



# STMA Baseball News

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2010

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Kevin Hardesty  
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Association Phone #  
**(763) 515-7665**

## Board Update by Scott Morris

Welcome to a new year and time to register for STMA Youth Baseball. Our special events schedule is enclosed and ready to be added to your calendars at home so you don't miss any of the important dates for your ball player.

It appears a long way from the winter melt-down, but baseball is right around the corner. We will continue to have an on-site registration event this year on Saturday, **January 30th** from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the NEW High School cafeteria. We are also opening up **On-line Registration** for ALL age levels this year. *More details on registration inside this newsletter.*

Remember to register as a traveling player if your child is interested in trying out for a traveling team. There continues to be an incremental \$20 tryout fee for those interested in our traveling program. All players (9 years and older) will continue to be evaluated in a similar fashion as previous years. *More information on the evaluation process can be found inside this newsletter as well.*

Even though we are moving to an on-line process, we are still in need of a large number of volunteer coaches to help the kids during the season. Please complete the volunteer section when you register on-line and we will

forward the proper paperwork. Coaches paperwork can also be found on our website and mailed to our PO Box.

Over the winter months there are a large variety of baseball camps offered for our young athletes. We save our local camp for President's day weekend. The **Buzz Hannahan 3-Day Winter Baseball Camp.** Buzz and

### Registration Saturday, January 30th

his boys are returning for their 6th annual baseball camp this **February 13 - 15.** This is a great way to kick off your baseball warm-up with a high energy focus on the fundamentals. Buzz Hannahan played nine years of professional baseball and is currently an assistant coach with the 2009 Division III National Champs (St. Thomas University). *Registration form on the back of this newsletter.*

### On-line Registration available for all age levels

We would also like to introduce our newest Board Members. Kevin Hardesty joins us as the Sponsorship Director. Please contact Kevin if you would like to sponsor a team for the upcoming season. We rely on donations from throughout the community to help keep our costs down for all of the players in our association. Also welcome Chris Miller who joins us as our Treasurer and newest member of our Executive Com-

mittee. Paul Berning will continue his participation for three more years as the one returning Director from our Board elections last fall. Thanks to all members who participated in the annual election.

The Board continues to work with the leadership at the schools to make sure the newest fields will be completed and ready for the upcoming season. This should give our teams more opportunities to practice.

We're looking forward to another great season with our STMA Youth.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>Board Update</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Player Registration</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Player Evaluations</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Coaches Corner</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Sponsorship</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Umpire Ad</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Buzz Clinic</b>	<b>6</b>

# Player Registration

Registration is coming soon: **January 30th** is the official on-site registration date for youth baseball for the upcoming season. Pre-printed forms will once again make the process a little quicker for our returning players. If you would like to save a trip, on-line registration will also be available for ALL levels this year. (*On-line Registration instructions below*).

Each player receives a game jersey and a STMA youth baseball hat. Players 9 years and older also receive a pair of baseball pants based on the size selected on the registration form. The fees also include equipment for the season including baseballs, bats, helmets, in-house playoffs and league fees. It does not cover the cost for weekend tournaments that the teams may participate in. Tournament costs are collected from the parents by the coaches of the teams that participate.

Early registration allows us to properly prepare for the season. We need to prepare for the evaluations, order uniforms and

equipment, determine number of teams and begin scheduling for the season. Because of the complexity of planning for the season, we encourage everyone to register on the scheduled dates.

**Additional NOTES:**

- ★ Baseball AGES determined by players age on **May 1st** of the year.
- ★ Multiple player discounts provided (3rd player half price - 4th player free).
- ★ Non-refundable **Traveling Tryout Fee** of \$20 for players trying out for a traveling team.
- ★ Late fees of \$20 will be assessed if registering after March 1st.
- ★ Players are allowed to "Play Up" one age level but must score in the top 50% of the players during the evaluations.

## 2010 Player Fees:

Level of Play	Ages	Fee
Minors	5 & 6	\$ 70
Majors	7 & 8	\$ 70
Willie Mays	9 & 10	\$ 95
PeeWee Reese	11 & 12	\$ 110
Sandy Koufax	13 & 14	\$ 120
Mickey Mantle	15 & 16	\$ 130
Connie Mack	17 - 19	\$ 130

**Traveling Tryout Fee: \$ 20**

(usually an option used when younger students want to play with their classmates).

