



The Little Leaguer

Albany Little League Newsletter

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Team Reports Edition!



T-Ball - AA

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GAME CORNER

MLB Baseball Teams Word Search Puzzle

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A B A E T I G E R S S E B A O
N M A R I N E R S O R T S A D
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N S L A Y O R R E D S O X A A
I R S R E W E R B R A V E S Y

MLB BASEBALL TEAMS WORD LIST

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|
| ANGELS | INDIANS | RANGERS |
| ASTROS | JAYS | RAYS |
| ATHLETICS | MARINERS | RED SOX |
| BRAVES | MARLINS | REDS |
| BREWERS | METS | ROCKIES |
| CARDINALS | NATIONALS | ROYALS |
| CUBS | ORIOLES | TIGERS |
| DIAMONDBACKS | PADRES | TWINS |
| DODGERS | PHILLIES | YANKEES |
| GIANTS | PIRATES | |

TEAM REPORTS

T-BALL

Bees

POW Dental

Manager: Evan Schulz

Coaches: Dan Cutter and Brian Wise

Coming off what long-time ALL fans are dubbing the “best parade ever,” the Albany Bees are preparing for a T-ball season like no other. Leading the charge is skipper Evan Schulz, who is proud of his young team and optimistic about the season ahead: “Coach Brian, Coach Dan, and I are truly fortunate to be leading the Bees, a collection of wonderful kids who show great promise, even after only two practices!”

The rotation for the Bees is looking exceptionally strong this spring, with **Fletcher “the Flame Thrower” Oliver** among an all-star cast of hurlers. “The parade was awesome, and now we’re just looking forward to the first game,” said **Fletcher**. These young phenoms will be developing their arms under the sage play-calling of **Miles “Wise Guy” Wise**, who will be donning the mask and playing catcher this year, among other positions.

Backing up this staff of superstars will be an all-star infield of hot prospects. At shortstop is **Ethan “E-Chan” Ching**, who likes throwing the most. When Ethan is not on the field himself, he watches both the A’s and “the Panda” for inspiration. Speaking of “the Panda,” next to **Ethan** we find power third baseman **Kai “Superstar” Sarkar**, who reports that he just “can’t wait for the first game Sunday.”

The batting lineup for the Bees is also shaping up to be one that will pound fear into the hearts of opposing pitchers throughout the league. **Sky “Power Ball” Meyers**, **Colin “the Batting Champ” Chan**, **Malek “the Masher” Herwig**, and **Jacob “Hot Wheels” Konecky** have each looked sharp during batting practice. They all “love hitting” and are on the cusp of breakout seasons.

Teamwork and adventure also appear high on the list of objectives this year for the Bees. “I’m looking forward to the games, so I can play all the positions and see what I like best,” reports **Ian “Superman” Schulz**, who wants baseball to keep going as long as possible. **Ian’s** team spirit was echoed by **Lucela “Til-The-Last-Game” Galinson**, who says she’s ready to learn hitting, catching, and throwing all the way until the end of the season. **Ian** and **Luli** look strong all around the diamond.

The Bees also will be big on sportsmanship this spring: “I’m looking forward to playing and to seeing my friends on the other teams, too,” said **Noah “the Heart” Hance**, who likes catching; batting; and, of course, winning the No 1. Banner at the parade. **Noah** and his teammates are frontrunners in the rookie of the year competition.

Coach Schulz picked up on the enthusiastic words of his players: “Beyond tomorrow’s first game, we look forward to the Bees staying safe, having fun, and beginning their mastery of our beloved pastime all season long!”

But whether supporting their friends on the road or grinding out their own wins at home, the Bees players agree that the games are not complete without a trip to the snack shack. “We love the cotton candy and hot dogs!” the team screamed in harmony as they reminisced about opening day.

--- Josh Konecky

Bulls

Kahn Design Associates Architects

Manager: Garth Schultz

Coaches: Chris Beynon

Bulls players are starting off strong, with Coaches Garth Schultz and Chris Beynon leading the team. With two practices under the team’s belt, they are ready to start this season on April 4 charging ahead. Training and drills are getting these rookies in shape with the help of each of the players’ parents. **Thomas Adams**, **Ryan Sharpless**, and **Magnus Williams** are acing the alligator drill of catching ground balls.

Batter up for **Takeo Dea**, **Cavan Miller**, **Henry Schultz**, and **Jack Beynon**, who are mastering the T. They will be batting a thousand by the end of the season. **Jorge Carrillo**, **Elias Denny**, **Remmy Norris**, and **Dashiell Wedeking-Lucido** know the bases and positions backwards and forwards. The first scrimmage was players against parents. The Bulls won with a no hitter, 11-0.

Let’s go Bulls!

--- Tracy Dea



Express

Copy Central

Manager: Tom Morgan

Coaches: Nick Jackson and Robert Rimi

Niko Adames loves baseball. If he could, he would wear his baseball uniform every day. He is a switch hitter, and when he’s not at bat, he loves to play catcher. **Emilio Bottrell-Rogers** has only played a little

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T-ball before, and the fact that he loves the Oakland A's concerns his grandfather, a lifelong Dodgers fan. **Will Forrest-Rimi's** second word was "baseball." He's been anxiously awaiting T-ball since he was two years old. He is a dedicated Oakland A's fan and is excited to be a part of Team Express!

This is **Lucas Jackson's** first experience with T-ball. His favorite team is the Oakland A's, and his favorite player is Coco Crisp. Lucas likes to play second base. **Omar Johnson's** favorite baseball team is the Yankees. His favorite position is first base, and his favorite player is Angel Pagan. He loves playing, watching, and reading about baseball every chance he gets. **Sam LeMaster** is new to T-ball. He likes the Boston Red Sox and being a batter. **Jorge Roman Melgoza** is a Bay Area native with lots of Dodgers pride, and his favorite professional players include Jackie Robinson, Adrian Gonzalez, and Clayton Kershaw. **Connor Morgan** joins team Express in his first spring season of T-ball. He loves playing catcher, just like his favorite player, Buster Posey.

Ishaan Ranchod is an active kindergartener at Marin Elementary who was born with team spirit. He is a big SF Giants fan, and when he lost his first tooth, he asked the tooth fairy for a Buster Posey Lego action figure. Go Express! **Milo Schneider** has been going to Oakland A's games since he was two and is thrilled to be on his first team! **Niko Izquierdo's** favorite team is the Oakland A's. He loves going to A's games and eating peanuts. He will sit through an inning or two just shelling and eating peanuts. **Nahom Kidane's** favorite team is the Oakland A's, and he loves playing first base.

--- Jennifer Forrest



Raptors

Mele Water

Manager: David Glass

Coaches: Dan Goodson and Jeff Koehler

The Raptors, led by a coaching trio of David Glass, Dan Goodson, and Jeff Koehler, are ready for a great year. Coach David, who is serving his inaugural year as "official" head coach, is using the experience he gained last year as an assistant to guide the Raptors through fun practices aimed at learning the basics. The Raptors are grateful for the sponsorship of Paul Mele of Mele Water.

After two practices and its first game against the Express, the team is shaping up to be quite a force to be reckoned with. The Raptors are:

Six-year old **Mabel Athanasiou**, a strong left-handed thrower, is a multifaceted player who loves to hit. Mabel is a fan of the A's and reports that her favorite dinosaur is the T. rex. Mabel's favorite post-game snack is mango. When she is not hitting liners off the T, Mabel enjoys spending quality time with her family. **Jack Brencic**, at 6 years old, has already earned the nickname "the Hammer"—both because of his love of hitting and his hobby of working on projects with tools. Jack hits right-handed and follows the Giants. He fuels up on tacos after a long practice and before starting his next project. Southpaw **Nico Casher** plans on stealing bases, when ALL rules permit him to do so. He loves running. Nico is a Giants fan whose favorite food is served at AT&T Park: a basket of chicken tenders and fries. Nico hits the pool when he is not playing baseball. **Calder Glass**, a 5-year-old right hander, has most enjoyed catching ground balls and hitting. Calder is a fan of the Boston Red Sox and especially likes to watch David "Big Papi" Ortiz. When not fielding grounders, Calder spends his spare time playing Kung Fu Pets and eating tacos.

Under the tutelage of his father, Assistant Coach Dan, **Andrew Goodson** is ready for a great year of T-ball with the Raptors. Andrew has been working on all aspects of his game during practices and has impressed observers with his powerful swing. Oakland A's fan **Karl Knox** is 5 years old. To confuse his opponents, Karl throws with his right hand but hits left-handed. Karl has refined taste in food, favoring the shrimp noodle. Karl's favorite dinosaur is the stegosaurus. He especially enjoys skateboarding in his spare time. **Emmett Koehler** is another Raptor who throws and hits from opposite sides. Emmett throws with his left hand but hits from the right side of the T. Emmett is 6 and loves to hit the ball. He prefers the Giants over the A's. His favorite non-Raptor activity is building marble runs. At dinnertime, Emmett's meal of choice is a plate full of pasta. **Henry Nickelsen** is a 6-year-old right-hander. Henry loves hitting off the T and is anxious to start hitting pitches. He is a Giants fan. Henry likes the most ferocious dinosaur of all: the T. rex. His diet is unlike that of the T. rex, though; his preference is a plate of sushi. Off the field, he enjoys playing with Legos. Taking the spring away from the hockey rink is 6-year-old **Soren Pearce**. Soren can hit a mean slap shot and has been seen altering his swing at the T so that he will soon be hitting homer after homer. Soren is right-handed, carbo-loads spaghetti, and likes the Giants. A 6-year old Giants fan, **Hank Roberts** loves the thrill of running the bases. Hank throws and hits right-handed and is perfectly happy eating macaroni and cheese—from the box, please. Although he is happy to be a Raptor, when pressed, Hank will tell you that he is especially fond of the apatosaurus. Hank also enjoys playing soccer.

Milo Sinclair is 5—going on 6. A right-handed Giants fan, Milo has especially enjoyed working on his catching skills in the team's first practices. Although his favorite dinosaur is the megalodon, a huge prehistoric shark that fed on whales and other sea creatures, Milo's taste in food pegs him as a true East Bay child. He prefers to eat cherry tomatoes. Milo spends his time off the diamond on a number of other activities, including science experiments. **Leo Smock** is fresh off a 5th birthday celebration. Like his teammate Karl, Leo throws right and hits left. A fan of the A's, Leo enjoys hitting and hopes to one day have the skills of Coco Crisp. After a big game, Leo prefers to fill up on a large plate of french fries. Biking is also a big hobby for Leo.

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River Cats

Solano Avenue Association

Manager: Tim Swifft

Coaches: Phil Walz and Charles Wolff



Happy just to dress for success, **Owen Martinez** is proud of his Sand Gnats uniform, and **Caleb "Ball of Fire" Kahn** can be seen tucking his baseball pants into his socks in order to look "just like Hunter Pence."

There is no lack of enthusiasm for the coming games, as **Robbie Bixler** likes "T-ball and baseball a lot" and is "really good at hitting and pitching," while **Devon Sampietro** likes "everything about T-ball", especially batting and catching. **Jax Koepp** is looking forward to "hitting the ball so hard," and **Hayes "Riptide" Petersen** plans to "smack the ball over the fence." **Meadow Snyder** plans to improve everyone's RBI, as she really likes "running to the bases."

In the scoring department, **Monty Russell** wants to "hit a home run," and **Enzo Vargas** aspires to "crush a home run," while "**Wreck-it**" **Beckett Helmbrecht** has the Sand Gnats covered on the field, as he can't wait to learn how to "catch good." On and off the field, the Sand Gnats just want to have fun. **David Day Palermo** is hoping to make lots of friends on the team, and he's definitely not alone in that sentiment.

If their intentions are any indication, the Sand Gnats are in for an amazing season. And as **Sean Santa Cruz** put it, "Let's go bananas!"
--- Serena Speth

River Dogs

Ramen Shop

Manager: Aaron Shugart

Coaches: Scott Ferguson and Justus Watt

The Albany Little League T-ball River Dogs are brought to you by Ramen Shop in Oakland. The River Dogs are led by Aaron Shugart (manager), Scott Ferguson (coach) and Justus Watt (coach). The River Dogs coaches are proud and honored to represent the following list of eager and fun-loving first-time T-ball players:

- #1: **Nate Rauenhorst**
- #2: **Kingston Jones**
- #3: **Sean Lutz**
- #4: **MJ Thompson**
- #5: **Hayden Watt**
- #6: **Danny Ferguson**
- #8: **Benjamin Schechter**
- #9: **Renato De Guzman**
- #10: **Judah Shugart**
- #12: **Matteo Tarantino**
- #13: **Xavier Applen-Aycock**

"River Dogs, River Dogs, River Dogs WOOF WOOF!"

--- Aaron Shugart

Sand Gnats

PSS

Manager: Manoa Koepp

Coaches: Michael Helmbrecht and Dave Martinez

There is no repelling the Sand Gnats this season! Led by Coach Manoa Koepp and Assistant Coaches Michael Helmbrecht and Dave Martinez, the Sand Gnats are jumping and biting at the opportunity to play ball.

Scrappers

In Memory of Peggy Thomsen

Manager: Rob Regan

Coaches: Ben Thompson

It was all exciting to see the Scrappers, together with other teams in the league, marching in the parade for the opening of the 2015 season! Having participated in the first two practices, the Scrappers players seem to be ready to dive in the following games.

