



Pickerington North Diamond Club Meeting

March 14, 2010

Combined: MEET THE TEAM & Diamond Club Mtg

Venue: Sunday, March 14, 2010 6PM in Commons at PHSN

As parents and other guests entered the commons area, they were to pay \$5.00 per person to enjoy refreshments: pizza, cookies, and a soda or water. The players did not have to pay. Parents were also met with tables identifying their son's particular team where they were to review their son's demographics and pay the remaining balance of uniform fees, Ripken fees (from Varsity players), and apparel fees. ([Pickerington's Pay to Participate fees was not collected at this time nor are they through the Diamond Club! The Diamond Club gets NO money from this.](#))

Mike Butler, Diamond Club President greeted all and thank all for coming. There was an introduction of Board Members, Steve Miller (Vice Pres.) Sandy Sorensen (Treasure) and Lori Percy Uxley (Secretary) then introduced all to Pickerington North's Athletic Director, Mark Aprile.

Mark Aprile discussed requirements to play a school sport: maintaining the proper credits in school, maintaining appropriate grades, and conduct expected of a Pickerington North Athlete. Pickerington North High School sports programs are governed by Ohio High School Athletic Association. It is Mark Aprile's responsibility to enforce those standards. It is each and every athlete's responsibility to maintain these standards. Mentioned by Mark also was that Pickerington school district was one of the first to introduce drug testing in their athletes. Expectations of PN Athletes are held high. Players are representing PN on and off the field/diamond and are expected to respectful of others, opposing teams, teammates and themselves.

Mark Faust, President of the Athletic Association at Pickerington North encouraged all to be members of the Athletic Association. They raise money for all the sporting programs at North. The baseball team has not been a forerunner in members. There has not been a spring program distributed before, this will be the first year. He was soliciting people to come and get involved with the Athletic Associate.

Varsity Coach Tim Thomas restated these expectations and added that he expects players to work hard and be proud of the school they represent. Tim holds himself and his coaches to similar expectations. He is extremely excited about the upcoming season and feels that he and his coaches have made exceptional choices in selecting 2010 Pickerington High School North and Lakeview Junior High baseball players. He expects the ball players to enter their field as well as opposing team field with dignity and confidence. Pickerington North's baseball history has proven to be successful. Yet, another winning season from all levels of selected teams is expected by Tim. Tim touted the winning records of the previous season and handed off the introductions of the 2010 baseball teams to begin with our latest coach to enter the family, 2010's 7th Grade Coach, Mike Edwards . Our 8th Grade Coach, Kris Kern. Our Freshman Coach, who was for the past view years the 8th Grade Coach, is Nate Weibush. The Jr. Varsity Coach, who also has past experience in coaching in Pickerington, is Brian Murtha. The Varsity coaches,

Head Coach, Tim Thomas, Assist Coach Turnbull, and the Varsity pitching coach, Colin Wilson. Each of these coaches has had several years experience coaching with Pickerington. Coach Thomas expressed his open door policy. Don't gripe and grumble if you have not presented the problem to him. He is always willing to discuss, but please, not directly before, during, or directly after a game. Be respectful as he will also be respectful to you and to your situation. Actually, it would be best if your son would present first for resolution.

To view the 2010 Varsity, JrVarsity, Freshman, 8th Grade and 7th Grade roster please view the attachment.

After the introductions of teams, pizza, cookies, and drinks were supplied for the teams, coaches, parents and guests.

Shortly after the food was distributed, then eventually cleaned up, there was a brief Diamond Club Meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

President: Mike Butler (2nd Year Board Member) Junior- Varsity Player

Vice President: Steve Miller (1st Year Board Member) Freshman- JV Player

Treasure: Sandy Sorensen (2nd Year Board Member) Junior- Varsity Player

Secretary: (late arrival)Lori Percy Uxley (2nd Year Board Member) Senior- Varsity Player

MEETING: Mike Butler greeted and thanked parents & guests for their attendance and congratulated the new 2010 baseball teams. He encouraged and challenged our **new and old family members** alike, to get involved and make a difference in their Diamond Club.

This is a great program and it is in need of 'your' help. Mike explained the purpose of the Diamond Club. It is the business side of high school baseball. The facilities that Pickerington North has, is exceptional, especially as this organization is relatively new. PN is young compared to most of the teams we play against. Our facilities, especially given its age, are top notch and it is still up and coming. Although we were given the field, fencing, dug outs and spectator stands, those alone do not make a respectable, playable facility for playing baseball especially as high as our programs standards are. The parents that came before us came together to build on what we have today. This took a collaborative effort and it took involvement and money. We are still building on their foundation to this very day. Parents must continue to support the program financially and with their time. Pickerington schools give the baseball program \$2,500 to support 5 teams and 3 diamonds. We rely on player accounts for capital improvements and maintenance. There is no other way to get around it. There are plenty of opportunities to off-set the player accounts. We have offered fundraisers such as sponsorship of Banners from area vendors, Charity Mania, Wings Night, an annual Golf outing, Kroger. This is also a way to build funds to reduce the out of pocket expense for uniforms and Varsity trips. We welcome your suggestions. This year and last, some players generated so much fundraising that they did not have to pay any out of pocket monies for their uniform **or** their Varsity trip to Ripken.

