

# LDBL

## LDBL Officers

Korey Gardner—President  
Cliff Lewis—Vice President  
Ray Dunkle—Treasurer  
Greg Casamassa—  
Commissioner  
Bill Diskerud—Secretary

## League Website:

<http://www.eteamz.com/ldbl>

Lower Dauphin Baseball League Newsletter, January 15, 2010

## **Key Dates:**

### League Dates:

- Coaches Meeting  
(March 20)
- Midget Season Begins  
(April 6)
- Pony Season Begins  
(April 12)
- Colt Season Begins  
(April 19)
- Midget play-in games  
for playoffs  
(June 5)
- Pony play-in games  
for playoffs  
(June 12)
- Midget Playoffs Begin  
(June 7)
- Pony Playoffs Begin  
(June 14)
- Pony All-Star Tourney  
(TBD)

## **LDBL News**

### **Off-Season Remarks**

Hello everyone. I hope everyone is having a great off-season and is looking forward to the baseball season this spring. I want to keep everyone up to date on the latest news impacting our league. First, we have one new board member to welcome to our group for the 2010 season. Greg Casamassa of Hummelstown will be the new Commissioner. Andy Domovich is moving on to coach teenagers with his son. We want to thank Andy for all of his efforts in coaching and as a board member throughout the years. For those that know Andy, he is a true class act and someone our league will miss. We wish him all the best in the future.

As we approach the 2010 season, we think it is important to recognize challenges on-going in youth baseball and prepare our league to adapt to them. One of those challenges is travel baseball. Travel baseball is growing in popularity across Central PA and the country. If you look at the Sunday Patriot, you will see numerous travel teams forming in the mid-state. Both the Hershey and Palmyra leagues have lost a handful of players to travel ball. LDBL has been fortunate, so far, not to lose any kids to full time travel baseball. We want to keep it that way. That being said, we recognize that travel baseball is growing in popularity and some kids may want to challenge themselves. Thus, we're implementing a LDBL travel program to complement our in-house league.

The goal of this program is to keep all of our kids playing for LDBL and their respective association while also offering a travel ball experience by playing in 3-4 travel tournaments. The travel program will be age specific meaning there will be a separate travel team for each age group. We will have a travel team for 9/10, 11, & 12 year-olds. Players will be required to tryout to make the travel team at their specific age group. All travel tournaments will be scheduled around so they do not conflict with in-house scheduled league games.

Michael Wilson of South Hanover will lead our travel program efforts and work with the LDBL board in launching this program. Mike will be the LDBL travel baseball lead for sponsorship, tryout process, tournament schedule, and coach selection. Coach Wilson will be conducting tryouts on January 17th with a future date TBD.

To recap, we recognize the need to add a travel program element at LDBL so our kids stay with us and not some full-time travel team. We can do this and still allow our normal in-house games to stay scheduled as normal. It is also our belief that all LD kids should stay together and play baseball with their friends and community association.

## **LDBL Happenings**

### **League Topics**

I think it is important to openly communicate some of the key issues we discuss at the LDBL meetings. I do this so everyone is aware of the decisions that were made or topics we will be discussing at the next meeting. I do this so you have the opportunity to provide feedback to your association President or LDBL rep. Here are some of the key issues on-going.

**Universal Draft Policy.** Every year, we receive multiple inquiries on teams stacking their roster. Those inquiries were numerous last year so we have asked each association to work with LDBL in ensuring their teams are selected as equal as possible. Each association has agreed to follow their internal draft policy and submit a list of holdover or assigned players to LDBL prior to their respective drafts. Each association has also agreed to submit any changes to their internal draft policy to LDBL. It is up to each association to police themselves and ensure teams are set-up fairly. LDBL will do its part to encourage fair play and team formation. While everyone likes playing with a winning team, we need to be mindful of the impact team formation has on all the kids within your organization.

**Players switching associations.** I have received an increase amount of requests from families to allow their son to switch to a different association within LDBL to play baseball. It is mine and the board's view not to allow these requests. If that door is opened, we subject ourselves to allow any player to move freely between associations. Only under dire circumstances will the board consider such a request.

**Email addresses.** When registering your child for baseball this season, please ensure you print your email address clearly and legibly. Many times throughout the year, we need to send league wide communications, such as this newsletter, to everyone. Last year, over 25% of the email addresses I received from the associations bounced back to me. Any help with this request would be appreciated.

**Interleague Play.** This year, we will once again compete in Interleague Play with Palmyra and possibly Hershey as well. This will only pertain to Midgets and will most likely only be one game. These games will count in our standings this year which is a change from a year ago.