Aiden Thompson has been looking forward to his first season of T-ball since he was 2 years old. Having spent plenty of time watching his older brother Lucas play baseball has prepared him for this big moment. His favorite MLB team is the Oakland A's. **Milo Duhamel** shares his love of baseball with his PopPop, a Bronx-born, die-hard Yankees fan. He is in love with Albany Little League, his teammates, and great coaches and is really happy that his logo is an angry dog. **Sinjin Amianda-Cook** hopes to stay a Scrapper, but as a big slugger and an A's fan, he fears that Coach Rob may trade him midyear for pitching prospects. **Grant Deutschbauer** enjoys practicing baseball with his big brother, Luke (A Astros) and his dad. **Mica Li** likes the pitching and the batting the most. He has not thought too much about anything else yet except for improving his skills. He feels sorry that he's missing the first two games because of his travel to China with the family. **Drew Regan** says T-ball is fun. He likes catching the ball at first base on the REAL baseball field. His favorite team is the Giants. **Andres Karell-Griffin** likes playing the second base position with the scrappers. He wants to try being the catcher soon. He loves the Oakland A's and the Puerto Rican national baseball team. **Rhys Mckernon** is excited to play T-ball, because he likes watching the Giants games and it makes him want to play. He likes catching the ball best. Being the relatively young players in the team, **Dax Gibson**, **Luca Maharbiz**, **Owen Novick-**

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Prucher, and Santiago Sul all have done great jobs through the practices.

Team Scrappers have two great coaches, Rob Regan and Ben Thompson, both of whom have had a long-time family tradition with ALL. Ben is a proud father of three boys, with two now playing in the ALL. He himself began playing baseball in the ALL back in the 1980's. He played his first season with the Orioles. As he put it, 'It's been amazing to see how far the league has come since then. This is a true testament to the volunteer spirit that thrives in the ALL community.' Rob, the coach and team manager, commented that the Scrappers (and their super-devoted parents) are doing a great job of practicing throwing, catching, hitting and running the bases, and especially cheering!

Go ALL! Go Scrappers! Woof, woof, woof ,woof!
--- Hailan Duan

Storm

Game On! Youth & Sports Photography

Manager: Jonathan Hudacko

Coaches: Jordan Griggs

No report submitted.

ROOKIE

RED WINGS

Albany Firefighter's Association

Coaches: **Matt Maclear** and **Tom Mazzota**

This season's Red Wings have already started building their team spirit, as they hone their skills in practice and get to know each other. There's some surprisingly good hitting on the team and in their practices, they're running bases and fielding with real hustle.

Lansing Boswell (9) goes to Rosa Parks School, is ambidextrous but favors his left, already working to perfect his left-handed batting.

Ranier Bissell (3) is a Cragmont student and loves scrimmaging as much as he does running and hitting. **Kameron Buckhout (10)** of Ocean View School, is another lefty who loves to bat, loves the

Giants and Buster Posey. **Ronan Gardner (7)**, a student at Marin, is an A's fan. His twin sister plays in Albany softball. **Yoni Gaysinsky (5)**, the tallest Red Wings player with one of the team's strongest

arms, goes to Ocean View and is another of our lefties. **Nathan Jennings (6)** goes to Marin, wants both to hit and pitch, and is one of the more enthusiastic players on the team. **Ari Leichender (2)** goes to Cornell and enjoys fielding and hitting and working with the

coaches. **Teddy Lewis (14)** goes to Cornell, loves to hit homers, and kids his Giants-loving parents by pretending to be a Dodgers fan. Always happy and fired up, **Griffin Maclear (8)** attends Escuela Bilingüe Internacional (EBI) and is the son of team coach Matt.

Matthew Mazzotta (1) goes to Cornell and enjoys the support of coach dad Tom and older brother Peter in learning his fundamentals. And **Harry Weinberger (5)** goes to John Muir School and is our fourth southpaw. The team members bring plenty of skills

and even more spark to the field. It's going to be a great season.

---- Danny Lewis



LUGNUTS

Aubrey Barrett Orthodontics

Coaches: **Bryan Matheney** and **Dirk Brockstedt**

Quoting from the Urban Dictionary "lugnut: An integral component to virtually all objects." Those words are what come to mind when I think of our Lugnuts. Each player brings his own strengths and a passion for the game. When you put them together with Coaches Bryan Matheney and Dirk Brockstedt, you have the ingredients of an amazing team. **Carter Helmbrecht (2)**, Marin student and avid Lego builder, has shown strength in the infield with an amazing pop fly catch and showed us all how to do a celebratory dance. We have two brothers on the team: **Drake (6)** and **Cooper Matheney (7)**. Drake showed that there are more ways to stop a ball without using hands during his first game of the season. His brother, Cooper, is a natural as a second baseman – not letting any balls get by. New to the game is **Caden Thomson (4)** from Marin School, who methodically looks right at home in the outfield and was smokin' at bat during practice. Malcolm X's **Nathan Ehrlich (9)** sports a strong arm throwing great high balls; he showed how it's done at first base getting an out during our first game against the River Bandits. "Fierce," "Intense," and "Watch Out!" are words that describe **Nicolas DeSerio (10)**, also from MalcolmX. Exciting to watch! **Henry Sullivan (8)**, an aspiring catcher shows great promise as a second baseman with an outstanding play at second during training. Keep an eye on **Asher Cohen (11)**, who smacked a ball and sent fellow teammate Drake to third. Way to go Asher! Speaking of **Drake Barrett (1)**, he's our only lefty; he's comfortable in the field and at bat, and he scored the first Lugnut run this season! Showing great presence is EBI student **Shea Turon (13)**. He knows how to catch and showed us all by catching a pop fly for a double play like nobody's business. Marin Student **Raiden Dea (5)**, who loves to

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catch and is excited about being a second baseman or in right field, showed arm strength in the outfield. Last but certainly not least is EB student **Dominik Borckstedt (3)** another natural on our team, with wicked throws and a lot of gusto for everything that he does. The Lugnuts are tightening up as a team as they continue to learn and embrace the game we know and love. GO Lugnuts!

---Monique Torres

RIVER BANDITS

Albany Peace Officers Association

Coaches: Sriram Gopalakrishnan, John Johnson and Chris Mahmood

The River Bandits include boys from kindergarten and the first and second grades. The team members attend eight different schools. Most played tee ball, but four are playing organized baseball for the first time. Team members are involved in other sports and have a wide variety of outside interests. One common denominator is they are all right-handed. The other thing they have in common is their excitement about playing baseball at the Rookie level and developing their baseball skills and knowledge. **Dylan Boucherk (1)** is a second grader at Marin School. He also does Karate and plays soccer. His outside interests include video games, science, camping and the outdoors. **Pritam Misri (2)** is a first grader at Thousand Oaks. He also plays cricket. Pritam's outside interests include playing chess. **Dylan Kenny (3)** is a first grader at Thousand Oaks. Dylan also plays soccer and is interested in all kinds of sports. He collects sports cards and likes to play with Legos. **Luke Conway (5)** is a second grader at Cornell. Luke also plays soccer and skis. His outside interests include Cub Scouts and Legos. **Juan Polanco (6)** is a kindergartener at Jefferson. He played organized baseball for two years in his native Venezuela before moving to the area. In his free time, Juan enjoys playing video games. **Andrew Johnson (7)** is a first grader at Thousand Oaks. In addition to baseball, he plays football. Andrew's outside interests include Legos and video games. **Daniel Stone (10)** is a kindergartner at Madeline. Daniel also plays soccer. His other interests include playing with Legos and watching TV. **Max Zoidis (11)** is a first grader at Washington. Max also plays basketball and swims. His outside interests include art, Legos, and dancing. **Sammy Walker (12)** is a first grader at the Academy. Sammy also plays soccer, basketball and golf. His other interests include video games, Legos and the piano. **Joel Siegel (13)** is a second grader at Aurora. In addition to playing baseball, Joel is a rock climber. His outside interests include playing on his iPad and building and inventing things. **Max Mahmood (14)** is a first grader at Jefferson. Max also plays basketball. His outside interests include playing the drums. These 11 kids came together in their first game and demonstrated remarkable hitting, fielding and game smarts. Looking forward to a great River Bandits season.

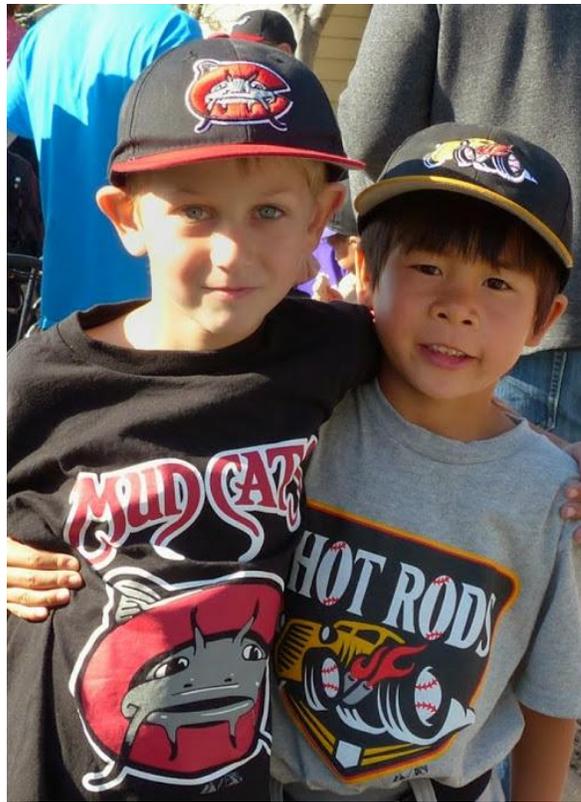
--- Larry Walker

MUDCATS

Berkeley Lions Club

Coach: Kevin Beadles

The 2015 Mudcats team has been working hard and having fun building their skills in practice, which was apparent at their first game of the season on March 29. This season's team of 12 has 6 players who are new to Little League.



Everyone is looking great! **Sam Cherin (1)** had some great hits in the Mudcats' first game. **Griffin Foster (2)** had a few key catches in the game. **Aaron Geisler (3)** hit a double in the first game of the season. **Kate Goodson (4)** has been swinging hard and hitting with authority in practices. **Leander Miller (5)** made a fabulous play at second base for a force-out in the game. **Nathan Beadles (6)** made a great tag play on a hard slide at third base in the game. **Evan Mendel (7)** hit a grand slam and was awarded the game ball. **Miles Sobky (8)** had some good hits and catches in the team's first game. **Brooks Trotmore (9)** has looked awesome at the plate in practices. **Hazel Knox (10)** scored a run and did a great job catching in the outfield. **Hayn Troutman (11)** also had some nice hits. **Calder Corson (12)** made a great play at second base at the Mudcats' first scrimmage. Go Mudcats!

--- Keri Hayes Troutman

IRON BIRDS

Pastime Hardware

Coaches: Jonathan Reynolds and Jody Policar

The Iron Birds team is off to a great 2015 training season with coaches Jonathan Reynolds and Jody Policar. Practices have been going well and the players have been focused on building their skills of catching, throwing, and hitting. **Lucas Cohen (1)** is a first grader at Marin Elementary. He enjoys batting and catching and he is a big fan of the Giants. Another first grader at Marin Elementary, **Caleb McNulty (2)**, loves the Oakland Athletics and he likes to work hard during practice. Coach Jonathan says that Caleb's strong work ethic and enthusiasm remind him of player Derek Jeter. **Alexander Cesana (3)** is a first grader at Oceanview Elementary. While Alexander reports that he is good at batting, he'd like to improve his catching skills. Coach Jonathan admires that Alexander likes helping

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his teammates, which reminds him of Jim Gantner from the 1980s Brewers. With Rickey Henderson-like qualities, **Ty Manning (4)** is a fast and speedy threat on the base paths. He is a first grader at Jefferson Elementary and likes to play second base. **Nat Saint-Andre (5)** is a 2nd grader at Marin Elementary and he enjoys playing outfield. Coach Jonathan thinks he is a skilled fielder like Willie Randolph. **Caz Carothers (7)** attends 2nd grade at Prospect Sierra. He likes catching and has quick reflexes, possessing similar qualities to that of Buster Posey. As a 1st grader at Cragmont Elementary, **Henry Reynolds (8)** likes “having fun” at practice. Second base is his favorite position and his father, Coach Jonathan, says that he is a great batter similar to Gorman Thomas. **Tiernan Smith (10)**, who is a 2nd grader at Marin Elementary, likes to play outfield and wants to become a more accurate thrower. He is considerate and focused like Cal Ripken Jr. **Blake Policar (11)** attends the School of the Madeline and is in second grade. He is a big Giants fan, likes to make new friends, and is a great hitter. **Ray Marino (12)** is a 2nd grader at Walden School and he thinks that the Giants “are the best!” He likes pitching in practice and wants to get better at fielding. Ray’s good strong arm is like that of Roger Clemens. **Tej Asaravala (14)** is a 1st grader at Ocenview Elementary and loves batting. This skilled athlete has a big heart like Yogi Berra. The Iron Birds have room for improvement but they exude potential and have very good team spirit. Caw!!!

