



Baseball News of the Glenmoore/Eagle Little League

**As we start our season, we recall the famous quote from Frederic B. Wilcox:
“Progress always involves risks.
You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first. “**

GELL Opening Day 2008

Despite the threat of heavy rain, Saturday, April 5 turned out to be a perfect day to celebrate Opening Day 2008. Nearly 500 players and 46 total teams participated in ceremonies held first for Minor Blue, Major Blue and Major Red and then for for T-Ball and Rookie teams. It was great to have the commissioners from all the leagues and our GELL Vice President Craig Styer and GELL President Tim Riddle present for the ceremonies.



Opening Day Speaker Dave Kozak



Zack Greer with Dave Kozak.



Tommy Hammet ready to catch the pitch.

This year we were happy to have local baseball standout and instructor Dave Kozak address players and their families.

Dave started his baseball career in LYA, continued to play middle school ball and in high school was the only freshman to make the Devon Prep Varsity team, where he was their starter at 3rd base. Dave was captain of Devon Prep's Varsity team his junior and senior years and played for the Chester County Carpenter Cup and the Downingtown Diamond Dawgz legion teams.

Following his graduation from Franklin and Marshall College with a double major in Business Administration and Economics, Dave played four seasons on the F&M Diplomat Baseball Team, where he made the transition from 3rd base to pitcher.

Dave spoke to the players about the most important aspect of little league – having fun – and encouraged them to remember that “perfect practice makes perfect” in games. Dave threw out the first pitch of the season to Zack Greer and Tommy Hammett. Have a great season!



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Dedication of Tantala Field



As part of Opening Ceremonies, GEYA renamed Hickory Park Field 1 to Tantala Field in honor of longtime GEYA visionary Don Tantala, Jr.

Don has been tied to our community virtually his entire life. He became involved with Hickory Park in the early 1980's as a player on the softball team he and his father started here. There was no pavilion, no tennis courts, and no score board – just one single field. The Tantala team, with the aid of a bunch of guys that affectionately became known as “the J Team” became the dominate team in Eagle in the late 80s.

As his playing days wound down Don turned his attention to developing the Hickory Park property for the benefit of others. He served as President of the Parks and Recreation Board for 8 years. In 1997 Don was elected to the Board of Directors for GEYA, and took over as President in 1999, a position he held until this past fall. Through his association with these two organizations, he is one of the principle reasons why Hickory Park has evolved into the beautiful facility we see here today.

Don coached both his sons through the GEYA system and currently serves as baseball Coach of both the freshman team and the JV team for Downingtown West High School.

He continues to live and work on Park Road with his wife Cindy, and has agreed to continue to serve our community as an unofficial advisor to the GEYA Board as we work toward building more and better facilities for our children not only for baseball but also soccer.

GEYA is honored to have someone like Don to continue to bring the opportunity to learn and play sports to the children of the Glenmoore/Eagle area.

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Major League Red Division**Padres 5 Red Sox 4**

The 2008 GEYA Major Red season opened on the newly christened Tantala field with an exciting game between the San Diego Padres and the Boston Red Sox. The Padres fought back from an early 3 run deficit to defeat the Boston Red Sox 5 to 4. TJ Cliggett and Nicholas Amicon contributed strong pitching performances while Ryley Angeline delivered the game winning RBI in the bottom of the 6th inning. The Red Sox were led by Trevor Andresen, who pitched 4 innings with 5 strikeouts and went 3 for 3 at the plate. Steven Long went 2 for 3 and doubles were hit by Long and Matt Evans.

Cubs 8 Diamondbacks 6

In their Opening Day game, the Diamondbacks got off to a quick 3-1 lead in the 1st inning with some timely Dback hitting. Solid pitching by Brendan Brady and catching by Jeff Zebrowski continued through scoreless 2nd and 3rd innings. Despite adding 2 more runs in the 5th the D'backs couldn't contain the Cubs who scored 4 runs to take the lead for good. The Cubs came alive in the 4th with 3 runs. Liam Dilenschneider, Ryan Knight and Andrew Gosslin had key hits. Tyler McNulty's 2 out, 2 run triple in the bottom of the 5th proved to be the game winner. Andrew Pilone pitched 4 strong innings and Jake LeClerc shut out the opposition in the last 2 innings for the win.

Phillies 7 Yankees 1

The Phillies came out on Opening Day ready to take on the Bronx Bombers. The well-played game ended with the boys in red on-top by the score of 7 – 1. The Phillies were led by Michael Styer on the mound who held the Yankees to one run. Conor Coffey made a key play in the field for an out. Offensively, Nick Holowsko had 2 RBI's and Zack Greer, Colby Hunt and James Rathgeber all had key hits and scored as well. The Yankees were led by Graham Giangliulo, who blasted a solo homerun to center field in the fifth. Graham also pitched four strong innings before giving way to Chadd Catrambone, who kept the game close in his pitching debut. The Bombers will need a strong defensive effort this season and there were several fine plays in the field by Coin Walsh, Bo Vitale and Jimmy Berutti



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Major League Blue Division

Red Sox 8

Mets 6

As of press time, no summary for this game had been received.

