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# BYA PRIDE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

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## Play Ball

*by Gus T. Wrighton*

The baseball and softball season has started. Opening ceremonies began with night games on April 11. The 2007 champions of the Major and Minor Divisions took the first step in defense of their titles with victories.

The 11-12 Pirates coached by Rich and Rob Gonzalez started with a bang scoring 10 runs in the first inning against a talented team in the Dodgers coached by Ricardo Melendez and Manuel Mercado. The Dodgers are a strong team and after settling down made the final score 14-7. The Gonzalez Brothers have earned three championships in the last four years.

The 9-10 Orioles led by Anthony Garcia and Paul Maselli propelled the orange and black to a win in a tight game with the other orange and black -- the Giants. It was a close game from beginning to end resulting in a 3-1 score.

The opening night ceremonies began the 2008 BYA season with a blast. Both games were thrilling and a reminder as to why youth sports is so enjoyable. The gala affair for the following morning was called off the night before around 10:30pm because there was an administrative concern about having people out in the rain. Nevertheless, the commissioner kept all games as scheduled. Despite a mid-day, ten-minute sun shower the weather from morning to evening was splendid. Upon receiving the directive that the parade and ceremonies were called off, the commissioner immediately spoke to the keynote speaker (Jay Spahn, Brentwood HS varsity baseball coach) to tentatively schedule him for the end of the ceremonies.

The closing ceremonies last year were exciting and fun as we expect the same for the season.

## Diamonds of Brentwood

*by Muhammad Small*

The BYA Baseball and Softball (or Brentwood LL) program ranks among the best throughout Suffolk County – a claim that can be substantiated. It is a program that provides the community with a productive outlet for its youth during the spring, summer, and fall seasons. This year the program set out to encompass nine divisions: tee-ball (5-6), baseball rookie (7-8), softball rookie (7-8), baseball minor (9-10), softball minor (9-10), baseball major (11-12), softball major (11-14), baseball junior (13-15), and softball junior (15-18), however, the younger two and older two softball divisions were merged.

As stated earlier, the BYA local league has one of the better programs throughout the county, and this is exemplified when our youth compete against other towns and hamlets. The local league is the basic unit of Little League. It serves the home community with the framework of the rules and regulations of the national and international organization yet is simultaneously autonomous. Our program is one of several local leagues within District 35. Districts are geographical areas that encompass 10-20 local leagues, or Little Leagues, as they are usually called -- and each of these leagues contain multiple teams similar to the way BYA does. In 2008 the BYA produced 46 teams. The District provides a broad area of administrative service and counsel to the local leagues. District 35 has no less than 350 teams under its umbrella, and it is with this basic geographical breakdown that the Williamsport Tournament employs when the regular Little League/BYA season concludes.

Little League is divided into two major parts: the U.S. Region (Eastern/HQ in Bristol CT; Central/HQ in Indianapolis, IN; Southern/HQ in St. Petersburg, FL; Southwestern/HQ in Waco, TX; and Western/HQ in San Bernardino, CA) and the International Region (Canada/HQ in Ottawa, Ontario; Latin America/HQ in Caparra Heights, Puerto Rico; Asia-Pacific/HQ in Tokyo, Japan; and Europe/HQ in Kutno, Poland). District 35 is one of several districts throughout the Eastern Region of the U.S. part, which contains the states of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine as well as the District of Columbia. The International Headquarters for Little League is in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

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The pinnacle of the Williamsport Tournament is the Little League World Series that is aired on ESPN every year. As each team advances in the town, district, sectional, state, and regional brackets they get closer to the apex of this tournament – the national championship for the U.S. Region and the world championship versus the International Region champion -- thereby, making an appearance on the national broadcast. [Our designations are Town of Brentwood, District 35, Section 6, State of New York, and East Region.] Every town enters the best of the best of their teams – an amalgamation of All-Star talent from their Little League programs. The coaches who enter the Williamsport Tournament usually scout players during the BYA Little League season to pick them for a chance to compete nationally.

Aside from Williamsport, the players from BYA also participate in numerous travel competitions throughout Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, and Kings counties (eg Long Island like NJBL, FABL, NABF, Baseball Heaven/BBH, District 35, PAL, and others). The history of these teams is long and impressive. Please visit our website to see how our teams fared in these leagues. Congratulations to all the players, parents, and coaches of these teams and our future ones.



## Where are they now?

*by Tim Parker*

The "Brentwood Athletics" was a dominant baseball team throughout Long Island. They excelled in virtually every tournament they entered, which had competition from Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, and Kings counties. The team was together for six successful years. After the summer season of 1996, the team merged with the Long Island Pirates of Kings Park.. Now, 12 years later the *BYA PRIDE* has learned where these champions have move onto while still considered the pride of Brentwood.

- \*Reid Gorecki plays Triple A ball in the St. Louis Cardinals organization
- \*Billy Brown signed as a free agent with Chicago Cubs
- \*Peter Kruger works for the Tampa Bay Rays
- \*Preston Thorne was an All-American football player at the U of South Carolina under Lou Holtz.
- \*Joey Woods owns a baseball store in Virginia Beach
- \*Dwayne Parker, the nephew of Tim Parker, was drafted by the Kansas City Royals
- \*David Morales is a coach for BYA Basketball (assistant for 13-14 Nets)
- \*Marco Marcelo was runner-up Coach of the Year for Half Hollow East High School
- \*Pat Blouin still resides in Brentwood does home improvement
- \*Karmari Jackson works for Verizon
- \*James Dalioa is a lawyer for the Nassau County District Attorney
- \*Dan Marcano is a math teacher at Wyandanch High School
- \*Peter Lang owns his own internet business
- \*John Rojas does plumbing repair work
- \*Joe Lizza had moved to the sunshine state to play baseball for Florida International
- \*Mike Ringle is a manager of a restaurant
- \*Jason Santiago is physical trainer in Florida
- \*Ian Reishmann is an attorney
- \*Houston Good is a PA state trooper

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

PLACE: BYA CLUBHOUSE  
 DATE: MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 6 PM – 9 PM  
 MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 11 AM – 2PM  
 MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> 6 PM – 9 PM  
 MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> 11 AM – 2 PM

### ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

FOOTBALL COMMISSIONER	FRANK PECORARO
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER	SHANI IODICE
BASEBALL & SOFTBALL	
PLAYER AGENT	VACANT