--- Andrea Balazs



THRESHERS

Brushstrokes Studio

Coaches: Sam Roberts and Jim Vislocky

Complaints were heard coming from the baseball bucket after the Threshers’ opening game this past weekend. Apparently the baseballs weren’t expecting to get hit quite so hard, and a number of them have already started asking if there might be another team in need of their services. It’s true that the Threshers put a hurtin’ on some of those balls in that first game, and they’ve been doing the same thing in their practices! The team is shaping up to be the sort of bunch that’s going to have a pretty good time out on the ball field this spring. **Kyree Daniels (11)** is already in possession of a lovely, smooth swing, and he’s one fast runner, too. Another speedster on the basepaths is **Neil Mashlakin (9)**, who’s also been spotted vacuuming up grounders in the infield. **Michael Roberts (3)** is not only quick on his feet, but one of the team’s more ambitious

baserunners; he’s also demonstrated some great glove skills over at first base. On the firing end of many tosses to Michael has been **Lucca Zapata (14)**, who also made some great pickups of ground balls to start those plays off. More great glove skills were on display by **Sam Shabel (13)**, who snared a blistering comebacker at the mound in the first game – and Sam then turned around and blistered several balls of his own up at the plate, rattling the chain link of the fences in right and left fields. Up at the plate, **Tao Mahshi (12)** has another of the team’s enviably smooth swings, and he’s also got a great arm – he fires some crisp throws across the diamond from 3rd base. **Wyatt Hsu (5)**, meanwhile, looks like a journeyman out there – during the game, he made a great grab of a towering pop fly, spanked baseballs all over the field, and played catcher like he’d been calling signals since he was born. **Zachary Winslow (8)** may be the team’s craftiest player, and like Wyatt, appears to have an innate understanding of the game – don’t take your eye off him on the basepaths, whatever you do. Another one steeped in the game is **Andres Roberts (7)**, who can equal Zachary as the team’s most dangerous runner; Andres also wields a powerful bat (from both sides!), and pounces on slow rolling grounders like a lion leaping on prey. **Sacha Spear (6)** has been stinging baseballs in his time at the plate, and is becoming a great target over at first base, pulling in throws smoothly with his glove. **Tai Tachibana (10)** is another whose bat will make some noise this spring, and he’s got some fleet feet out there on the bases, as well. And the Thresher out there making the diving stops at shortstop? That was **Finn Gradia (2)**, who’s locked onto the baseball, and dogged in his pursuit of it. This Thresher squad is certainly having fun in these early spring days – indicators suggest that it’s going to be a fantastic season (even if the baseballs aren’t too happy about it).

--- Andy Spear

BATS

Sports Authority

Coaches: Mark Brilliant, Bill McGowen, and Jason Turbow

“We are fired up, we are fired up!” The chant was lead by Bats player **Adam Teiblum (1)** at their first game against the Hot Rods. The game was an exciting back and forth battle to the very end. The hard work leading up to opening day paid off with many great hits and outstanding fielding.

Ezra Brilliant (12) goes to Jefferson Elementary along with teammate Adam. Ezra likes to play third base and threw out several players to first baseman **Brady Zweben (14)**. Although Brady prefers first base, his favorite player is A’s outfielder Coco Crisp. **Preston McGowen (8)** of Marin Elementary is also a Coco Crisp fan and likes to play the outfield. The hustle he demonstrated on the field will keep shots into the outfield within his reach. **Teagan Knowles (11)** goes to Ocean View school. She prefers to play third base and at the game against the Hot Rods she had a hit deep over the third baseman’s head. **Owen Flaherty (9)** is also an Ocean View student. He is quick on his feet, an important skill for playing his favorite position, shortstop. He can’t decide if his favorite team is the A’s or the Giants. The Bats third Ocean View student is **Katie Perez (6)**. Katie is a pitcher and her favorite team is the Dodgers. She has a good arm but don’t count her out at the bat. **Judah Press (5)** goes to Black Pine Circle school. He likes to play first base. He already has the first baseman’s stretch to catch throws down pat. Marin Elementary

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fielded 4 players for the Bats. Along with **Preston McGowen**, **Reuben Turbow (13)**, **Alex Martinez (4)**, and **Itai Weinberg (7)** attend Marin. Reuben's favorite player is Willie Mays and he likes to play shortstop or first base but feels his best skill is pitching. **Alex Martinez's (4)** favorite player is Buster Posey. If he keeps hitting like on Saturday, he may get the nickname Buster. **Itai Weinberg (7)** likes to play shortstop although his favorite player is Giants pitcher, Madison Bumgarner. With his throwing arm, he could play either position. **Evan Vela (2)** goes to Berkeley Maynard Academy. Evan's favorite player is Buster Posey. The Bats are counting on him to continue his home run hitting ways from last season. Look out, Rookies; the Bats are coming!

---- Jake Flaherty

ROCK HOUNDS

Gordo Tacqueria

Coaches: Mike Jones and Max Sell

The Rock Hounds are off to a great start this season with Coach Mike Jones and Coach Max Sell leading the charge! Our players are really coming together as a team. **Theodore Blaine (4)**, has real grit and a good arm. **Lauren Michelle Jones (1)** is a lightning fast base runner with a solid bat. **Cole Mahoney (3)** shows great hustle out on the field, making plays at second base. **Joshua Melnick (7)** is tenacious at the plate and proudly held our banner the whole parade! **Esme Nakabayashi (2)** showed great fielding during practice as she made an out playing third base. **Ollie Olsen (12)** throws with a strong arm and great form. **Isaac Rothman Tierney (9)** loves Buster Posey and the Giants. **Wolfie Sell (11)** always has a smile and shows great sportsmanship. **Sachin Sharp (14)** loves the A's and makes solid contact at bat. **Nate Urbania (5)** has a positive attitude and is a good fielder. **Henry Ward (6)** is another speedy base runner and races to the ball in the outfield. **Isaac Wolf (10)** is a power hitter and has a great arm. Looking forward to a great season together!

---- Kathleen Tierney

HOT RODS

Gilman Collision

Coaches: Frank Weiss and Jamie Zimmerman

Every week sees the **Hot Rods** making plays as they learn how to read the game, play in positions, and learn each others' strengths. The 3rd practice saw **Hugo Loeb (3)** throwing left-hand and catching enough balls at first base to keep surprising his teammates with outs. Not only do **Curtis Chan (8)** and **Savio Mah (5)**, with impeccable baseball style, know about playing ball, they bring smiles to the faces of their fans and continue to remind us why we love Little League. This season, **Griffen Weiss (6)** plans to give fans as much to cheer in hitting homers as he does in strategic bunts. Watch **Willem Loveless (7)**, a left-handed batter, as he tries to outrun any attempts to tag him out and steals the bases before you know he's gone. **Simon Scurlock (9)** took on field positions this week, moving wherever he needed to cover and sweep up those grounders. **Cody Zimmerman (10)** plays with an obvious presence of mind and means to make the plays by throwing to first. **Raycer Verrecchia (12)** loves baseball a lot -- not just a little -- especially batting! **Zach Noble (11)** a piano player, also really really like sports and thinks you should know: baseball is just fun! Watch **Leo Alvarado (13)**

and no matter what position he plays, you will come to know him as many already do: Mr. Fierce. **Esai Murillo (14)** is a mystery. Stay tuned. **Hot Rods** are excited to take the field this season to have fun and play ball.

---- Deb Lewis

THUNDER

5 Little Monkeys

Coaches: Rob Grimes and Van Clark

Do you hear that noise from the depths of Rookie ball field? Under the veteran leadership of MVP returning players, **Juelz Grimes (1)** and **Kaelin Morris (11)**, the Thunder is back in town and *roaring* its way towards another all-star season. Newcomers **Hudson Goulette (15)** and **Armann Dhindsa (4)** have added some more power to the line-up with towering hits in the first two games. The raw talent and powerful arms of **Levi Collins (10)** and **Evan Larkin (5)** are sure to produce some exciting plays in the field -- **Coach Van** was even overheard talking exciting plays. RBI's come fast for our fierce female duo of **Camden Bernhard (12)** and **Kelilah Newman-Anand (2)** who are sure to drive in runs in close games all season long. **Jack Hernandez (13)**, our very own "picking machine" provides talent at first base while **Cade Vix (6)** keeps it close behind the plate as catcher. Watching **Kyle Chien (3)** and **Theo Leonard (7)** dart around the base path, you would never know they are rookie ball first-timers. This team has got it all and **Coach Rob** guarantees all you Thunder fans that there will be a lot to look forward to this season. So get comfy in those bleacher seats, you won't want to miss a single play!

---- Nisha Anand



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SINGLE A

A's

St. Albans

Manager: Ryan Damon

Coaches: Kevin Chan, Shashi Jivan

The spring 2015 season of the Single A division Athletics is off to a fine start. The twelve-boy team has two games under its green belts so far, and they've brought great team spirit to both outings.

Leading off the season against the Astros was **Jacob Goldman**, who ripped a single and made it all the way to home before the inning was through. Other players wielding big bats this season include **Kavi Jivan**, **Jack Schrader**, **Ian Monday**, and **Zachary Goldberger-Judd**. In **Louis Dickinson's** hands, the bat is more like a club. All of the boys are showing real tenacity at the plate as many of them face the threat of a real strikeout for the first time.

Out in the field, the A's are putting plays together and thinking on their feet. **Wyatt Chan** has been working on his creep-and-charge at short, while **Russell Wohlsen** has been keeping his foot planted for the force at first. **Sidney Walsh** is sending opponents back to the dugout with quick thinking at second.

Single A is also the first time many of the boys are taking a turn on the mound. Players showing that Sonny Gray flair include **Theo Ranelletti** and **Jack Damon**. Several players are joining Albany Little League for the first time this season, including slugger **Max Castelli**, who loves to play first base and whose favorite player is Coco Crisp.

Spring break left the A's with a seven-boy squad for the second game of the season. But the short-handed staff faced the Pirates with flair. Mid-April brings two weekends of back-to-back games, and these mini sultans of swat are ready to bring the hustle.
-- Marcus Wohlsen



Astros

Dr. Brehnan's Smilemakers

Manager: Paul Rago

Coach: Jesse Rothstein

The Astros started off this season with second-year player **Lucas Culverwell** doing what he likes to do best – hitting. In

addition to getting the Astros' first hit at their first at-bat of the season, Lucas also played first base in the first inning of the first game and his jersey number is... #1! Very auspicious! Perhaps not surprising, he's not alone in favoring being up at the plate – **Will Herndon**, **Sacha Donovan-Tolki**, **Thomas Eknoian** all agree. Will has been working on hitting it out of the park for 4 years now, and plans to focus on his batting this season. **Sam Rothstein** takes it even further: he wants to be a designated hitter for life!

However, not every Astro is chasing the fame and glory of smacking the ball over the far fence. **Nunzio Burley**, in his first year of baseball, plans to focus on his skills in catching the ball this season. He made a fantastic catch of a pop-fly to center field, so he's off to a good start. We are also lucky to have two boys who plan to work on their pitching this season: **Wyatt Rago** and Sacha Donovan-Tolki. Wyatt also plans to work on his lunges. Thankfully, we have at least one Astro who is already enthusiastic about playing catcher, and that's **Emmett Arikan**, in his third year of little league.

Sam Wise is so obsessed with baseball that it would be difficult for him to pick his favorite part of the game. **Wyatt Fortner** as well is keeping his options open during his first season. He enjoyed baseball with friends and at recess, but really wanted to play on a team. **Arden Costello**, another first-year little leaguer, has had some great fun up at the plate. Perhaps he'll be like his favorite player (Tim Lincecum) by the end of the season! **Luke Deutschbauer** is on board for another year of baseball, ready to make some great infield plays, like the one that finished off the second game of the season in style.

In closing, the Astros are off to a great and enthusiastic start. This is in no small part due to the wonderful coaching of Paul Rago and Jesse Rothstein. Thanks, coaches!

-- Betsey Noth

Cardinals

Hansen's Manufacturing Jewelers

Manager: Manoa Koepp

Coaches: Sarah Brochard, Scott Ronay

The Cardinals are soaring off to a great start. They're flocking together on the field and in the dugout. The players are really starting to get into a groove with practice and with the games. From understanding how to prepare to come up to bat (on-deck and in-the-hole), to keeping track of outs and where they need to go with a batted ball on defense, to learning how to pitch and catch! These guys are real ball-players now!

So...who are these great kids? Let's get to know 'em a bit...

Zorian Passmore starts the lineup with his love of playing shortstop, the color green and Jackie Robinson. **Felix Badde** enjoys burgers, the Giants and the great Buster Posey while his teammate **Callan "Cal" Ronay** loves the Orioles, pizza and his favorite number, 19. **Davin Koepp** lives for the color blue and pitching on the mound, and is another fan of the Giants. **Sebastian Valle** joins Davin in his love of blue, the Giants and pitching. **Miles Medveczky** is another big fan of the Giants and the color blue; his favorite number is 10. **Maxwell "Max" Medveczky**, meanwhile, roots for the A's and (naturally) prefers the color green. Max prefers playing shortstop. **Jack**

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Brailsford likes hanging out at first base, but also enjoys pizza and watching The Panda, Pablo Sandoval, play ball. **Wyatt Black** goes out on a limb, liking the number 8, eating ribs and watching Coco Crisp on the field (not in his bowl.) We look forward to the rest of the Cardinals season and seeing these guys improve week-in and week-out!

(Also suiting up for the Cards, but unfortunately unavailable for interview, are **Ulysses "Uly" Kelly-Fay**, **Jonah Brochard**, and **Yaakov "Koby" Fenton**.)

-- Laura Ronay

Cubs

J.G. Audio & Alarm

Manager: John Ormsby

Coaches: Mario de la Vega, Rich Price, Eitan Spanier

The Cubs came roaring out of hibernation for their first game. Starting off at bat, the entire line-up got on base and kept batting the runs in. **Emmett Price** started out on the pitcher's mound and looked like a mighty southpaw. **Nico Munro-Carovano** led off as catcher and picked up pitches like a miniature Buster Posey. **Adrian Chuang** started at first base and played a solid game all the way through.

Pablo Howard wowed the crowd by snagging two line drives from the pitcher's mound for the first two outs of the season, and took over actual pitching in the third inning. Later **Rowan Hartley** and **Pablo de la Vega** each pitched "three up and three down" innings – striking out three batters in a row.