- ★ Evaluation is required for ALL players 9 thru 16 years old. Evaluation dates can be found on page 3 (*Dates to Remember*) and evaluation times will be posted on our website by age and last name.



## On-Line Registration Process

**Save yourself a trip!!** After a successful test of on-line registration with our youngest levels last year, we have decided to expand on-line registration to ALL levels for the upcoming season. This allows you to register all of your players from the comforts of home.

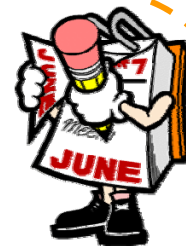
There are a few steps to the process but it's really not that complicated. Follow these steps or just walk through it on-line:

1. Login on to our website at [www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)
2. Select the 'Registration' page on the left side of the screen
3. Click the on-line registration link
4. **Returning Users:** Login using your last name and PIN from last year and skip to #11.
5. **New Users:** You must first create a login to begin registration by clicking the 'Click Here' selection.
6. Type in e-mail address and home phone number and click 'Proceed'.
7. Enter Family Information section and click 'Add Family'.
8. System returns new PIN number (*also sent to e-mail address entered*).
9. Click again on the on-line registration link (same as step #3).
10. Login using your last name and new PIN.
11. Review family information for accuracy and update for changes.
12. Select 'Confirm Family Information'.
13. Select 'Proceed to Register'
14. If interested in volunteering to Coach, check 'Coach' or 'Assistant Coach' and enter what level and player you are interested in coaching. We will e-mail the coaching application direct to you. (**PLEASE consider volunteering as a Coach**)
15. Select 'I'll Volunteer' or 'Proceed without Volunteering' to advance.
16. Register Players: Either 'Edit' existing players or select 'Add New' to list new player. **ACCURATELY** complete details for each player.
17. Click 'Register Player' for each player you want registered for 2010 and 'Confirm Player'.
18. Select 'Check Out' and follow steps to make payment to complete registration process.
19. Notification will be sent to e-mail address provided.

For additional assistance you can contact or Registration Director, Steve Hinkemeyer at (763) 515-7665 ext. 13.



# Dates to Remember



**Registration:** Saturday, January 30 9:00am - 12:00 noon NEW High School Cafeteria

**On-Line Registration**

January 25th thru February 28th  
 \*\* (Late Fees applied after March 1st) \*\*

See Page 2 for Details

**Baseball Camps:**

Buzz Hannahan Camp	February 13 - 15	Registration on page 6	Middle School East Gym
\$10 Winter Clinic	March 6 (8 - 11 yrs old)	9:30am - 12:00 noon	Middle School East Gym
\$10 Winter Clinic	March 6 (Pitching – All Ages)	12:00 noon - 1:00pm	Middle School East Gym
\$10 Winter Clinic	March 6 (12 - 16 yrs old)	1:00pm - 3:30pm	Middle School East Gym
Coaches Clinic	TBD		
Umpire Clinic	TBD		

**Open Gym:**

9 & 10 years old	March 9, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30	6:30pm - 7:45pm	Middle School East Gym
11 & 12 years old	March 9, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30	7:45pm - 9:00pm	Middle School East Gym
13 & 14 years old	April 6, 13, 15	6:30pm - 7:45pm	Middle School East Gym
15 & 16 years old	April 6, 13, 15	7:45pm - 9:00pm	Middle School East Gym

**Player Evaluations:**

9 thru 12 <b>In-house</b>	Saturday, April 10	Middle School East Gym
(see page 4 for Details) 13 thru 16 <b>In-house</b>	Saturday, April 17	Middle School East Gym
9 thru 12 <b>Traveling</b>	Saturday, March 27	Middle School East Gym
9 thru 12 <b>Callbacks</b>	Sunday, March 28	Middle School East Gym
13 thru 16 <b>Traveling</b>	Saturday, April 17	Recreation Center (outside)
13 thru 16 <b>Callbacks</b>	Sunday, April 18	Recreation Center (outside)

