



OWATONNA BASEBALL - ISSUE 20

OWATONNA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

OHS (Grades 9 - 12) will begin their season on Monday, March 20th at OJHS with a start time of 3:15 PM. In addition, all pitchers and catchers (Grades 9 - 12) will begin morning practice(s) on Tuesday, March 21 at OJHS with a start time of 6:00 am.

Varsity will return a total of 10 letter winners from 2016 that will look to compete for a Big 9 Championship and the opportunity to play for a MN State Championship at Target Field. The 2016 Huskies finished up with a runner up finish in Section 1AAAA after going 15 - 10. 2016 Big 9 Champions - Northfield. 2016 Section 1AAAA Champion - Lakeville North.

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE AND BIG 9 NEWS

The MSHSL has passed a pitch count effective this season for all high school pitchers. This is a welcome change with so many elbow and shoulder injuries occurring at an alarming rate. Previously in MN, pitchers were limited to no more than 14 innings in one day, or 14 over a three-day period. The details of the plan can be seen below.

Under the new policy, a player can throw 30 pitches or fewer on no days of rest. Players can throw 31 - 50 pitches on one day of rest, 51 to 75 on two days' rest, and 76 to 105 on three days' rest. The daily maximum will increase to 115 for postseason games. For non-varsity game the daily maximum will be 85.

Each team must designate an adult to track pitches. Umpires will not track pitches or confirm pitch counts.

THE FUTURE

VFW Baseball - 26 players played this past summer on two teams (VFW 9 and VFW 10) finishing with a combined record of 34 - 18 - 2. Owatonna finished a very successful season with a runner-up finish to Austin.

Legion Baseball - 13 players played this past summer and finished with a record of 5 - 13. The bats never heated up and they went 0 - 2 in the playoffs. JM advanced to the Legion State Tournament.

SUPPORT

OWATONNA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

WATER SOFTNER SALT SALE

PRE-SALE BEGINS NOW!

CONTACT COACH TATE CUMMINS FOR SALES

EMAIL: OWATONNABASEBALL@LIVE.COM

DELIVERY WILL OCCUR ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29

PITCHING CAMP AT DARTT'S PARK

PLAYERS THAT ARE ENTERING 4TH AND 5TH GRADE - JUNE 12 and 13

NAME: _____ **UPCOMING GRADE:** _____

THROWS: R OR L

PARENT NAME: _____ **CELL PHONE:** _____

T SHIRT SIZE (YOUTH): S M L XL COST: \$25.00

This two-day camp will be held at Dartt's Park from 9:00 - 11:00 am on June 12 and 13. This camp is recommended for players that are interested in improving their pitching this summer. We will cover it all! Instructed by OHS Head Coach - Tate Cummins. The registration deadline for this camp is Friday, June 9th. Print this page and send in registration to PO Box 96 / Owatonna.

From Paul Smith / Huskies Bullpen President

Before joining the Huskies Bullpen Club board two years ago, I was just a parent enjoying and supporting my 3rd grade son in a sport that I enjoyed playing growing up. Like many, I take for granted the organization of the programs, fields, equipment, coaches, etc. While there are always improvements to be made, Owatonna's baseball program is strong because of the support and dedication of multiple groups in our community.

The Bullpen Club has amazing sponsors. If it wasn't for their support, costs for our youth to play baseball would be too great for many to afford and our facilities wouldn't be as nice. Support these sponsors and say thank you to them, they are listed on the last page of the newsletter. Baseball in Owatonna would be very different without them!

The Bullpen Club has great partnerships with local organizations: The Twins Community Fund, Youth 1st, Owatonna Park and Recreation, Owatonna Public Schools, St. Mary's School in addition to our local business sponsors. These partnerships provide additional opportunities for our youth. These organizations provide grants, sportsmanship awards, program partnerships, collaborate with the bullpen club on field improvements and many other benefits. Baseball in Owatonna would be very different without them!

The Bullpen Club has dedicated volunteers and parents. Your help and support of our local tournaments significantly reduces the cost of our programs, allows us to invest in developing new opportunities/programs for our youth and keep our facilities in great shape. Baseball in Owatonna would be very different without you!

We look forward to seeing you and your child at the ball diamond this summer. Thank you!

HOME TOURNAMENTS - 2017

We hope your experience in 2016 was successful and full of memorable moments. We have been very fortunate to have tremendous field crews (Owatonna Park and Recreation), concession stand workers (parents) that volunteer their time and energy, and generous support from local businesses. With that said, another year is upon us. Here are the tournaments scheduled for 2017. These are all hosted by Owatonna.