On defense **Arson Ormsby** showed style at shortstop picking up a tough hit and firing it to **Jasper Black** who had first base covered. **Maksim Zykov-Chisholm** showed field sense and a great arm as he ably covered second base and short stop.

The Cubs are learning that focus is the most important muscle and they are practicing that! With the bases loaded **Avi Spanier** showed huge focus as he smacked a hit out to the field and drove another run across home plate. **Noah Lee** and **Bennett Lee** have been showing their focus both in the field and at bat – looking more like full grown bears than Cubs!
-- Nancy Munro

Giants

T-Rex Restaurant & Bar

Manager: Chris Markus

Coaches: Darrin Banks, Drew Goetting

The Giants hit the turf running, quickly coming together as a team under the patient, positive guidance of coaches Chris Markus, Drew Goetting and Darrin Banks.

The team's effortless enthusiasm shines each time they take the field. With his strong pitching, **Oliver Shrieve** leads by example. **Anthony Sabeh's** left-handed power-hitting and **Henry Markus'** all-around readiness keep things lively. **Jude Hatamiya** is as focused of a player as **Kaleo Chen** is intense – and both are always ready to learn more. **Jake Goetting** always has his head in the game.

Cool and confident, **Zoe Gildemeister** is the team's friendliest Giant. **Preston Mullen's** easy-going attitude and **Luke Tangherlini's** team spirit are infectious, and team player **Henry Banks** drives everyone to bring their best ball game. **Dean Perry** is 100% dedicated — all the time, every time — and **Andrew Regan** amps up his teammates whenever he's on the field.

Backed by the support of Omar Sabeh and team parent Stephanie Shrieve-Hawkins, the team is learning lots and having a blast together. Great start to the season, ALL Giants!
-- Seran Chen



Marlins

Oxi Fresh

Manager: Mike Mayeri

Coach: Alfredo Neira

"Baseball. It's time to play some baseball!" -- Jim Leyland

As if taking inspiration from one of the all-time great baseball managers, Jim Leyland – who led the Florida Marlins to their first World Series championship – manager Mike Mayeri and coach Alfredo Neira have this Marlins crew focused on a simple, yet critical mission: playing some baseball.

And how did the team respond in their opening game? With a focus not often seen in youth baseball. If you're skeptical, simply look at the eyes of **Alex "The Attack" Neira** (pictured) just before he sends a poor baseball into orbit. And Alex wasn't alone in his focused-hitting prowess; all of these fellow Marlins had multi-hit games in the opener: **Cooper "I ain't hitting no bloopers" Hu**, **Joaquin "The Dream" Jackson**, **Oliver "My fans just call me 'Oli'" Nickelson**, **Rudy "Rifle-shot" Hayden**, and **Keaton "I just gave that ball a beatin'" Fallon**.

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Hitting, of course, is just one aspect of the game. And the Marlins' coaches won't settle for a one-dimensional crew. They've got these kids hustling on the basepaths with **Adam "I'm faster than a Maybach" Mayeri**, **Aaron "The Accelerator" Coon**, **Andrew "Lightning" Lindsey** and **Nasir "Air" Anderson** all displaying quick feet and sound fundamentals.

So the team can hit and run... but how's the pitching, you ask? I'll confess, I was a bit skeptical myself. I've watched enough youth baseball that I instinctively cringe every time a young hurler reaches back and slings the ball toward the plate. (Getting beamed hurts, don't let anyone tell you differently.) But I digress... If the opener is a sign of things to come, these Marlins might cure the muscle-memory cringe that has plagued me through the years. **Samuel "The Slider" Jepsen** took the mound as calm as a seasoned veteran, striking out the side 1-2-3. And he was followed by Alex Neira, who showed similar command – striking out two and getting the third batter to ground out.

Big picture: the outlook of this team is bright, especially considering they played without **Aiden "Automatic" Pixley** – an emerging talent, who missed the opener. Only time will tell if these little Marlins will follow the same path as the 1997 Florida Marlins, a team which shocked the nation when they won the World Series. I, for one, have seen enough promise to know they are capable of great things. Now it's simply time for them "to play some baseball," and prove it to the rest of the world.

-- Richard Jackson

Nationals

Domino's Pizza

Manager: Michael Lewis

Coach: Brandon Luce

The Albany Little League Single-A Nationals have returned to the field! Coach Michael and Coach Brandon are guiding a strong crew under the Nationals banner, including "The Quad Squad": four teammates who played together on the Nationals last year. Those four returning players – **Adrian Smith**, **Brody Luce**, **Walker Lewis** and **Dylan Schulz** – are a formidable fielding unit. They are joined this season by a collection of powerful bats, on-base speed, and on-field talent.

From behind the plate, **Judah Branoff** is showing himself to be a power hitter, with reliable extra-base hits to the outfield. **Tazewell Smith** has settled down in the batter's box, now dropping rather than throwing his bat before running out hard to first. Opposing teams are learning to respect **Eli Schnoll's** long stride and speed – any misplayed ball in the field allows him to pick up an extra base with ease.

In the field, **Abe Rokhsar** caught an exceptional fly ball while playing first, preventing baserunners from advancing late in a close game. **Skylar Gold** fielded a hard-hit ball back toward the mound and made the put-out at first. **Ari Oshry** is mastering the cut-off on balls hit to the outfield. Finally, **Cameron Santiago** and **Lucas Bradley** pitched back-to-back shutout innings in the Nationals' second game of the season.

These kids together promise a deep run into the playoffs!

-- Evan Schulz

Phillies

American ATM

Manager: Will Tams

Coach: Heather Rogers

No report submitted



Pirates

Monkey Business Camp

Manager: Mike Norton

Coaches: Doug Johnson, Sammy Seo

With a full roster and big hearts, the Single A Pirates are off to a great season. Their spirit and grit show in every play – and the young lads had a lot to say recently, after their first game on Victory Field. They talked about their favorite positions to play, top Major League players to cheer on and what baseball means to them.

"I love baseball, and I love playing second base," cheered **Remi Matos**, in his third year with ALL. Remi, who attends Black Pine Circle in Berkeley, talked about his favorite player – Coco Crisp. **Ian Nakabayashi**, also a second-grader at Black Pine Circle who is in his third year with the League, prefers to cheer on Buster Posey and the San Francisco Giants. **Jonah Fleisher**, another Black Pine Circle student, is also a huge Giants fan. Jonah likes playing left field best and added, "I think baseball is very fun."

Other young Pirates cheer on the San Francisco Giants as well. Slugger **Sam Beynon** – now in his fourth year with ALL – likes playing first base and really likes playing baseball because "baseball gives you tons of exercise." Sam's good friend **Evan Klein**, also an ALL fourth-year veteran, likes the SF Giants best, and his favorite position is pitcher. Speaking of pitchers, Klein added, "You know that country-loving, MVP of the 2014 World Series? Yep, that's my favorite player, Madison Bumgarner."

Aaron Seo, in second grade at Marin Elementary School in Albany, says with a big smile, "I just think baseball is fun." Aaron is in his third year with ALL and really likes to pitch. His dad, Coach Sammy Seo, said, "Being out here with my son and this fantastic group of boys is the highlight of my week." Interestingly, there was only one Pirates player who talked about liking the position of catcher best: **Nahele**

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Cajina. Nahele, a third-grader at Marin Elementary, couldn't decide if he preferred the Pittsburgh Pirates or the S.F. Giants. Sometimes, life presents us with hard choices.

Speaking of the MLB Pirates, Coach Mike Norton's high-energy, baseball-loving son **Liam Norton** told us after last week's game that his favorite player is legend Willie Stargell. "You know, that's why we're the Pirates because my family loves the Pittsburgh Pirates." Liam's love for baseball is palpable: he led the team in a 45 minute, non-stop cheer of "Let's go Pirates" throughout the Opening Day Parade. The parents who heard him lost their voices just listening to his spirited cheer.

Anderson Reis, whose favorite position is first base, switched over to ALL from El Cerrito this year. A second-grader at Marin Elementary, Anderson is a Josh Donaldson fan, who now plays for the Toronto Blue Jays. When asked about baseball, Anderson said one word. "Cool."

Cornell first-grader **Dexter Johnson** talked about playing his favorite position, shortstop, just like Xander Bogarts from the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox are his favorite Major League team, and his favorite player is David Ortiz or Big Papi. Dexter loves baseball, and can't wait to see the Red Sox beat the Yankees at Fenway this coming July in person with his big brother Leo. Single A teammates **Callum**

McBride and **Caden Winslow** also love baseball – stay tuned for their in-depth interviews in our next article!
Thanks to all of the many ALL volunteers, coaches, managers, siblings and parents who are there cheering on our boys each week. Building memories for them each spring is the greatest gift!
-- Sara Marcellino



White Sox

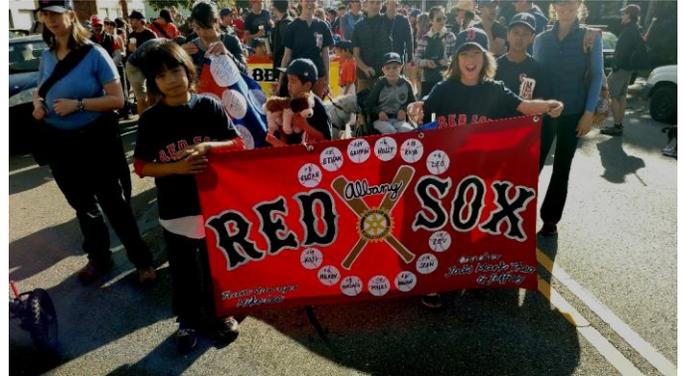
Albany Bowl

Manager: Joe West

Coach: Chris Schelling

The White Sox started the season out with a bang against the Nationals after just two weeks of practice. At practice they've been having a grand old time perfecting their wheelbarrow races and trying out double plays. Coach Joe was proud to say that "everybody hit the

ball hard when they hit it" against the Nationals. Spirits were high at the parade as our team cheered, "Let's go White Sox!" the whole way.



The Sox have several first-timers who are having tons of fun alongside their more experienced teammates. **Leo Kepler** loves batting and hit a grounder during the first game; in the field his favorite position is second base. He loves being on the team with some of his best buds and making new friends. **Sami Doppler** really likes playing baseball, and his favorite positions are the big-glove spots behind the plate and on first. His favorite MLB player is Josh Donaldson and his favorite team is the Oakland A's. **Timour Annamuhamed**'s favorite position is pitcher and his favorite MLB player is Buster Posey. In addition to baseball, he loves hamburgers and playing with friends and Legos. **Theo Kojan**'s favorite spot is also on the mound, and he will no doubt keep the batters guessing with his southpaw delivery. Theo looks back to one of the all-time greats for his MLB inspiration: Jackie Robinson. **Nathaniel Brundjar** is new to ALL, but last year he was in NOLL/SOLL Farm A. His favorite position is first base, "because people throw the ball to me!" Madison Bumgarner is his favorite major leaguer because "he is one of the best pitchers in America. He throws good pitches."

A couple of our second-timers are **Cal Schelling** and **Joseph "Trey" West**. Cal's favorite part of being on the team is being with friends and playing a game he loves. His favorite positions are both first base and catcher, like his top MLB pick Buster Posey. Cal played Rookie division on the Iron Pigs 2 years ago, and is back after a year off. Trey loved everything about the first game. His favorite MLB player is Josh Donaldson, and his favorite position is pitcher.

The Sox also have some seasoned veterans on hand. **Andrew Hudacko** is in his third year, previously playing in the T-ball and Rookie divisions. He's a fan of the Oakland A's and likes Coco Crisp (sadly, his other favorite players have been traded away). Andrew is a switch hitter and likes playing pitcher. **Jacob Winkleman** also prefers pitching, is a fellow third-year vet, AND shares the Coco Crisp love! **Jadon Redman Shedroff** roots for the A's, but misses Yoenis Cespedes. He leads the team in experience, and is now in his fourth season! Like the other vets, his favorite spot is on the mound.

Luckily there's a lot of chances to pitch in AA, because our last two players also love to throw the ball. **Kizuki "Kiki" Russell** likes playing baseball with his good friends on the team. He pitched the

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second game of the season and can't wait to pitch again. This baseball fan has MLB favorites from both coasts: Buster Posey, Madison Bumgarner, David Ortiz, and Dustin Pedroia. From Thousand Oaks Elementary comes **Shai Krantz**. Shai's three favorite things are friends, food and video games and his favorite MLB player is Buster Posey. He also loves football and basketball.
-- Jenny Kepler

AA

Rangers

Bavarian Professionals

Managers: Michael Norton and Drew Steckler

Coach: Rob Frankenberg

Under clear blue skies and a fading sun, the Rangers wasted no time getting things going in a recent game against the Blue Jays in the first: **Ryan Norton**, **Sam Steckler**, **Sebbi Frankenberg**, **Luke de Valpine** and **Hunter Morgan** all scored to make it a quick 5-0. While runs were harder to come by in the second, children like **Edward Said** made visible strides, popping up to the pitcher and moving his teammates along the bases. Two of those teammates would eventually score making it a tight 7-6 lead for the Rangers after two.

Coach **Mike Norton** called everyone in for a quick pep talk to start the third and the team responded. **Ronan Fishbein** showed patience and got on with a walk followed by **Leo Limbert** who took a pitch in the elbow for the team. **Jonah Lachs** took a walk and **Takeo Fernandez** took a pitch for the team as well. All those contributions made **Theo Sully's** double pay dividends in the form of two RBI.