Evaluation times posted  
 on our Home Page at  
[www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)

**Coaches Meetings:** All levels Tuesday, April 20 7:00pm - 8:30pm Mid. Sch. West Auditorium

**Picture Day:** Saturday, May 1 Picture times communicated by coaches Mid. Sch. West (Fields 1 & 2)

**For a complete Youth Baseball Calendar, visit our website at  
[www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)**

# 2010 Player Evaluations



The most difficult thing we do as an organization is developing a method of evaluating our players that is fair, accurate and credible. We have done a great deal of research and had discussions with people who study the sport to get ideas on how we can improve our process. People from other organizations, from other sports, and even from baseball professionals who spend their time training ball players today. One thing that is consistent between anyone who has spent time on this issue is it's not easy and will never be a perfect process.

Given this reality, we introduced the **callback process** two years ago to provide the players with a more in-depth evaluation by 'calling back' the players finishing in the top percent during the initial evaluations. But we continue to be challenged with 400 kids being evaluated in a single day. Realizing that some kids are not interested in trying out for a traveling team, we will continue to split the evaluations between the players interested in trying out for a traveling teams and players interested in our recreational (in-house) league. Splitting the kids in this fashion allows the evaluators to see the kids of like interests grouped together in smaller groups for easier comparisons.

## Recreational / In-house:

We will continue to provide all players with an independent evaluation process but will keep the recreational evalua-

tions the same as we have done in the past.

The reason we continue to evaluate the in-house players is to ensure that we have balance in our teams which provides all players with a better overall experience.

## Split between traveling team try-outs and in-house players

The evaluation will give each player 5 ground balls, 5 fly balls, and 5 swings off of the pitching machine. Using our standard evaluation sheets (example to the right) we will accumulate the scores and use them to divide the teams evenly.

## Traveling Tryouts:

We are charging an additional non-refundable fee of \$20 to support the incremental costs associated with our more in-depth traveling evaluations.

We will give the traveling players additional swings and grounders in the first round of the evaluations. Utilizing the same evaluation sheets for our first pass on the evaluations to gather an initial score, we will then be 'calling back' the top performers the following day to take a closer look and determine our "AAA" and our "AA" traveling teams.

Players not making the traveling teams will be added to the rosters for our in-house program and we will use their initial scores to determine whether they will be in the American or National Leagues when relevant.

We do understand that an evaluation

process can be stressful on the players. Although we expect the players to demonstrate their skills and abilities in front of strangers, we will continue to do our best to provide a proper atmosphere for the evaluation. We also continue to expand our traveling program as we have added additional traveling teams over the last few years to

The image shows a sample of a 'STMA Youth Baseball Live Hitting Tryout Form'. The form is designed to track a player's performance across multiple tryouts. It includes columns for 'STANCE', 'SWING', 'CONTACT', and 'Bonus' scores. Each tryout row contains a grid of circles representing individual hits or swings, with some circles filled in to indicate successful attempts. The form also includes a 'Player's Comments' section and a 'Total' score for each tryout. The header of the form includes the STMA logo and the title 'STMA Youth Baseball Live Hitting Tryout Form'. There is also a small note at the top right of the form: 'Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_'.

give more opportunities to the ball players interested in raising their game to the next level.

If you have any additional questions regarding the evaluation process you can contact the Director of Player Development, Paul Berning, at (763) 515-7665 ext. 15 or Scott Morris at (763) 515-7665 ext. 10.

## Traveling Team Commitment

Some people are surprised by the level of commitment required when they first get involved with a traveling sports team. Our recreational teams may only have 2 scheduled events per week while our traveling teams can average 3 to 5 days a week. A list of what you can expect would include:

- ★ 16 league games
- ★ 3 to 4 weekend tournaments
- ★ League playoffs and a year-end tournament
- ★ Additional practices
- ★ Additional expenses (players are responsible for tournament fees)

There is a much larger commitment for the traveling players and their parents and we expect them to treat baseball as their priority over other sporting activities. But it will provide your child with an exciting and active summer activity.

- GO KNIGHTS!!