June 2-4	June 9-11	June 16-18	June 23-25
12AA and 13A	12A and 14/15A	11A and 14AA	13AA and 14/15A

Our success continues to hinge on the volunteer efforts of parents and community members of Owatonna. We are hoping that you join us in 2017 for another year of youth baseball in Owatonna. Thank you from the Huskies Bullpen Club!



ACADEMY TIMES

U11 Blue -Tuesday
10:00 - 11:15 AM

U11 White - Tuesday
11:15 - 12:30 PM

U12A - Thursday
10:00 - 11:15 AM

U12AA - Thursday
11:15 - 12:30 PM

U13A - Wednesday
10:00 - 11:15 AM

U13A - Wednesday
11:00- 12:15 PM

U13AA - Wednesday
12:00 - 1:15 PM



OWATONNA BASEBALL ACADEMY

One of the premier youth baseball programs in **Southern Minnesota** will once again be held this upcoming summer. The **Owatonna Baseball Academy** will begin Tuesday, June 13th at 10:00 am for all players from the U11, U12, and U13 levels. The cost has been included in your registration fee. Each session will last 75 minutes.

The goal of the academy is to increase skill level, develop leadership skills, and simply - create a **dynamic baseball atmosphere** in Owatonna that all players can enjoy. We will cover a variety of topics including: hitting drill work, pitching mechanics, base running strategies, and defensive drill work. All practice plans will be written by Coach Cummins and instructed by OHS alumni and current OHS Baseball players.

Please note that **arm care** will always be a top priority. We will communicate daily with each player to understand when they last pitched and when their next outing is scheduled. We will also have light practice sessions on game days to conserve energy and effort for the evening game.

All practices will be at beautiful **Dartt's Park** in Owatonna. Players are asked to supply their own equipment and nourishment(s). This academy has been supported by the **Huskies Bullpen Club** and the **Minnesota Twins** the past 6 years.

VFW AND LEGION REGISTRATION

Legion and VFW registration will be completed at the Player, Parent, and Coach meeting for OHS Baseball on Monday, March 13th at 6:00 PM. We will be meeting in the Small Group Forum at Owatonna High School.

Legion registration will be \$250.00 this year. Checks will not be cashed until the middle of May. Head Coach: Jason Alstead. Assistant Coach: Adam Trautman

VFW Registration for all 9th and 10th graders will be \$275 this year. There will be two VFW teams once again in 2017 with the VFW 9 and 10 playing a shared schedule. Both teams will play approximately 20 games that will include various tournaments and games within our league. A final team of 20 players will compete in our District Tournament on the weekend of July 22nd. Checks will not be cashed until the middle of May.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL REGISTRATION - 2017

Registration for 2017 season opens on Friday 24th, February from 4:00 - 6:30 PM at **THE SENIOR PLACE** located at 502 Dunnell Drive in the West Hills Complex (SW of the Owatonna Parks and Recreation office). Late registrations can be taken to Owatonna Park and Recreation. Scholarship are available through the Owatonna Youth Scholarship Fund.

Level 1 (Current 2nd and 3rd Grade Players)

Pitching machine league with emphasis on participation and development of fundamental baseball skills. All participants receive a full uniform (pants, socks, belt, and jersey) with a Major League Baseball hat.

Cost: \$55 payable to Owatonna Park and Recreation at registration (\$65 after March 9th) and a \$25 check payable to the HBC for the Taco Johns Fund Raiser. Final deadline to register is May 9th.

Evaluations: April 8th at OJHS. 2nd Grade: 9:15 am / 3rd Grade: 10:45 am

Kick off/meet your coach: May 30th at Four Seasons - 6:00 pm

Practice/Games: 2nd grade = Mon. and Wed. / 3rd grade = Tues. and Th. (June and July)

Level 2 (Current 4th & 5th Grade Players). 5th Grade Travel - See U11!!!!

Player pitch in-house leagues intended to continue the development of fundamentals and the skills of game. All participants receive a full uniform (pants, socks, belt, and jersey) with a Major League Baseball hat.

Please **NOTE:** The Huskies Bullpen Club is encouraging **ALL 5th grade athletes** to play **U11 TRAVELING BASEBALL** to further skill development through more practices and tournament play. You can view all U11 information on the following page.

The Huskies Bullpen Club will be hosting an end of the year weekend tournament for all 4th/5th grade in-house teams in late July. We plan to invite some other local communities (U10 teams) to participate in this tourney. We look for this to be a fun experience for these teams as they prepare for traveling baseball.

Cost: \$75 payable to Owatonna Park and Recreation at registration (\$85 after March 9th) and a \$25 check payable to the HBC for the Taco Johns Fund Raiser. Final deadline to register is May 9th.