It was 9-8 Rangers at the end of the 3rd. Coach **Drew Stickler** patted Edward on the shoulder and said, "OK Edward, start us off." Edward responded with a sharp single to short. He eventually reached third but was left stranded. The Blue Jays got one run and the game finished in a 9-9 tie. Coach **Rob Frankenberg** gathered the team for a final cheer for the Blue Jays.

Although the Rangers took their first non-win of the season, there was plenty to be proud of. They showed sportsmanship and effort and from players, to coaches, to fans, supported one another throughout. It was a true team effort where everyone contributed and gave it their all - including **Peter Bock**, who showed up for pregame practice despite an illness. That's the kind of teamwork and dedication that exemplifies the 2015 AA Rangers.

— Tom Lambert

Tigers

Oori Foods

Michael Sowle - Manager

Coaches: Greg Denny and Trey Walker

Spring has sprung and the Tigers have come out to battle! This year, the Tigers have shown an amazing amount of improvement, skill, sportsmanship and overall grit. Over the last few weeks we have seen each of the Tigers hone their skills and play hard at all different

positions. **Sam Denny**, creator of the "Sammy Shake" (the now famous victorious shimmy of the shoulders) has been excelling behind home plate. **Evan Sullivan**, also catcher extraordinaire, has batting skills that are off the charts.



The boys have been working hard at practice, focusing on team play and communication. **Teo Tompson** is a great hitter. He has been clutch at bat, on the mound, and at second base. **Max Dreskin** is an excellent all-around player, bringing his skills to the infield, the pitching mound, and the plate. **Karek Walker** told us that coolest thing about baseball is stealing bases and he always brings excitement to the game. He is also an exceptional pitcher. Fans never know when Karek is about to go!

William Chang's pitching accuracy and cool demeanor is any batter's biggest fear. His ability to keep calm during any situation has been a huge asset to the team. **Khazin Shah's** fine pitching and power at the plate are huge for the Tigers.

The Tigers have been really working on their batting skills. The boys come up the plate with confidence and poise - it's been a thrill for Tiger fans to hear that "crack" repeatedly throughout an inning. **Jacob Laba's** batting and fielding have been tremendous. Jacob says that the coolest thing about baseball is being on the team! **Calder Fritz** has not only been clutch on the pitcher's mound, but has been cracking the ball for numerous base hits.

Lighting-fast **Casey Brown** brings a whole new intensity to the team. She intimidates opposing teams with her fearless batting style and running. Big hitter **Henry Sowle** is a beast at the plate and in the field. Opposing teams start stepping back as he steps up to bat because they know they have some ball chasing to do. **Shyel Meisels** has been an excellent hitter and a steady presence at first

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base. He summed it up perfectly when he said, "The Tigers are bunch of really cool kids that are funny, love baseball and play fair".

The Tiger coaching staff have been working relentlessly with the boys. For Tiger fans, watching the kids improve week to week keeps us warm in the bleachers. Head coach **Mike Sowle** loves the enthusiasm the kids bring to each game. It's obvious to him that they love baseball and he considers it a joy to be coaching them. Without assistant coaches **D.C Brown, Greg Denny**, and **Trey Walker**, there would be no Tigers. Their dedication, love for the kids and the game, and sheer baseball knowledge are invaluable.

Go Tigers!

—Seth Meisels



Padres

LMI.net

Manager: Mark Francis

Coaches: Jeff Jarvis and Teresa Provenzano

Half way through the 2015 campaign, the Padres are having a great season. Manager **Mark Francis**, ably assisted by coaches **Jeff Jarvis** and **Teresa Provenzano**, create a positive atmosphere where players acquire new skills while having fun together. Every week the coaches emphasize a different aspect of the game, such as running hard through first base, or always being in the ready position, and if the team improves in that area, they are another step closer to being treated to an ice cream party.

The way these Padres are playing, they better stock up at Fenton's! **Antonio Nordman**, the ace of the staff, hit a dramatic grand slam against the Rangers that had the dugout dancing in delirium. **Alex Jarvis** is his dependable battery mate, making heads-up defensive plays out of the crouch. **Mason Mullen**, steady on the mound and in

the field, will be remembered for a dramatic steal of home that won a game against the Diamondbacks. **Leo "The Closer" Silverburg** earned his nickname by shutting down the red hot Angels, leaving the tying run stranded at second.

The team showed a lot of character during tough times as well. **Patrick Beckett** threw two shutout innings in a game the Padres ultimately forfeited for lack of players, but not before they fought back to within one run on a dramatic triple off the bat of **Yahel Sharon**. During the same game, **Aiden Sheppeck** turned an unassisted double play, and in his first time on the mound retired the only batter he faced with a single pitch. **Ivo Maringouin** survived a rough day at the plate in an early contest, getting beamed twice, and earning the respect of his teammates in the process and the game ball for his fortitude.

Abby Grant brings an infectious enthusiasm to the dugout that endears him to his teammates. **Maximus Francis** patrols the infield with gold glove defense and baseball moxie. **Max Tangherlini** has excelled both on the mound and behind the dish, ready and willing for whatever assignment he gets. **Om Aggarwal**, who is new to the game, is a quick study who swings a big bat and brings a great attitude to the field. It's easy to see why the parents in the stands support this team with such enthusiasm. These Padres come to play!
--Kevin Beckett

Twins

The Wooden Duck

Managers: Michael Drapeau and Roger Myers

Dax Kajiwara - Assistant Coach

The Twins have had a very exciting season with a couple of high-run and nail-biting games under their belt. Each game, these kids play with heart, passion and purpose. All the boys have had the pleasure of rounding the bases numerous times and have been enjoying rotating positions so they can each get a chance to learn something new or master an old favorite.

Darragh Westover is a true team player and is always on the lookout to back up and support his teammates especially when playing outfield! In one memorable inning as pitcher, he caught a pop fly and fielded a ball for a first base out. **Niall Monteleone's** pitches always buzz across home plate — sometimes without any swings attempted by the opposing team. Niall also enjoys batting and hit a two-run homer in the second game. **Etienne Drapeau** is a strong hitter and quick on his feet, once hitting to center field, making it to second base, and then stealing third base.

With his intense stare down, Etienne is a fun pitcher to watch as he develops this new skill.

All the boys seem to enjoy stealing — bases that is. **Luke Childs** has a watchful eye and, once on base, is always on the lookout for any opportunity to steal a base and move to third to get a chance to steal home. **Nathan Joffe** is lightning fast and at the top of the first against the Orioles he quickly got a base hit and stole to third base before the crowd could even locate him. He and **Ruben Murillo** have emerged as other strong Twin hitters, usually earning a grounder to first base or cracking the ball into outfield.

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Since the rule changed allowing kids to steal home, the game against the Orioles provided this opportunity. In one inning, **Ruben** stole home to make the score 3-1 (Orioles-Twins.) Then Luke stole home: 3-2. Then finally **Nathan Joffe** stole home to end the inning in a tied score of 3-3.

Jefferson Kajiwara always puts in a solid performance infield and outfield. He had the first hit of the season at the top of the first inning against the Yankees. Against the Tigers, **Aidan Myers** smacked one into center field driving in two RBIs. He has also displayed strong pitching skills and opened the season with a solo HR in the second inning against the Yankees.

Mateo Morales is a strong and consistent hitter — hitting triples or doubles in most games. On one hit to center field, he earned a 2 RBIs. **Sevan Minassian-Godner** is light on his feet and a force to be reckoned with playing catcher for the Twins. With his powerful gaze and trademark leaping catch, he keeps all opposing players thinking twice about trying to steal.

Nolan Whitehil, another strong hitter for the Twins, once hit a grounder to center field and claimed second base, ensuring an RBI and allowing Mateo to cross home base. **Emil Adams** has been honing his pitching skills and is equally entertaining at bat. In the game against the Orioles, he struck out two batters to make a short inning and in the first game again the Yankees, Emil cracked one out and earned 3 RBIs.

When questioned on the season and what can be expected from the Twins, Coach Mike said, "The season has been a lot of fun. We've had our ups and downs and some very competitive games. They're playing hard, improving every game, and having fun learning about themselves and the game of baseball. We have a lot of potential and talent and I'm looking forward to spending the rest of the season watching our team grow. It's truly an honor working with such a great group of kids."

--Eileen King and Angelina Perez

Blue Jays

As You Wish

Manager: Ben Schwartz

Coaches: Phil Walz and Kevin Newman

The AA Blue Jays are off and running with a great season so far, with a team that has been practicing hard, playing their hearts out and having a blast. Led by Coaches **Ben Schwartz**, **Phil Walz**, **Kevin Newman** and **Brad Battson**, the boys on this team bring everything they've got to every game, and their team spirit is carrying them through game after game of awesome playing and high excitement.

The coaches focused early practices on team building, plus pitching, catching and batting. The players' progress was noticeable immediately as the boys bonded with each other and found their stride individually and really started to play as a team. By the time of the first game, **Milton Cruz** announced his presence as one of the team's big hitters, including one the ump called "the biggest hit I've ever seen in little league." Milton, along with **Malcolm Dinani**, **Max Sell** and **Jacob Ward**, have been ably defending the outfield as well as perfecting their infield skills at second and third base. They've all been impressing spectators by running after every ball and pursuing every opportunity for an out.

Lev Teiblum and **Ethan Walz**, two other power hitters for the Blue Jays, have been fast on their feet as catcher, defending home against opponents trying to steal their way to a run. Lev's never-quit attitude help inspire the whole team, and he's also done great as pitcher, as has Ethan. Further strength on the mound has come from **Elliot Watts-Zagha**, **Gabriel Schwartz**, and **Kalani Battson**. Also churning out hits are **Johan Newman**, **Zev Pollick** and **William O'Brien**, all of whom have shown outstanding sportsmanship all over the field and have tried their hand at pitching as well. All of the boys have developed quick instincts for stealing bases, and their excitement at advancing right under their opponents' noses is palpable. The Blue Jays are their own best cheerleaders, and the boys never fail to encourage their teammates on the field and behind the plate. These talented young men are giving it everything they've got, and most important, they know how to play as a team, always staying positive and looking for ways to improve.

As we move through the season, friendships and team spirit are developing just as much as skills on the field. These Blue Jays will no doubt keep bringing their unbridled enthusiasm and their pure love of baseball to every practice and game.

— Jillian Ward



You Really



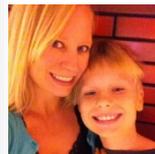
[Albany Little League California](#) New cover photo thanks to the awesome [Marcy Newman-Lauer!](#)



[Dave Monk](#) The A's!



[Bill McGowen](#) Co-Volunteer Of the Year, Jim Radkey w/Ryan. Thanks for all you do for our league!



[Beth Ellis-Dickson](#) Thank you for sponsoring the River Cats, Solano Avenue Association and Stroll! We're excited to play our first T-Ball game next Saturday, and we're having a great time at Opening Day today for Albany Little League California.

Us on Facebook!



[Deirdre Levine](#)



Coach Rick's first dip today!*



[Bill McGowen](#) Great to see [Todd Perlman](#) back on the field! With Ben & Peyton.



[Anissa Boukhris](#) Go Scrappers!



[John Travis Johnson](#)



*Full Video and more pictures on [Albany Little League California's Facebook page!](#)



The Little Leaguer

Albany Little League Newsletter

Volume XIX Number 2

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Team Reports Edition

AAA – Juniors



TEAM REPORTS

AAA

Braves

Mechanics Bank

Manager: Phil Polishuk

Coaches: Phil Polishuk

No report submitted.

Mets

Ready State

Manager: Aaron Lechuga

Coaches: Aaron Lechuga, Tim Larkin and Dan Newman

The Mets are playing well, but have lost a few hard-fought games by a single run. By early April, the team has been playing much more like one, with players hitting throughout the batting order, and infield errors down to a minimum.

Coaches Aaron Lechuga, Tim Larkin, and Dan Newman all like the team's chances, and praise the players for their efforts and early-season improvements. Parent turnout at early weekend games and weekday evening games has been high, and while the players are enjoying the support, they thrive on the friendly rivalry with former teammates, school friends, and neighbors on opposing teams.

Pitcher and infielder **Eric Kim** (#1) likes watching the Giants, especially Mike Trout. He put in a great performance in the team's most recent victory, pitching the last two innings and striking out three batters. Infielder and expert catcher **Kieran Bracken-Sierra** (#2) holds his loyalties on the near side of the Bay, where his favorite player is the A's fielder, Coco Crisp. Kieran has been working hard to stop opponents stealing bases. It's a tough play to make, but with his four seasons of experience, he's the right kid for the job.

In his second season playing baseball, **Nicolas Wong-Shea** (#3) often plays second base, where he snagged a recent last-inning fly ball to help the Mets keep their close lead. He's an A's fan. Frequently playing catcher or third base, **Kai Mitchell** (#4) likes the Giants and Buster Posey. He has three seasons of Albany Little League experience under his belt, and always knows which play to make. **Colin Larkin** (#5) may have lost track of how many seasons he's played, but he has whittled his favorite teams (A's, Giants, and Diamondbacks), players (Paul Goldschmitt, Madison Bumgarner, and Josh Donaldson), and positions (pitcher, catcher, and shortstop) each down to three. He's much more decisive on the field, fortunately.

Often seen at first base, **Devin Mitchell** (#6) really stretches to make the play, helping out the team a lot. He's been a reliable hitter as well, getting to first by swatting the best pitches rather than running up the count of balls. Devin favors the Giants and Joe Panik. Although **Nico Zlatchin** (#7) has pitched several innings of three strikeouts, he shows up all over the field, and really loves running the bases, especially stealing home. He's a Giants fan. Third base is where we often find **Alex Vargas** (#8), determined to stop the steal

from second. He's gotten one so far, and in a very early game jumped to catch a fly ball and retire the side. He's a Giants fan, and follows David Ortiz and former Giant Pablo Sandoval.