# Coaches Corner by Scott Morris



One of the questions I am asked frequently is what type of equipment should I be getting the ball player in the house. It is a great question as the needs may be different depending on the player. As the player grows, the equipment should grow with them. The theory of 'letting them grow into it' does not work very well with equipment selection. That is why a little research never hurts before making the *big purchase*.

It reminds me of when my son needed a hockey stick recently and reminded his mother this is NOT something that she is allowed to pick out. I'm quite certain she didn't take great offense but once you get past wood versus composite, then you have to figure out the brand, model, length, curve, flex or whatever else is important to the player. This is when Mom can contribute to the cause by bringing in the price parameters allowed to help guide the decision!!

**Coaches** should be looking to see if the bats their players are swinging are the correct size as well. It is not always the

'Big Bat' that gets the big hit. Young players are not very good judges when it comes to equipment selection and a little guidance can help take them a long way.

I put together a 'general' chart on the right that can be used as a starting point for bat selection based on age. A player's height and weight play a significant factor in bat selection so a larger player can select a larger bat and a smaller player should be using a smaller bat. **The key is the player's ability to generate bat speed.** You may be able to hit the ball further using a larger bat, but if you can't catch up to the pitch it simply won't matter.

Here are some common terms to understand as you select a baseball bat for your player:

**Bat Length:** The total measure of the bat in inches from the end of the handle to the end of the barrel.

**Barrel Size:** The diameter of the bat measured at the widest point of the bat.

**Bat Drop:** The weight to length ratio. A 28 inch bat that weights 20 ounces has a bad drop of -8. I'm hoping this helps with your next

Age	Length	Barrel	Bat Drop
10	28 inches	2 1/4 to 2 3/4	-10 or better
11	28 / 29 in.	2 1/4 to 2 3/4	-8 to -12
12	29 inches	2 1/4 to 2 3/4	-8 to -12
13	29 / 30 in.	2 1/4 to 2 3/4	-8 to -12
14	30 inches	2 3/4	-5 (required)
15	30 / 31 in.	2 5/8	-3 (required)
16	31 / 32 in.	2 5/8	-3 (required)

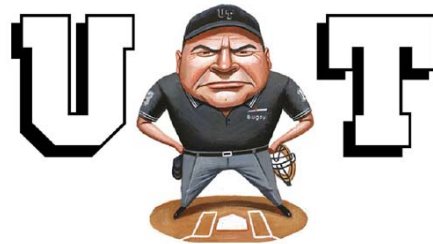
baseball shopping expedition. Regardless of what you are purchasing, make sure to do your research and don't be afraid to ask questions!

## Sponsorship

Money from our business partners in the community help to keep our player costs down. As our communities grow, so does our Association, and our needs. Last year alone, we had more than 80 team and expect to grow once again this season. This brings an increasing demand for current and new sponsors. Team sponsorships are currently being accepted at a very reasonable rate. There is also an option to advertise on our website which is a main source of information for the association and will consequently see a lot of traffic.

If you would like more information please contact the Sponsorship Director, Kevin Hardesty at (763) 515-7665 ext. 18.

**Thanks for the continued support!**



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or email: [sandyg@stma.k12.mn.us](mailto:sandyg@stma.k12.mn.us)

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Phone: (763) 515-7665

[www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)



# Buzz Hannahan Baseball Camp

## **PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND — 3 Day Baseball Warm-up (February 13th - 15th)**

Register for our 6th Annual Buzz Hannahan Winter Baseball Camp. He'll be bringing in Buzz's Boys to work on the baseball fundamentals including throwing, pitching, fielding & hitting.

Buzz is a former Minor League Player with the Philadelphia Phillies and currently an Assistant Coach at the 2009 Division III National Champions, St. Thomas University.

Return form below with an \$95 check payable to:

STMA Youth Baseball  
P.O. Box 217  
Albertville, MN 55301

- ★ Session: - 9 thru 11 - or - 12 & Up - **(Circle One)**
- ★ Adult T-Shirt Size: -S- -M- -L- -XL- **(Circle One)**

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



### Camp Calendar

Session I	Session II
<b>AGES: 9 thru 11</b>	<b>AGES: 12 &amp; Up</b>
9:30am - 12:00 noon	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**\*\* LIMITED # OF PLAYERS PER SESSION \*\***