

# Press Release EGBR 16-18 League

## Coach Rob LaFont

Rob LaFont, manager of the Elk Grove Babe Ruth League RATTLEERS announced his willingness to manage the 16 – 18 year-old Traveling Team.

*Online Registration available on the league website at [www.eghardball.com](http://www.eghardball.com). Also see 16-18 League Article on the website at [www.eghardball.com/news\\_article/show/1013577](http://www.eghardball.com/news_article/show/1013577)*

This is a team that will play many, if not most, of its games in the Elk Grove area. However, there will be games that will require some travel WITHIN THE GREATER SACRAMENTO AREA. We will be going up against High School teams for the most part. Many 16-year old's drive themselves or can be driven by friends or parents or can make other arrangements.

Rob is a past manager of this team, having done so in 2015 with his son Derrick. Derrick is also an alumni player for this very team under Board member Doug Penney and Rob was the assistant coach at that time, 2008 - 2009. "We went as far south as Stockton, and only as far east as Lincoln and Granite Bay, with a few stops in between", he explained. "We even went on and did a tournament in Stockton where the Ports play because it was such a hoot! But our prospective team can talk about that during the latter part of our upcoming season if the players feel so inclined."

This is an opportunity for 16-year olds to extend their playing careers. Once our players finish their Babe Ruth league season, there is no place in Elk Grove to turn to continue playing. Just ask some of the 17 and 18-year-old EGBR alumni of their frustrations.

The primary reason our League hasn't had a 16-18-year-old team is lack of enrollment. "There hasn't been a coach to lead the team in recent years which has adversely affected signups" Rob said. "So, by announcing my intent to take the reins of this team these young men will hopefully sign up knowing there is a coach waiting for them. I have been told by several prospective players they would sign up if a coach steps forward. It seems a sin to be forced into baseball retirement at the age of 16, so I decided to step up again."

LaFont will be assisted by Dan Schmitt, a former assistant coach at Franklin High School and current coach of the Spring League Rattlers. Dan will be helping on weekdays. On Saturday games DJ Wilson, former standout catcher at Elk Grove High School and another current assistant with the Rattlers will lend his expertise. Those of you who would like to improve your technique as a catcher will benefit greatly. Meanwhile, Rob has helped many pitchers with his unorthodox but simple approach.

The schedule will be drawn up by Elk Grove Babe Ruth league president Joe Matlen and will encompass roughly 16 games. We will start after the Spring Season as that should take precedence since many of the 16-year olds are currently playing for those teams. "I want to stress this team not only consists of 16-year old's but experienced 17 and 18-year-old alumni of Elk Grove Babe Ruth League are encouraged to sign up too!", LaFont said. "I have been told this age group needs the opportunity to play further. Well, here's the opportunity against solid competition, maybe even further training for trying out for college ball."

So, don't hesitate, sign up. We hope to have between 12 and 14 players.