Nikhil Newman-Anand (#9) starts many of the Mets' games on the mound, but also likes playing third base, where his fast arm helps keep runners off of first. He's a fan of the A's and Sonny Gray. Asked whether he had a favorite play this season to look back on, he answered "Not yet." It would be hard to notice that this is **Elliot Chang's** (#10) first season of baseball. He doesn't have a favorite pro team or player, but he does already have a home run to his credit. Lefty pitcher **Henry Thompson** (#11) is in his second season, dealing strings of strikes to surprised batters. Another fan of the A's and Sonny Gray, he often takes a break from pitching to play first base, where he uses his height to the team's defensive advantage. **Marku-Atzin Lechuga** (#13) is the only Dodgers fan on the squad, and enjoys playing every position except catcher. He is often seen fielding a grounder at second base, his throw beating the runner to first.

The Mets appreciate their sponsor, **Ready State**, which although it is a marketing agency, sounds a lot like the coaches' advice to fielders: bend their knees, watch the pitch, and move toward the hit.
--- Steve Shea

Royals

Sponsor

Manager: Joe Petersen

Coaches: Joe, Spencer and Casey

The fantastic ALL AAA Royals are off to a rollicking start this year. 12 young enthusiastic guys playing together under the skilled coaching of Joe Petersen, Spencer and Casey are showing up, working hard, and having fun; sponsored by Hearing Science. Of those 12, all 12 are awesome. And when I say awesome, what I mean is that there is an attitude of willingness to listen, to learn, to share: all of these things adding up to some great sportsmanship and the perfect atmosphere for fun and success. If we look at the lineup, we have a range of experience and talent, many different strengths, sizes and personalities, all making a very ROYAL collection of kids.

Vitorio Mexas, #7 loves playing 2nd or 3rd base, and has been

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playing for four years. Not only here in Albany, but in Phoenix, Arizona and Bethesda, Maryland where he used to live. He tells us his favorite player is the Giants own Buster Posey. When we think of Vitorio this season, we think of him with some fast plays on third, getting runners out with great throws to first. **Nick Anxolabehere** takes his job as catcher seriously, and really loves it. He's played for 3 years: first on the Cubs and then the Phillies. He tells us one of his favorite memories is pitching a no-score inning. Who's Nick's favorite player? Pablo Sandoval! He says he forgives him for trading. That shows you the kind of stuff old #11 is made of. Nice work, Nick!

Franco Daganzo wears lucky #13, and plays catcher whenever he has the chance! He likes Tony Gwynn and has played three seasons in his young career: for The Nationals, The Tigers, and now The Royals. He tells us this year's team is favorite hat. Franco doesn't take kindly to players trying to steal home when he's hard at work as catcher. He does not like thieves.

Isaac Petersen loves to pitch. We think of him as a pitching machine. He wears #8 and recalls fondly the play in centerfield where he had a diving catch. His favorite players are Madison Bumgarner of the Giants, and Sonny Gray, and this is his fifth year playing! We love having Isaac on the team. **Isaiah Amoranto** can play left field, second base and also pitches. He wears #4 and is a great asset to the team. He's played for 5 seasons, 3 in ALL, and his very favorite memory is when he pitched so many strikes to the Reds! Not to mention that famous grand slam moment that's on everyone's favorites list. **Drew Henderson** plays 2nd base and wears #2. He's a big fan of Derek Jeter, and this is his third year of making memories in Albany Little League. One of his best memories of this season so far is when the team ran out of the dugout at end of the Mets game. That was quite a moment!

Next up is **Pablo Mendoza**, who loves playing either first or second base. You'll see Pablo wearing #1, and his favorite player is Dustin Pedroia. He's had 3 years of little league, and before that, a lot of practice playing with his older brother since he was 5. What's his favorite memory so far this Spring? When a batter hit a drive to the field and he dove for the ball and threw it immediately to third base -- the runner didn't have a chance. **Nathan Murff**, #6, loves to play catcher. And we love to watch him play. Nathan has a great team spirit, and works hard! His favorite player is Matt Kemp, and he has been playing for 4 years now. It shows! His favorite memory so far with the Royals is that amazing grand slam in the game against the Brewers. Nicely done Nate! **Anton Donovan-Tolki** loves Buster Posey almost as much as he loves playing short stop this season for the Royals. He wears #5 and has played for three years. Anton's favorite thing he's done this season? "Probably pitching three innings with seven strikeouts" We like that, Anton.

Declan Gusick loves first base. He wears #12 and suits up and shows up with a passion. He's thrilled to be on Coach Joe's 2015 Royals, and looks forward to a big year. Declan's favorite player is Brandon Belt of the Giants, and his favorite memory is definitely that grand slam. He's been playing for 3 years, including Fall Ball as well as regular season, and wouldn't mind being in the MLB someday. Declan's a lefty. Other players we're proud to have as Royals are **Marley Filson** and **Ethan Irwin**. It's gonna be a great year for the Royals, and for Albany Little League Baseball! GO TEAM!

--- Kat Gilpatrick



White Sox

Sponsor

Manager: Daniel Cutter

Coaches: Daniel Cutter

The White Sox have started the season off strong!

Chase Black (10) made an incredible throw from third base to first, making a fabulous play. **Dak Palen** (4) is a consistent hitter who we always count on. **Finn Hartney** (11) hit a fabulous triple in one of our first games. **Henry Grant** (7) has been a star pitcher for the beginning of our season. **Jacob Cutter** (1) made an amazing diving catch in center field. **Kai Charp** (8) has been keeping spirits high throughout all of our games. **Miles Cull** (9) hit a single and brought two runners home in the bottom of the fourth against the Phillies. **Miles Fleischer** (6) hit an amazing triple against the Rays. **Oliver Miller** (3) threw an 11 pitch, no-hit inning. **Taylor Forbrush** (14) made an amazing catch in right field. **Zev Massey** (2) threw a 6 pitch inning on his 10th birthday.

--- Deb Massey

Rockies

Sponsor: Berkeley IronWorks

Manager: Darryl Jones

Coaches: Darryl Jones, Aaron Jones and Michael Butler

The AAA Berkeley IronWorks Rockies look to be a tough team to beat in the upcoming Albany Little League 2015 Season.

As the core 4 of **Beau Jones**, **Julian Schroeder**, and twins **Ben** and **Jack Elfenbaum**, will lead the rest of the Rockies to the top of the standings.

Fielding will be the calling card of the Rockies, with slick fielding **Kai Kumar** and **Owen Dullum**, **Jaime Loizeaux** on the mound, and **Matthew Perez** behind the plate, opposing teams may find it tough to score runs.

On the offensive side of the ball, **Colin Dickson** and **Joaquin Santa Cruz** look to power the offense, with **Merrick Horne** and **Aaron Butler** rounding out, what should be a very formidable line-up.

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Manager Darryl Jones, with the help of Asst coaches Aaron Jones and Michael Butler, team parent Susan Schroeder, and their rabid fan base, affectionately named "The Rock Pile", the Rockies will definitely bring fun and excitement to Albany Little League baseball this season.

--- Darryl Jones

Phillies

Sponsor

Manager: Kenny Stuart

Coaches: Kenny, Aaron

Our players include **Kahuna Stuart** whose favorite position is 2nd Base, favorite player is Mike Trout and who has been playing baseball for 5 years; **Julian Johnson** whose favorite position is Pitcher, favorite player is Buster Posey and who has been playing baseball for 3 years; **Jacob-Devin "JD" Romero** whose favorite position is 2nd Base and has been playing baseball for 6 years; **Theo Greenberg** whose favorite position is 1st Base, favorite player is Joe Panik, and has been playing baseball for 5 years; **Leo Johnson** whose favorite position is 2nd Base, favorite player is David Ortiz and has been playing baseball for 4 years; **Mason Pancoast** whose favorite position is Shortstop, favorite player is Hunter Pence and has been playing baseball for 4 years; and **Owen Husband-Meyer** whose favorite positions are Pitcher and Shortstop, favorite player is Hunter Pence and who has been playing baseball for 2 years.

--- Obie Greenberg

Reds

Sponsor

Manager: James Kotter

Coaches: James, Paul, Michael, Alan and Martin

The Reds are a team of solid fielders, hitters, stealers and throwers. A tough 5-coach staff is playing hardball around good sportsmanship with the team and the opponents no matter who is ahead or behind.

The season has been marked by one no-hitter, and back to back 5-run innings after handing over 5 runs when the other guys were at bat. **Cedric Farrell**, **James Hogan**, **Danny Winkleman**, **Jonah Gray** and **Eli Kotter** form the core pitching staff and are throwing rockets that are hard to find and harder to hit. **Lloyd Jones** is a frequent flyer from third to home and has at least one double play and one triple to his credit. Ukulele-strumming **Cassius Kloehn** is a team builder, on the ready with an encouraging word. Mindful of not swinging at balls, Cassius was able to get on base and score twice in a recent match. Pitcher Eli, of the famous arm, can put the ball where it needs to be from left field or the mound.

In a recent contest, with four at-bats, Eli got on base each time and scored twice. **Yehiel Hibshoosh**, the sneak attacker and compulsive stealer will not let the opponents rest while he is on base. Multiple home steals and repeated line-drive stoppers gives the other guys fits. Catcher **Jonas Holdenried** is a backstop behind the plate and can get the ball to 2nd in a hurry when needed. On the flip side, he has crossed the plate several times to score for the Reds.

Marlon Jones is a fielder and a hitter with natural talent. He singled, doubled, and stole home in recent games.

First timer wearing a uniform, **Tonio Manqueros** is someone who loves the game, and he can find the ball with the bat. Tonio is someone to watch as the season progresses. Nico came to the Reds with an injured foot but has been a loyal rooter from the beginning. **Nico Lauer** has chops and the coaches hope to play him later in the season. Jonah and Danny, two arms of the pitching staff, both excel also at ball handling in the infield. Both have been able to get on base and bring it home. The Reds are looking forward to playing more baseball.

--- Paul Farrell



Rays

Sponsor

Manager: Bill Bailey

Coaches: Coach Bill, Coach Ralph, Coach Jake, Coach Chris and Coach Mark

It's been an exciting year for the AAA Rays as we've seen big contributions from every player on the team through the first 7 games. Led by Coach Bill Bailey, with a supporting cast of multiple coaches including Coach Ralph, Coach Jake, Coach Chris and Coach Mark, the Rays are an energetic bunch.

Playing in his first year of ALL, **Atlas Buescher** has proved himself to be a quick learner of the game. Atlas has already played a wide range of positions and has shined on defense, somehow managing to nearly always come up with the ball. **Ben Brochard** has been a solidly reliable player for the Rays. As a first baseman, he's made several outstanding plays. As a hitter, he's used his quick hands and good sense of the strike zone to get on base frequently. Despite being the youngest player on the team, **Cade Freightman** has some of the Rays biggest hits and is always a threat to steal a base. In the field, he's played almost everywhere, including pitcher, catcher, outfield, and 2nd base.

With his trademark mismatched socks, it's easy to spot **Enzo Marino**. He's been one of the Rays' top pitchers this year, almost throwing a complete game against the powerful Royals. **Gili Stein's** signature moment of the season was a massive triple against the Rockies that seemingly kept going and going while he hustled around the bases. Defensively, he alternates time between 3rd base and the

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outfield. The team's most fiery competitor is **Gus Bailey**, who has already provided the Rays with several memorable blasts off his bat. When not running around the bases, Gus has excelled both on the mound and at shortstop.

Joaquin Chun can always be counted on to keep the dugout atmosphere fun and lighthearted. But on the field, Joaquin is much more serious, showing off a mighty swing and rocket arm. He's played 3rd base, along with learning how to pitch. From the leadoff spot, the speedy **Kiva Schweig** possesses a dangerous bat, spraying the ball all over the field. He's also displayed a natural talent in the field, gamely chasing down fly balls and showing off a powerful arm. **Miles Rasmussen** has shown himself to be a valuable asset to the team, gamely taking on almost every position so far. But it's not just defense for Miles, he also earned one of the team's first game balls for a clutch line drive hit.

Sure, **Paxton Lymon** smiles easily, but beneath his sunny exterior is another tough competitor. Paxton has pitched in most Rays games this season, and has also been enjoying learning to be a catcher. **Satchel Wasserman** has played every single position, including a stint as the starting pitcher against the Rockies. He loves hitting, and consistently smacks line drives in every direction.

--- Mark Wasserman

Now in his 7th season with ALL, **Matthew Monk** likes the pitcher's mound. Daniel Nava is his favorite player. Playing the trumpet is his preferred non-baseball activity. **Micah Fong** is really enjoying his 3rd season. He likes to play first base and roots for Madison Bumgarner. Micah is learning the flute and took his first trip abroad to England this past fall. **Ryan O'Sullivan** is also in his 3rd year and also likes playing first base. Javier Lopez is his favorite player. Ryan



MAJORS

A's

Krav Maga

Manager: Dave Monk

Coaches: Marc Melnick; Shaun O'Sullivan

Let's get to know a little about the Albany Little League Majors division A's!

First up is **Aaron Greensfelder**. Aaron is in his 5th year in the ALL, likes to play first base and loves Buster Posey. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys riding his bike and playing the saxophone. Next up is **Benjamin Melnick**, who's now in his 7th season here in Albany. His favorite position is pitcher and he's a fan of Gregor Blanco. Ben also has musical talent as he plays the trumpet. **Doole Gaiende Edwards** (3rd year) is a fan of many big leaguers but his favorite is Dee Gordon. It's no wonder he likes playing second base. He also loves pizza and Philly cheesesteaks.