Giants 8

Angels 6

The Giants won their opener against the Angels 8-6 behind the strong pitching of Will Kiely and Kyle Markle. Although only playing with eight players, the Giants played an error-free game, with solid fielding provided by Danny Murphy, Jack Kincade, Bryce Mastrog and Michael Clarke. The most exciting play of the game was on the last out, when Vincent Finley made a shoe-string catch in right field to preserve the win for the Giants!

The Angels came up just short in their Opening Day loss to the Giants 8 to 6. Dhawal Soni, Chris Buccellato, and Andrew Kelly combined to pitch 4 strong innings, striking out 8 Giants and allowing only 6 hits. Max Castoldi and Trevor Kleese led the Angels' offence. Max had a double, 2 runs scored and an RBI, while Trevor had 2 singles, a run scored, and an RBI.

Dodgers 4

Phillies 3

The pitching of Brett Allan, DJ McCloy and David Rosati held the Phillies to a total of 3 runs with 13 strike outs. Cooper Zabolcki made a fantastic diving catch at second base to help the team get out of a tough inning. After trailing by 2 runs for most of the game, the bats came alive in the bottom of the 6th inning for the Dodgers. They were able to pull out a 4-3 victory over a very good Phillies team.

Yankees 11

Tigers 0

The Yankees won their opener in impressive fashion, downing the Tigers 11-0. Steve Koons went the distance on the hill for the Yanks, allowing no hits, walking 4 and striking out 5. He was helped by great defense from Andrew Griffin at short and an offense led by Jake Cerullo with 3 hard hit doubles, a lead-off in the park homer by Koons and some timely hits by Matt Pichola and Danny Amicon. The Yanks got contributions from all including third baseman Jake Truchan, firstbagger Tyler Buban and Charlie Boinske.


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Minor League Division

Orioles 14**Cardinals 11**

The Cardinals started the 2008 season versus the Orioles in a classic “battle of the birds”. The game turned out to be a marathon with every member of the Cardinals contributing to a valiant effort. Strong pitching debuts were handed in by Michael “G” Giandonato and Paul Trabucco, backed by the strong defense of his teammates including John Ferrara with a tough and gritty play behind the plate and Rob Warner in the field, as well as Bailey Meyer with some great base running and sharp slides. Although the Cardinals put in a terrific effort all around, the Orioles flew away the victor in this 14 – 11 battle. Paul Trabucco earned the Game ball for the Cardinals for his all around stellar performance.

The Orioles and Cardinals squared off on Opening Day. In a hard-fought contest, the O’s came away with the win, 14-11. Zach Block, Stephen Edwards, and Connor Birzes knocked in at least two runs each and Ethan Andresen had a strong outing on the mound. The game ball went to Connor Birzes.



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8 Year old Rookie League

Cardinals

Red Sox

The Cardinals and Red Sox played a great game to start of the season. For the Cardinals; Elizabeth Alexander played a great game in the field and shook off a ball that hit her finger. Jack Clay showed one of the best arms in Rookie Ball. The Cardinals Game Ball went to Jim McDevitt who played great, "heads up" baseball in the field.

7 Year old Rookie League

Red Sox

Phillies

The Red Sox had a good hitting day with Emil Jongard leading the way with a couple of smash hits. Will Zarycranski received the game ball for his excellent fielding from the pitcher's position and Tristan Hummel backed him up by flashing some good leather at both shortstop and first base.

The Phillies were led by Gold Glove winner Chad Switzer who recorded a couple of unassisted putouts to win the game ball, Chase (Big Stick) Gallagher with some clutch hits with the bases jammed, & Sammie (Speedie Gonzales) Goodstein for his lightning fast baserunning.

Rockies

Yankees

The Rockies had a great season opener. There were lots of good hitting with Keenan Kirk slamming a double to the outfield. The Rockies were kept busy by the Yankee batters with Brian Iburguen and Joey Ippolito seeing lots of action at first and second base. The Rockies were heard saying "We played a good game but so did the Yankees".

Jack O'Reilly got the Yankee's season started with a base hit. The Yankees shined at the plate, but also showed off their leather. Jackson Nyce made a diving stop at 3rd base, while Jake Stelma had an unassisted double play at first that earned him the game ball.



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Tee Ball League

Due to weather conditions, Tee Ball games were not played today. Scores and highlights will be reported in future newsletters.



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