



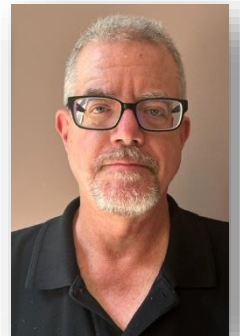
1670 Whitehorse-Mercerville Road
Hamilton, NJ 08619
Phone 609.695.1434
Fax 609.695.2505
www.baberuthleague.org

PRESS RELEASE

SMITH NAMED 2023 NEW ENGLAND LEFTY GOMEZ REGIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The late Vernon “Lefty” Gomez was one of Babe Ruth League’s most dedicated volunteers. One of the reasons he was so committed to the program was because he witnessed firsthand the positive impact Babe Ruth League had on its young participants.

Beginning with the 2023 season, Babe Ruth League, Inc. introduced the first “Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year” Regional Award Winner Program. Each year, the eight Babe Ruth League Regional Commissioners will select one volunteer from their region, who has gone above and beyond to promote and further develop the Babe Ruth League program, to receive this prestigious award.



Ken Smith of Southbury, Connecticut, was selected by New England Regional Commissioner Barry Jordan as the inaugural recipient for 2023.

Jordan said, “The Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year Award is one of the highest honors to be bestowed upon a regional volunteer. Ken Smith is always available to assist the Connecticut Babe Ruth program and the New England Babe Ruth Leagues when needed. He admirably and enthusiastically exemplifies the philosophy of the Lefty Gomez Volunteer of the Year, which is to provide the best possible sports experience for every child that has the desire to play.”

Smith’s involvement with Babe Ruth League covers 25+ years. Whether it is a League President, a Commissioner, a Regional Commissioner, or Babe Ruth Headquarters, they all know they can call on Smith for help and support.

Smith started in the Babe Ruth program volunteering for the Southbury Youth Babe Ruth League (now known as the Pomperaug Babe Ruth League), from 1998 to 2014, and from 2016 to 2022.

He has served as a coach, and as a League Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, Webmaster, and Commissioner. Smith was instrumental in developing the league's website with SportsEngine and enabling electronic registration.

Smith served as a Tournament Chairperson for numerous Connecticut District and State Tournaments, was a member of the tournament committee for the New England Regional Tournament hosted by Southbury and assisted the Connecticut State Commissioner and New England Regional Commissioner at many State and Regional Tournaments.

In addition, Smith implemented the use of Tourney Machine for all Connecticut Babe Ruth Softball, Cal Ripken Baseball, and Babe Ruth Baseball District and State Tournaments, and for the New England Regional Tournaments.

Since the start of the 2023 season, Smith now volunteers as Secretary/Treasurer for the Connecticut Babe Ruth State Organization.

A devoted family man, Smith and his wife Joan have two children, a daughter Melissa, and a son Matthew.

Ken Smith is well respected throughout his community and has helped develop Babe Ruth League, locally, statewide, regionally, and nationally. For more than 25 years, Smith has inspired volunteers throughout the New England Region to bring the values and philosophy of Babe Ruth League to countless young people.

Babe Ruth League, Inc. is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to developing better citizens by providing properly supervised baseball and softball competition for 4 through 18-year-old players. It is the basic intent of Babe Ruth League that every player who has a desire to play the sport is given the opportunity to participate and have fun.

For Immediate Release to All Media