Here's **Jackson Eddy**. This 4th year player is solid at both middle infield positions but has a preference for second. He's a Brandon Crawford fan and when not playing baseball, he likes to do gymnastics. **Kai Speirs** is in his 3rd year in the ALL. He likes to pitch and cites Clayton Kershaw as his favorite professional. Kai was born in New York City and loves Cookie Dough ice cream. **Leif Carlson**, now in his 6th year in Albany, prefers to patrol 2nd base. When not practicing his electric guitar or flute, he can be found looking for cool science experiments on YouTube.

continues the musical theme as he plays the saxophone. He can always enjoy a dish of Birthday Cake ice cream.

Our other Ryan, "**Ryno**" Wang is in his 3rd season. He likes to pitch, just like his favorite, Sonny Gray. Ryno completes our boy band as he attends the Pacific Boychoir Academy. He has also shot, skinned, and eaten a rabbit! **Sidney Card Gormley**, in his 4th season, is one of our catchers, citing Buster Posey as his favorite pro. He plays the saxophone and once lived a year in Berlin, Germany. **Thomas Rhoades** rounds out the A's roster, doing a great job behind the plate.

--- Kellee Fong

Cardinals

Mary & Joe's Sporting Goods

Manager: Frank Knowles

Coaches: Greg Lind and Matt McKerley

The Redbird's 2015 campaign took flight, fast and furious. In the very first game of the season versus the world champs Giants, they fought hard until the very last pitch in an epic pitchers' duel. Ever since then they have been entertaining their passionate fans (and any Clydesdales that care) with some heart-throbbing, spine-tingling, hair-raising, nerve-wracking nail biters. Win or lose, they are playing the game with great team spirit, and geeing each other up through the tough stretches that seem inevitable in the long little league season.

Who can forget the innumerable indelible moments from this season, bringing to their fans a few fond memories of their namesakes from the "Gateway to the West:"

TEAM REPORTS

Miles “Money” Camp has shown strong leadership behind the plate in calling the plays and boosting his team mates through some tough outings. He has been a productive clean-up hitter, providing big “Musialesque” hits at clutch moments, and as a pitcher has strung together many 1-2-3 innings. **Gabriel Ishii-Lusk** has demonstrated “Ozzie-like” agility at short with his glove, leaving many a hitters wondering just what they have to do to get the ball through the infield. His pitching effort to close out the A’s in a high scoring slugfest was a thing of beauty. **Yahiness “double machine” Martinez** has been showing the boys how to consistently hit for extra bases, and is on the verge of earning the nickname Gianni Baseball.

Not to be left behind, **Luca McCurley** can do it all – clever gap hitting, efficient catching, and consistently dishing heat from the mound to keep opposing batters off the bases to collect a paltry ERA that would make Bob Gibson proud. And who can forget his slick glove work in an exciting double play versus the Pirates quickly snuffing out a fast developing rally. **Aiden Boone** has been a big contributor in the middle infield with his laser sharp, ESPN-worthy, throws to first, and on the hill, pitching with guile and carving up the opposing batters by painting the corners.

Kyle “The Smile” Yoshida is a power to reckon with in setting the table at the leadoff spot, possessing an uncanny eye to discern balls and strikes, and as a perennial steal threat with breakneck speed on bases – all culminating in a high OBP that would make Billy Beane salivate. One for the ages was his 2 RBI deep ball in left center for a stand up triple, breaking open a pitchers’ duel versus the mighty Cubs.

Yet another all-around strong athlete on the team, **Owen Knowles**, has contributed in all aspects of the game –with his hitting, pitching, fielding, catching, and aggressive base running. He can do whatever the coaches need him to do – and epitomizes the “Whiteyball hit and run” Cardinal offense of the yore. **Keenan Bhansali** has shown versatility by playing solid defense in the infield and the outfield, and making his glove work like a black hole where the long fly balls seem to disappear, as the Nationals hitters discovered in another 1-run win for the Cards. He is also emerging as a consistent pitcher who can slow down the best of offenses. **Jasper Ro** has come on strong with his power hitting as the season wore on, getting some lumber on the ball and threatening the outfield fence at Krone on more than one occasion. His fielding prowess shone in the yet another close win in a high scoring contest against the A’s where he snared up some sharply hit balls in the infield.

Miles Franklin has shown tremendous athletic ability all throughout the season, exhibiting a strong pitching arm, and hitting many deep balls in the outfield to extend a rally or two. His bases loaded, clutch walk-off line drive against the Nationals was electrifying to watch.

Gabriel Eshleman has provided some much needed middle of the order oomph with his reliably solid contact hitting, shown solid glove work behind the dish, and contributed in the bullpen when called upon to shut down the opposing batters with his speed variations.

Marc Metz has impressed with his consistent pitching in long relief, his fielding at the corners, and with his power hitting in tattooing the ball to the fence at Victory a few times. His unflappable pitching gem when closing against the Cubs, to eke out of a bases loaded jam in the bottom of the 7th innings for 1-run win, was a thrill to witness. Watch out for these Redbirds as the season progresses. Manager Frank “Red” Knowles observes, “These kids have steadily improved in all aspects of their game. Additionally, as a team, they have developed a never give-up toughness that has enabled them to come back from deficits in multiple games to ultimately win.” Coaches Matt “Branch” McCurley and Greg “LaRussa” Lind are extremely proud of what these kids have achieved. They certainly seem to be peaking just in time for the playoffs and appear poised to soar to new heights...

--- Roveen Bhansali

Cubs

Feagley Realtors

Manager: Brad Adams

Coaches: Steven Rothman and Phil Worman

No report submitted

Giants

Dr Frank Cortese

Manager: Darrin Banks

Coaches: Mark Bradley and Rob Koch

No report submitted

Nationals

T-Bunz

Manager: Pat Bryant

Coaches: Andres Cediell and Laura Peterson

No report submitted

Pirates

Wheelhouse Academy of Baseball

Manager: Lauren Richmond

Coaches: Eitan Spanier, Nick Walchuk, and Todd Watson

#1 Jared Nakahara’s favorite positions are shortstop and pitcher. Off the field, Jared enjoys playing basketball and watching all sports. **#2 Nolan Walchuk**’s favorite positions are catcher and shortstop. Off the field, Nolan likes playing Minecraft and basketball, practicing the clarinet, and reading. **#3 Leo Spanier**’s favorite positions are second base, first base, and shortstop. Off the field, Leo enjoys



TEAM REPORTS

skateboarding, playing football, and practicing the trumpet. **#4 Zev Spanier's** favorite positions are center field, pitcher, and shortstop. Off the field, Zev keeps busy with football, basketball, pegboard climbing, drawing, and fiction writing.

#5 Ethan Chen's favorite positions are pitcher, third base, and center field. Off the field, Ethan likes playing all sports, practicing the trumpet, and swimming. **#7 Braden Watson's** favorite positions are pitcher and third base. Off the field, Braden enjoys jumping on his trampoline, practicing the trumpet, and playing video games. **#8 Jack Lawrence's** favorite positions are third base and second base. Off the field, Jack likes playing basketball and watching sports, especially baseball and basketball. **#9 Sam O'Brien's** favorite positions are pitcher and catcher. Off the field, Sam enjoys playing soccer and board games, practicing the piano, and singing in a choir.

#10 Chase McFarland's favorite positions are shortstop, pitcher, first base, and catcher. Off the field, Chase keeps busy playing water polo and basketball and practicing the guitar and trumpet. **#11 Theo Serafimidis's** favorite positions are second base, first base, and shortstop. Off the field, Theo enjoys video games, Nerf gun wars with his friends, playing the piano, and scouts. **#12 Trevor Buchan's** favorite positions are first base, third base, and pitcher. Off the field, Trevor likes hanging out and playing football, basketball, and soccer with friends, scouts, and playing percussion in the school band. **#13 Cooper Richmond's** favorite positions are first base, pitching, and catching. Off the field, Cooper keeps busy practicing the saxophone, being with friends, swimming, and playing football, basketball, and golf.

---- Sarah Serafimidis

Red Sox

Mr Rooter Plumbing

Manager: Mike Roberts

Coaches: Spencer Ferguson and John Johnson

Red Sox Nation would be proud of this great group of players who play hard, cheer each other on, and work together and improve with each game. The coaching staff says they're continually impressed with the coachability and spirit of the team.

It sounds like Fenway Park when our BoSox step up to the plate or make a nice play out in the field. **Billy Ferguson** has plenty of hustle and got two nice hits against the Cubs. **Emerson R.** is a great hitting catcher who's had some nice pitching outings. **Zach Lottmann** has been playing solid third base and swings a good bat, with a nice hit against the Giants. **Eliot Smith** is a strong armed dynamo who leads the hitting attack, and got a homer against the Nationals. **Alex Ferguson** is a lefty slugger playing solid outfield, with a nice outfield grab against the Cubs. **Michael Johnson** is a good catcher and contact hitter, and relieved nicely against the Giants.

Kajuan Stuart is a great form infielder and good contact hitter. **Leo Nordman** is a power-hitting first baseman who also power pitches. **Elliott Schwarz** is Mr. Versatile, and plays well all over the field and hits with good power. **Truman Roberts** shows great effort whether at

bat, pitching, or in the field. **Emerson Schwarz** has good hustle, and is a solid infielder and contact hitter. **Ethan Boniello** has a strong arm and composure while pitching and swinging a good lefty bat.

The Sox have come together as a team and supported each other throughout the season so far. No Curse of the Bambino here...just a great group of players.

Go Red Sox!

--Caroline Keller Lottmann



INTERMEDIATE

TEAM REPORTS

Ducks

Manager: Thomas Gary

Coach: Francisco Hernandez

The Ducks are doing great! We have eleven players with experience, and six first year players who are all learning very fast. All of our first year players have recorded hits. Very impressive! Our team owes all this progress to the more experienced players who have become coaches in their own right. They have taken this young group under their wing and shown them how to play hard no matter what, and to ENJOY THE GAME !!! I'm a very lucky coach. Coach Thomas

The Richmond Ducks players:

Jonathan Coleman #12 – My favorite player is Derek Jeter! I like him because he's a shortstop and I'm a short stop. I'm also a pitcher! My favorite team is the Yankees!

Alberto Cortez #6 – My favorite player is Coco Crisp because he hits the ball super far and he's one of the best baseball players.

Victor Cortez #11 – My favorite player is Riddick from the A's because he's a good right fielder.

Rodney Green #5 – Madison Bumgarner! I like him because he's a lefty and great pitcher like me.

David Guevara #1 – My favorite player is Coco Crisp because I like the way he plays.

Jorge Gutierrez #13 – My favorite player is also Coco Crisp because he hits far.

Benicio Hernandez #15 – Yoenis Cespedes because he plays the same position as me, left field, and he's a good hitter.

Emil Jellinek #4 – My favorite player is Coco Crisp because I like how he plays.

David Jose #9 – My favorite player is Brandon Moss because he's a power hitter and he mainly hits home runs.

Michael Levingston #14 – Pablo Sandoval! I like him because he's well-known, a good baseball player and loves the game.

Keyonn Martin #8 – My favorite player is Josh Donaldson because I want to be a good 3rd baseman like him.

Keyshawn Martin #7 – My favorite player is Madison Bumgarner! I like him because he's a good pitcher and I look up to him.

Julian Montes #16 – Pablo Sandoval because despite his size, he's a great player!

Jayden Pierson #3 – My favorite player is Josh Donaldson because he's a power hitter.

Jaden Sance #10 – My favorite player is Coco Crisp.

Demoni Simmons #2 – My favorite player is also Coco Crisp because he can bat left and right and he's fast.

---Sonia Coleman and Tina Martin



Cowboys

Metro Dog

Manager: Frank Ciangi

Coaches: Michael Gest and Craig Henritz

The Cowboys' early-season record clearly illustrates one thing: Don't judge a team by its place in the standings. Despite going winless in their first five games, the 'Boys are no pushovers, losing three games by just 1 run and tying another. A few breaks here and there and Oklahoma State could be leading the 50-70 division.

Built around speed and pitching, the Cowboys show "a great attitude toward learning the game," Coach Frank Ciangi said. "Early on, we're learning the difference between winning and losing a baseball game is very close. The small details matter." Those details include how big of a lead to take off the bases or what constitutes a balk – the Achilles' heels for Oklahoma State early on. With most of the Cowboys playing intermediate ball for the first time, the learning curve is steep.

Still, the fleet-of-foot top of the lineup – **Ben Perlman**, **Ryan Gest** and **Connor Henritz** – is doing plenty of damage at the plate and on the bases. All three, along with **James Richards**, **Charlie Allen** and **Gianluca Ciangi**, also have turned in terrific performances on the mound. **Xavier Tennant** is a workhorse behind the dish, catching more innings than any other Cowboy.

The defense shows flashes of brilliance all around the diamond, whether from **Jesse Kane** or Ryan at 3rd base; Connor or Ben at shortstop; **Jaden Knott**, **Orion Wilde**, **Miles Cutmore** or Gianluca at 2nd; or **Jakob Seidner**, **Omar Romero-Godoy** or James at 1st.

Coach Ciangi, with assistants Mike Gest and Craig Henritz, stress the importance of accountability to teammates on every play and that, at this level of ball, "communication on defense should start coming from the team, and less from the coaches."