Evaluations: April 8th at OJHS. 4th grade: 12:30 pm / 5th grade: 1:45 PM

Kick off/meet your coach: May 30th at Four Seasons - 6:00 PM

Practice/Games: Mondays and Wednesdays (Starting in early June and ending in late July).

U11 TRAVELING BASEBALL - 2017

U11 TRAVELING BASEBALL - Recommended FOR ALL **5th GRADERS**.

Registration for 2017 season opens on Friday, February 24th from 4:00 - 6:30 PM at **THE SENIOR PLACE** located at 502 Dunnell Drive in the West Hills Complex (SW of the Owatonna Parks and Recreation office). Late registrations can be taken to Owatonna Park & Recreation.

Cost: \$195 for player fee + \$25 Taco John's Fund Raiser for a total of \$220. A \$100 check is also needed as a workers deposit for your commitment to working the concession stand. This check is only cashed if you **DO NOT** fulfill your requirement of working the concession stand. The deadline is Friday, March 17th.

Evaluations: April 8 at 1:45 PM. Place: OJHS

Practices: Each team will practice a total of 3X every two weeks. Practices will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Games: An in-city game will be played every other week during the weekday.

Tournaments: A total of 4 tournaments will be played in the months of May and June.

State Tournaments: A U11 team must qualify to play in a state tournament. All state tournaments will be played the 2nd or 3rd weekend in July pending the team's qualification. All 5th graders that meet age qualifications (must not reach age 12 before May 1) may register for U11 travel team(s). U11 participants in 5th grade will receive a uniform (dry fit jerseys, pants, socks, belt) with a Minor League Baseball hat.

Players will be divided up into even teams that will compete in 4 tournaments and a possible state tournament as well. The number of U11 teams will be determined based on the number of registered players. The goal of U11 is to introduce a travel and tournament baseball experience for 5th grade players.

Overview of U11 Baseball

- 1. U11 Traveling Baseball Players will not play in our traditional in-house league.**
- 2. Our focus is for increased practice time that will drive skill development.**
- 3. Our goal is to provide consistency. Players will play on one team throughout the entire summer. In year's past, our U11 travelers played on two separate teams, which led to a number of difficulties.**
- 4. We are playing in a total of 4 state qualifying tournaments in the hopes of prolonging our baseball season into July. If a team is to qualify, they will play in their first state tournament in mid-July.**
- 5. Another primary goal is to advance our pitching depth and development. We will continue to follow national guidelines that protect our youth baseball players.**

RAMP UP - PITCHING DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

In collaboration with OHS Baseball, Little League, and U11 Baseball - we will be entering our 2nd year of **RAMP Up**. A program that develops throwing and pitching mechanics at an excellent rate. One of our areas of improvement the past few years has been our ability to throw strikes at the 4th and 5th grade level. This has created the following areas of concern: slow game play, diminishing confidence of players, poor pitching mechanics, and hitters becoming disgruntled or over anxious in the batter's box.

Our hope is that this will improve the speed of play (games), level of play (games), and will allow our players to become more successful on the baseball diamond. This program will improve the consistency of strikes thrown, an increased level of enjoyment from all players, challenge hitters, and actually - improve our hitters along the way. We are excited to offer this opportunity the following nights at Dartt's Park during the OHS Baseball season this upcoming spring. All sessions will be completed after the scheduled home games except May 17th.

Tuesday, May 4th after the scheduled home date vs. Austin. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

Tuesday, May 9th after the scheduled home game vs. Albert Lea. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

Thursday, May 17th after OHS practice. Time: 5:30 - 6:15 PM.

Wednesday, May 22nd after the scheduled home game vs. New Ulm. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

ALL DATES AND TIMES WILL BE HELD AT DARTT'S PARK

ALL PLAYERS MUST WEAR AND BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Baseball Pants, 2) Baseball Hat, 3) Long Sleeve Shirt, 4) Cleats, and 5) Glove.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH EMAIL AND OUR WEBSITE. SEE OWATONNABASEBALL.COM FOR ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

OPEN GYM SCHEDULE

AT OWATONNA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Every Wednesday at OJHS.

Time: 7:00 - 10:00 PM

AT OWATONNA HIGH SCHOOL

Every Tuesday and Friday beginning January 31st. The last day of this opportunity will be Friday, March 17th.

Time: 7:30 - 7:55 AM

AUSTIN DOME OPPORTUNITY

Every Saturday morning beginning . . .

February 18, 25 and March 4, 11, and 18

Time: 9:00 - 11:00 AM

This will be a great opportunity for players in grades 7 - 12 from our school district. The facility is turfed and will provide a full infield, two batting cages, bullpens, and a large area for outfield drill work.

