OHS Spring Baseball, VFW, and Legion Baseball will be sent via email the first week of February. This will include information regarding our practice schedules, game schedules, open gym information, and additional information.

OHS Coaching Staff: Tate Cummins, Brian Price, Brandon Wolf, Travis Hilstad, James Dahlgren, Steve Benson, Adam Trautman, and Tyler Keller.

VFW Coaching Staff: James Dahlgren, Tate Cummins, and Kodey Kiel.

Legion Coaching Staff: Tate Cummins and Travis Hilstad.

C A L L E N D A R

January - March	Open Gym at OMS on Thursday nights Open Gym at Owatonna High School on Tuesdays and Fridays.
Feb. 10 - March 3	Winter baseball camps at OMS (Sunday Nights)
February 25	Minor League registration (Senior Place) from 4 - 6:00 PM Little League registration (Senior Place) from 4 - 6:00 PM
March 11	OHS Baseball parent/player meeting at OHS, 6:00 PM OHS Pitchers and Catchers Only at 3:30 PM at OMS
March 18	OHS Practice Begins at 3:15 PM (OMS). All Grades.
March 19	Salt Sale Money and Forms are due
April 1	Kids 1st practice begins
April 4	Home opener for OHS vs. Mayo at 5:00 PM
April 6 & 7	Little League/Minor League evaluations at OMS
April 7	Torey's Brunch for Owatonna Baseball
April 20	Salt delivery beginning at 8:00 AM
May 6	U12, U13, and U14 Metro Leagues begin
May 8	Youth Baseball Coaching Clinic at Dartt's Park - 5:30 PM
May 10	Senior Parents Day vs. Winona at 6:00 PM
May 25	Section 1AAA Playoffs begin
May 28	Little League Kickoff Meeting at Four Seasons at 6:00 PM
June 3	Varsity Baseball Banquet
June 10	Owatonna Baseball Academy Begins
July 28 - Aug 6	The August Classic begins for Minor League



A big thanks to our sponsors that make Owatonna Baseball such a success. The funds raised lower participation fees, which increases the number of athletes playing the great game of Baseball.

There is no question, this support makes Owatonna among the best communities in MN to raise and develop our youth.

Thank you,

Huskies Bullpen Club



- 1st Call Bail Bonds
- American Legion
- Armstrong Painting
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Bremer Bank
- Cartime of Owatonna
- Centerline Builders
- Chevy Youth Baseball
- Cumberland's Trappers Supply
- Deml Heating & AC
- Fame Awards
- Farmers insurance - Lindsay Macht Agency
- Federated Insurance
- Gopher Sport
- Grandpa's Old Home Meats
- Hometown Credit Union
- House Chevrolet
- Hy-Vee
- Jaguar Communications
- Kasper Plumbing
- King Orthodontics
- Kirchner Window
- Legacy Signs
- Miller Sodding and Landscaping
- Mohs Contracting Inc
- MSL Landscaping & Fencing
- Nicholson Flooring
- Oak Glenn
- Oldenburg Photography
- Owatonna Foundation
- Owatonna Gun Club
- Owatonna Park & Rec
- Owatonna School District
- Pizza Ranch
- Prairie Ridge Orthodontics
- Re/MAX Venture
- Struss CPA
- Sweet Towing
- Taco Johns
- Tony's Flooring
- Tri-M Graphics
- Twins Community Fund
- US Bank
- United Prairie Bank
- VFW
- Wenger
- World of Wheels Owatonna
- Zappa Agency

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