No play demonstrates an understanding of those principles more than a relay to the plate sparked by a hard-hit ball to right field. Jakob tracked down the ball in the corner and threw to his cutoff man; though he fired a bit off-line, Ben, from shortstop, heeded Ciangi's teaching from the previous practice of backing up every play. He positioned himself to scoop up the throw as it skidded past the cutoff, then threw a bullet to Xavier at the plate, who deftly dropped a tag to thwart the runner's attempt to stretch a triple into a home run.

TEAM REPORTS

That type of teamwork ultimately will pay off in the standings.

---Todd Perlman

Yellow Jackets

East Bay Paint Center

Manager: John Anderson

Coach: Rick Motamedi

The 2015 season of Albany Little League is underway, and a buzz can be heard resounding above Ocean View Park. The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets are swarming their way to early season wins, under the skillful tutelage of coaches John Anderson and Rich Motamedi.

Already showing great unity, the Yellow Jackets are chalking up multiple victories over worthy opponents. Pitchers, **Kai Yovanavich**, **Kaveh Motamedi**, **Giacomo Di Domenico** and **Vincent Deganzo** have been delivering fast balls and change ups, yielding some impressive shutout innings. They are backed up by the fearless blocking and strong throws of catcher, **Cam Anderson**. The Jackets' fielding has been solid, with **Will McLean** at 2nd base snagging hard hit ground balls, **Emerson Miller** grabbing line drives at 3rd, and **Zach Adler** at 1st base making great catches to thwart runners hoping for a single. **Ethan Wong** has been making difficult catches in center field look easy.

And these guys can hit! It is not unusual for the Yellow Jackets to bring their big bats to an inning, with **Kyle Paiz** thrilling the stands with a whopper RBI double out to center, and **Ben Cabanatuan** saving the day with a late inning line drive to right field. The Jackets are making base stealing look effortless, and recent high scoring wins can be attributed to consistent team batting, excellent base running by **Max Medcalf**, and fearless stealing by **Zane Chaplin**.

Without question, the Yellow Jackets are a team to watch this season. Coach John Anderson says, "The Jackets are having a great start to the season. We have had great approaches at the plate and we've had exemplary pitching. There is always room to improve, but I couldn't ask for a better start." Of course, nobody knows yet how things will turn out, but what seems clear to this reporter is that we can expect a lot of excitement from this young team, and even though they may seem to float like butterflies, these Yellow Jackets can definitely sting like bees (well wasps actually!).

--Karen O'Leary Adler

Rams

June McDaniels, BHG Mason McDuffie Real Estate

Manager: Parker Newton

Coach: Christopher McDaniels

Gaze into the Colorado State Rams' dugout and you'll see a bunch of smiling kids, getting along like there was nowhere they'd rather be. But that's not a surprise with Coach Parker Newton at the helm, honing his ballplayers' life lessons no less than their skills. "Don't be afraid to make a mistake," he reminds them, using every nuance on the field as a teachable moment. "Remember you're a kid playing a game. Have fun out there," patiently helping each kid while melding them into an enthusiastic team.



By mid-season, the Rams' pitchers are throwing more heat from week to week. **Asa Schiller**, a southpaw with nonchalant confidence and surgical accuracy, and all-around star **Mateo Okimoto**, rearing back and firing strikes and never walking anybody, teamed up for victories on three straight Saturdays. **Anthony Suva** is a key cog in the Rams' attack, pitching with increasing velocity and a field general behind the mask. Big **Dash McFarland** is intimidating opponents with 60-mile-an-hour flames, and starting to pound it as hard at the plate as everyone knows he can.

The Rams are causing damage with their bats, led by **Christian McDaniel's** RBI gappers to right center. **Ben Newton** plays like he was bred for baseball, a line-drive switch-hitter with a 999 OBP, who picks off baserunners from behind the plate with his eyes closed. **Gabriel Malat Del Valle** clobbered a triple and a homer out of sight to drive in big late-inning runs in two straight games. **Henry Christopher** had a several-game streak where every swing produced a solid outfield base hit. **Elijah Perlstadt**, with good hands around the bags and an aggressive swing, had a big two-run RBI double. Savvy **Liam Marder** has made a passel of good plays at second base, laid down a beauty of a sacrifice bunt, and is a constant threat on the base paths, like **Alonso Raimilla-Couture**, who sets an example for the teammates with his hard work to become a better player. **Kai Page** comes out early and eager, hustles everywhere, goes up to the plate swinging, and has had a couple of clutch hits. **Max Yoshida**, a roadrunner on the bases and 50/70 All Star last year, has relieved his teammates by coming out to play now that basketball season is over, key to the Rams' playoff hopes.

---Randal Malat

Sun Devils

938 Crawfish

Manager: Tim Ferdun

Coaches: Michael Burns and Qin Zhang

The Albany Sun Devils have a lot to be proud of in the spring of 2015. David Kim states it well, "Our team works very well together, and we have a lot of fun."

David Kim (DK) is a dazzling short stop and has been scorching the balls and bringing runners home. **Bryce Nakahara** is focused and unruffled as he pitches, with just a hint of a smile as he picks off an opponent trying to steal a base or pitches two consecutive 1-2-3 innings. **David Verdin** has been hauling down the fly balls in center

TEAM REPORTS

and left fields, and scored the Devils' first run against Richmond in an away game.

Victor "Quiet but Lethal" **Zhang's** relief pitching stymied the Ducks, and his huge triple in the top of the 7th drove in a run and started a key rally. Teammate, **Damon Chau**, has been solid on all fronts offering great fielding, pitching, and catching for the Devils as well as strong batting at the plate. **Benny Burns** is smart, efficient and tireless. He thinks three steps ahead and picks the opponents off with ease. The team awaits his return to the field after an injury, but in true team spirit, he cheers for his team at every game.

Buster Posey fan, **Finn Ferdun**, is in his 5th season with ALL and has been commanding and eagle eyed as catcher in addition to his strong outings as pitcher. **Andrew Frey** has been making solid contact with the ball at the plate and is consistently strong in the outfield, while **Peter Mazzota**, Giants fan and fabulous second baseman, has been working his way around the bases and scoring. For **Lincoln Chapman**, a highlight came against the Cowboys when he drove in 2 with a single down the right field line, then drew a walk and scored the go-ahead run in the 6th.

Dodé Sanjaya hails from Bali, Indonesia and has had power hits from the plate and is solid on defense in the outfield and at first base. **Colin Michael O'Brien** always comes through in clutch time. His stretch off first has produced many outs, and his huge hit against GA Tech started the game winning rally. **Zander Laurence**, a formidable figure at first base, is fast thinking and fast moving and has had some big hits for the team. Manager Tim Ferdun and coaches, Michael Burns and Qin Zhang have consistently led the players to challenge themselves and continue growing.

For the coaches, it's not just about baseball. As the fearless Ferdun points out, "Both the kids and the coaches are learning many lessons during the Spring ALL season. Playing for a team is metaphorically like navigating life... Some days the balls find the gap and some days they don't... We want players to feel confident in their skills yet humble and open to wanting to grow as players and people."

---Emiko Susilo

Hurricanes

Hotsy Totsy

Manager: Edward Kleinhans

Coaches: Ryan Brekke and DuVal Hicks

With coaches Eddy Kleinhans, DuVal Hicks and Ryan Brekke at the helm, the Intermediate 50/70 Miami Hurricanes have torn through the first part of the season, posting a 6-0 record at deadline. Each player has made outstanding contributions to the team's success thus far.

Against the Rams on March 15, **Flynn Mager** started a rally with a lead-off double, then scored on **Cole Filson's** big sacrifice fly. In the same rally, **Trey Wenrick** slammed his own double and also scored. That game ended with a bang when, with bases loaded with threatening Rams in the top of the 7th, third baseman **Evan Kleinhans** smoothly fielded a hard-hit grounder and threw the ball to catcher **Will Regan**, who got the force out at home. Then Will,

thinking fast, threw the ball to first baseman **Walker Hicks**, who, with a long stretch, completed the double play to end the game with a 5-4 win for the Hurricanes.

Pitching and defense have been a big part of the team's success. **Isaiah Fairchild** pitched the first two innings of the season and has been a consistent workhorse on the mound ever since. **Ben Hoban** pitched 2 solid innings against the Tigers on March 28. And on March 22 against the Sun Devils, **Kyle Biak** threw only 35 pitches in 3 innings, retiring the side in just 8 pitches in the first inning. Backing up the solid pitching, **Brandon Vargas** has been a human vacuum cleaner at short, killing opponents' rallies left and right.

The Hurricanes' teamwork shone on March 28, when the team roared through a game in which every Hurricane player got a hit and also scored. **Michael Wright** showed guts and agility when he stole home, leaping over the attempted tag for the score. **Dias Belda** smacked a big hit to start an 8-run rally, including a double slugged by **Noah Green** for 2 RBI's. With hard work and fast play, the Hurricanes plan to keep the momentum going as the season continues!

---Lisa Carvalho



Tigers

Restoration Design Group, LLC

(www.restorationdesigngroup.com)

Manager: Daniel Cutter

Coaches: Bill McGowen and Jim Radkey

The LSU Tigers are pulling together as a team over their interests and homemade cookies every game. With excellent leadership from the coaching staff and solid support from their growing base of rabid fans, the Tigers are building momentum and pounce on their opponents in true Tiger form. This team's mainstay is their stellar pitching staff. Coach Cutter can call on nearly ½ the team to get on the mound and throw solid innings whenever he needs them to. Their hitting is starting to get to mid-season form just in time for the stretch-run to the playoffs.

What's holding this pack together? Oatmeal cookies and their love of baseball. Go Tigers!

TEAM REPORTS

Get to know the players... Here are a few of their favorite things:

Peyton McGowen– Giants, Red licorice, and the color red

Lucas Cutter- Giants, Tim Lincecum, fav position: pitcher

Miles Alberga – Jose Bautista, Blue Jays, color blue

Will Sypher- fav #: 2, fav team: Orioles, fav position: shortstop

Luciano Salzano – Fav #: 21, Fav players: Buster Posey/Derek Jeter, Fav Position: 2nd

Quinten Sargent – Fav video game: Madden 25, Fav player: Ricky Henderson, fav color: turquoise

Agustin De Jesus – Fav food: Chocolate, Fav Team: Yankees, Fav position: 2nd base

Bennett Ronay – Fav team: Twins, Fav position: catcher, fav #: 19

Ryan Radkey – Fav Position: 1st base, Fav Food: gummy bears, Fav #: 11

Owen Jump – Fav Position: Pitcher, Fav Video Game: FIFA 15, Fav #: 38

Will Jennings – Fav Food: Chocolate, Fav Team: Giants, Fav #: 48

Isaac Shores and **Dylan Goetting** were unavailable for interview
---Laura Ronay



I caught up with the team between their last home stand and road trip (both on the same day) and got some insight into the team's work ethic and each player's goals for the season. A big emphasis for the team is hitting, both for average and power. **Deven Beasley** is looking to get more hits and raise his average. **Dominic Tressler** feels good about making contact but he's looking to add power to his hitting arsenal. **Ian Haggitt** also plans to amp up his power outage and hit the ball farther. **Jaylen Ivey** wants to make more contact when at bat, **Riley Kirkman-Davis** wants to up his average and hit it farther, and **Ben Wenger** and **Matthew Brusseau** plan very simply (and simple is good in baseball) to improve their hitting. **Milo Ruberto** summed up the focus on power for the team, saying his goal is to hit it farther and hit it stronger. Well said!

No team has ever won strictly with hitting, and many of the Stars are focusing on the defensive side of the diamond. **Ethan Davis** is turning his attention to fielding grounders, **Aidan Knowles** on his throwing accuracy, and **Matthew Sim** on developing a stronger arm. **Ezri Mayeri** plans nothing less than to make a game saving, diving catch in center field, and **Royce Williams** very simply wants to play good, error-free baseball. A worthy goal.

Coach Sim believes that with all players focusing on their goals and with the coaches' emphasis on playing as a team and having fun, it should be an exciting and rewarding season for the rising Stars!

--- Neal Davis

Seals

Cerami Builders

Mitchell Masia – Manager

Erik Davidson – Assitant Coach

Sergio Mendoza – Assistant Coach

The Seals have been making a "Big Splash" in the early part of the Juniors Division season, enjoying competitive games each and every weekend.

JUNIORS

Stars

Design-A-Sign

Mike Sim – Manager

John Brusseau – Assistant Coach

Frank Knowles – Assistant Coach

The weather has been perfect for baseball, and The Stars are rising. The boys worked hard during spring training and are pulling together as a team. Now that the season's begun and the games are exciting and close (every game so far has been decided by one run, or less!), the boys are having fun and finding ways to improve. With guidance and wisdom from coaches Mike Sim, Frank Knowles, and John Brusseau, they're already moving in a strong, positive direction.



TEAM REPORTS

The core of the Seals team is made-up of experienced players, and they have led the charge. Aidan Price has proven very capable on the mound, Mateo Rodriguez is exploiting his talents, Ezra Mander shows his durability on a daily basis. All these players, and the rest, have come together as a very supportive group of ballplayers.

I have really enjoyed all our players very much this season. The effort and willingness to get better has impressed me. My favorite realization is watching the boys work on a particular skill in practice, and then see them execute in the games. Baseball can be one of the most humbling games to play, at any level, but that is what makes the game such a pleasure to coach. Opportunities are found every time we take the field to teach the players how to handle adversity, frustration, and mental challenges. Being part of a team and understanding that collective results are always greater than individual accomplishments, is a wonderful lesson to be learned by all the players. Our boys seem to really embrace this opportunity to be a very good team.

A lot of games to be played, but I'm sure that the best is yet to come for the Seals, of the Albany Little League Juniors Division. I'm excited to see how this season resolves itself.

--- Mitchel Masia



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