Please take a look at the treasurer's report. There are expenses such as field maintenance & improvements, porta-pots, coach's clinics, registration fees, banquets and so forth. It takes money to generate money.

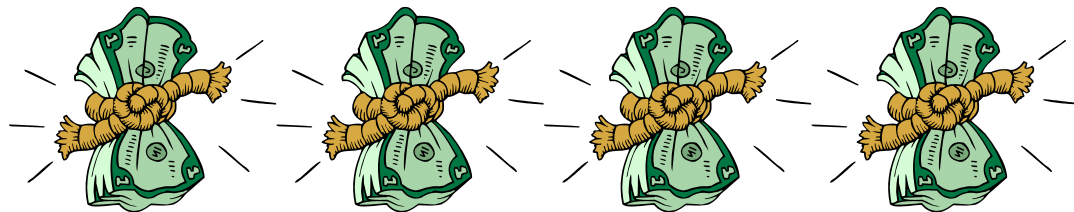
Because of the work that has been done and maintained we have been able to generate some added monies for the program because outside clubs and organizations have requested using our beautiful facilities to host their tournaments.

The Diamond Club needs your involvement, your ideas to help build upon our predecessors success.

All financials and major decisions are discussed at meetings, meetings are always open to all, well publicized and board members are accessible. You cannot honestly fault the program if you have not brought your concerns or ideas to the table. We cannot fix what we don't know. We can only do the best that we can, with what we have. And what we don't have, is you! Please come to the meetings, GET INVOLVED! Please make sure that you are getting the email messages and meeting minutes. Check the website often.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasure's report was presented. Our income and expenses equate to a current checking balance of \$10,940.24. Income of this account, \$29,492.01 to date. Our expenses to date are \$26,108.20 which, in turn leaves the Diamond Club with \$10,940.24. Nevius Scholarship money: \$2,578.68 with annual interest income of \$2.78 which brings balance to \$2,581.46.



Of the \$10,940.24 → Money is still earmarked for the balance of Ripken. Of that there will be around 2.5K to be put toward field prepping in March. There will be money spent for field marking (hoping to have school pay for this) about \$500 and another \$6 – 700 for diamond dry. The L screens are in bad shape so 1K is designated to go for repair. In other word, yes 10K is in the checking account but most of the money already has a designated place to go.

RIPKEN EXPERIENCE: Parents of Varsity players were asked to stick around to discuss some of the particulars. A booklet was passed around to parents, WELCOME PACKET, THE RIPKEN EXPERIENCE. Players are to be in the parking lot at the Ripken Experience on April 4 at 3:00PM. This is Easter Sunday. Tim is giving some leeway with this since it is Easter so if a player is not there then, no disciplinary action will be taken. The team will once again be staying at Myrtlewoods Villas. Families are permitted to stay at here as well. Family members are encouraged to make reservations at www.myrtlewoodvillas.com 888-297-6200. When making your reservations, tell them that you want the Ripken discount and that you are part of Pickerington North High School. Word has it that there are 2 and 1 bed accommodations around \$100. Braves single A team will be playing one evening so there will be a block of tickets available. Mike is trying to coordinate this. The player's fee of \$550 per player should have been collected at the beginning of this meeting. This will take care of their lodging, food, baseball and entertainment. If a parent cannot travel please make arrangements for your son. Parent, if you find that you cannot find transportation, contact Mike Butler 614-833-9448 mbutler3@insight.rr.com



To be noted, the coaches/teams have no control over where in the complex the rooms will be located. No, coaches have no pull in weather conditions either!

There was a question of 'FREE-TIME'. Let it be known, this is **not a vacation for players**. THIS IS TRAINING. Players ARE NOT permitted to 'drive around'. They are not permitted to leave condo area. The coaches are responsible for the where-about of the players.

This is a school function.

This was a great experience last year and this will be remembered by the players. Coach Thomas made it very clear, if there are any problems, if there are complaints by the management of Myrtlewood, he will not hesitate to send a player home and further disciplinary action will be forthcoming back at school. Just as was spoken about earlier, players are representing PHSN BASEBALL. This is something that Tim takes quite seriously. Tim cannot wait to hear the crack of the bat and watch his players chalk up some scores.

Everyone, have a safe trip and see you down in South Carolina.

SCHEDULE: Website is up to date and on the site.



www.pickeringtonpanthers.org



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ✓ Next Diamond Club meeting: TBA
- ✓ 1st Scrimmage: 3/22 Varsity 4:30 (A)Watterson, JV 4:30 (H) Watterson, Freshman 4:30 (H)Watterson
- ✓ Pay to Participate Money Due
- ✓ Meet @ Ripken 04/04 at 3:30PM
- ✓ 1st Game: 3/30 Varsity 4:30 (H) DeSales, JV 4:30 (H) DeSales, Freshman (A) 5:00 T Worthington
- ✓ Golf Outing, May 2, Sunday at Links at Echo Springs