MINOR LEAGUE REGISTRATION - 2017

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Registration for 2017 season opens on Friday, February 24th from 4:00 - 6:30 PM at **The Senior Place** located at 502 Dunnel Drive in the West Hill Complex. (SW of the Owatonna Parks and Recreation office). Late registrations are not guaranteed placement and will be charged a late fee if accepted. Late registrations can be taken to Park and Recreation.

U12 - U15 Cost: \$300 for player fee + \$50 Taco John's Fund Raiser for a total of \$350. Checks can be made payable to the Huskies Bullpen Club. A \$100 check is also needed as a workers deposit for your commitment to working the concession stand. This check is only cashed if you **DO NOT** fulfill your requirement of working the concession stand. The deadline is Friday, March 17th.

Kick off/meet your coach: Sunday, April 30th at Dartt's Park - 5:00 p.m.

Practice/Games: Beginning in May

Evaluations: Sunday, April 9th at Owatonna Junior High School. There will be a second session of evaluations for U12 on Tuesday, April 11th at 5:30 PM.

- U12 (Current 6th graders) from 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- U13 (Current 7th graders) from 3:00 - 5:00 PM
- U14 (Current 8th graders) from 5:00 - 7:00 PM
- U15 will be determined during the high school season

All evaluations will occur at the Owatonna Junior High School. They will be followed by a team selection meeting. Parent meetings for all ages and teams will be held the first week of May to officially kick off the Minor League season.

We will be participating in Metro Baseball. All teams will also compete in home and away tournaments throughout the summer months. Remember to check the website for additional information!

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FROM 2016

This past season was an amazing year for our ballparks. With the assistance from the Owatonna Park and Recreation, Corky's Earlybird, the Owatonna School District, the Owatonna Aces, and St. Mary's we were able to complete the following improvements:

1. Jaycee Park - Concession stand.
2. Lincoln School - new fence has been added to provide additional safety.
3. Manthey - 2 concrete slabs poured for dugouts with the rest to be completed in 2017. Bullpens were also added and mound work on both fields.
4. Willow Creek - Added bullpens and mound work on both fields.
5. Dartt's Park - Concession Stand improvements and added storage.

January - March	Open Gym at OJHS on Wednesdays nights Open Gym at Owatonna High School on Tuesday and Friday.
Feb. 12 - March 5	Winter baseball camps at OJHS (Sunday Nights)
February 24	Minor League registration (Senior Place) from 4 - 6:30 PM Little League registration (Senior Place) from 4 - 6:30 PM
March 13	OHS Baseball parent/player meeting at OHS (6:00 PM)
March 20	OHS Practice begins at 3:15 PM (OJHS). All Grades.
March 20	Kids 1st player/parent meeting at OJHS (6:30 PM)
April 3	Kids 1st practice begins
April 8	Little League Evaluations at OJHS
April 9	Minor League Evaluations at OJHS
April 9	Torey's Brunch for Owatonna Baseball
April 11	U12 - 2nd Round of Evaluations
April 29	Salt delivery beginning at 8:00 AM
April 30	Minor League Kickoff Meeting at Dartt's Park
May 10	Youth Baseball Coaching Clinic at Dartt's Park - 5:30 PM
May 18	Senior Parents Day vs. Northfield at 6:00 PM (Dartt's Park)
May 25	Section 1AAA Playoffs begin
May 30	Little League kickoff at the Four Seasons
June 13	Owatonna Baseball Academy Begins
June 12 - 13	Pitching Academy (10 - 11 Year Olds Only)

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THANK YOU



A big thanks to our sponsors that make Owatonna Baseball such a success. The funds raised lower participation fees, which increases the number of athletes playing the great game of Baseball.

There is no question, this support makes Owatonna among the best communities in MN to raise and develop athletes.

Thank you!

- 1st United Bank
- Berkshire Hathaway
- Bremer Bank
- Bridge Street Chiropractic
- Cedar Chiropractic
- Cole's Electric
- Cumberland's Northwest Trappers Supply
- Deml Heating
- Dow Chiropractic
- Fame Awards
- Federated Insurance
- General Plumbing
- Gopher Sport
- Hometown Credit Union
- Hy-Vee
- Jostens
- Kasper Plumbing
- Kato Roofing
- King Orthodontics
- Kottke Jewelers
- Legacy Signs
- Mayo Clinic
- McGregor Chiropractic
- Michaelson Funeral Home
- NCS Pearson
- Noble RV
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- Owatonna Foundation
- Owatonna Park and Rec
- Owatonna School District
- Pizza Ranch
- Prairie Ridge Orthodontics
- Profinium Financial
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- Wenger
- World of Wheels
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- Zappa Insurance Agency

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