

RE: Junior Legion Baseball this summer

Prospective Parents and Players,

As some of you are well aware, the post in Loganville is not sponsoring a junior baseball team this summer that is affiliated with the American Legion. Simply put, the other posts throughout the state have dropped their junior programs. However, the coaching staff has determined that we cannot ignore the plea from many in regards to having a place to play during the summer. Therefore, we are going to offer a team that will play in many of the high school-affiliated tournaments during the last weekend in May and during the month of June. This opens up the entire month of July for vacations, family trips, other teams you may be interested in, etc. As we have previously advertised, tryouts for this team will be held Saturday, May 8th, at 6 PM at the Legion Field at West Walton Park. The rain date, and/or second tryout date (if necessary), will be Monday, May 10th, at 6 PM.

The cost for this team is going to be \$275. The cost will cover a jersey and hat, which will be identical to what the senior legion team will be wearing. Players will be asked to provide their own white pants, black belt, and black socks. Those can be picked up at Lee's Sports in Loganville in a package deal that the legion has worked out. Just mention that you are a player in our program, and they should be able to get you a discount. The cost will also cover the entry fees for five tournaments, umpire fees for 2-3 home games (opponent TBA), and necessary equipment (baseballs, batting helmets, fungoes, etc.). If anyone may struggle financially, I can handle things on a case-by-case basis. All money will be due no later than May 14th, and checks should be made out to "Hughes Athletics." The reason for the early due date is that tournament entry fees must be mailed off by May 15th in order to secure our spot. As of now, here is the tentative tournament schedule:

May 27th-30th: Loganville JV Tournament (younger kids to see most playing time, hosts are Loganville HS and the Legion Field)

June 3rd-6th: Greater Athens Diamond Classic (hosts are Cedar Shoals, Clarke Central, Oconee County, North Oconee, and Smith Field in Bogart)

June 10th-13th: Jeff Blount Memorial Tournament (hosts are Brookwood, Central Gwinnett, Archer, and George Walton)

June 17th-20th: Brookwood Summer Classic (same hosts as the week before)

June 23rd-26th: Collins Hill Wood Bat Tournament (hosts are Collins Hill, Peachtree Ridge, South Gwinnett, Grayson, and Loganville)

We are also looking at 2-3 additional home games, hopefully on Tuesday afternoons, if possible. With the exception of the first tournament, all of the tournaments will be played in the varsity division. To get better, you have to play good teams, and will not shy away from good competition.

Also, along with the fee, each player is going to be required to provide proof of insurance, as well as signing a waiver that will not hold Post 233, coaches, or consultant management as liable in case of an injury. These tournaments do not come with insurance, so it will be a mandatory requirement that each player has their own insurance

plan. A copy of your insurance plan should be brought to tryouts, if at all possible. If not, please have it with your son before the first practice.

Neither myself, nor none of the senior legion staff, will be coaching this team this summer. That is not to say that we will not be around. We hope to be at every game that we can, as long as the senior team is not playing. The senior team is our top priority during this time, so we have to make sure that team is on the right track. However, we have aligned a great four-member coaching staff that will provide your son with ample opportunities to better himself in baseball, as well as life. The coaching staff will be as follows:

Donny Seals—A graduate of Berkmar High in Lilburn, Donny played competitively for twelve seasons, including two years as a starter at the legion program in Tucker. He has coached baseball since 1993, while also serving as an umpire during that time. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the table, and was a valued pickup for the program. Donny will serve as the head coach for this team.

Chet Fowler—Chet played baseball collegiately at Mercer University, a Division-1 program in Macon, GA. He has coached youth baseball for ten seasons, and has served on the football staff at Monroe Area High School the past four years.

Brandon Talbird—Brandon was a four-year letterman at George Walton Academy in Monroe, and graduated from Georgia College and State University in 2006. He has also played American Legion baseball with Post 233 for three seasons. He is currently an athletic coordinator at West Walton Park in Loganville, and is still active coaching baseball within their program, as well as ours.

Zach Metts—Zach was a recent standout at South Gwinnett High, where he excelled on the mound. While enrolled at Georgia Perimeter, he is seeking to stay involved in the game, and we hope that he considers education and baseball as his future path.

These coaches are going to work their tails off to give you the best experience possible for your son this summer. If you ever have any concerns about the coaching staff, please get in contact with me first, then I can see what we can do to remedy the situation.

We're hoping for a great summer of baseball, and we thank you in advance for your continued support. Feel free to email me or call me if you have any questions, and we'll see you around the park.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Hughes
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