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American Legion Baseball Fans:

When the cry, "Play Ball" sounds at this year's State Tournaments, it will mark the season finale of the 98th year of American Legion Baseball. Now is the time to reflect on this past season and to say "Thank You" to the many American Legion Posts, volunteers, coaches, and umpires who have helped make this season another big success.

Throughout the competition leading up to this year's State Tournaments, American Legion Baseball has provided over 4,000 young Nebraskans on over 270 teams with an opportunity to participate. Nebraska continuously ranks in the top 3 Departments Nationally for the number of programs participating!

In 52 American Legion Departments across this great nation and foreign countries, more than 70,000 players participate. This Americanism program contributes significantly in promoting sportsmanship and citizenship, building character, and providing worthwhile recreation for our young people. One only has to look through the rosters of Major League teams to see the names of players such as Alex Gordon, Brian Duensing and Pat Venditte to whom this program has provided valuable training. It is truly a youth program of great merit, and we of the American Legion are proud to sponsor such an activity for our young people.

Speaking for more than 35,000 American Legion and Sons of the American Legion members in the great state of Nebraska, it is my sincere pleasure to extend greetings to all spectators and participants and to offer best wishes for a successful tournament.

For God and Country,

John-Henry Pearcy
Department Commander

John-Honey Barrey