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# Renegades

BASEBALL



DEVELOPING CLASS ATHLETES ON AND OFF THE FIELD SINCE 1988

Fall 2008

## 2008 in Review

### 13U — Coach: Josh Boock

Drafted from scratch, with no 14 year old team to show them the ropes, our 13 year old Renegades paved their own way this year, playing close to 60 games between April and early August. They participated in both the Mid Suburban and Lake County Leagues in addition to playing in tournaments in Quad Cities, South Bend, and Cary, IL. The team wrapped up the season at the Lombard Wood Bat Tournament in Cary, where they did well, but were eliminated in the semi finals.

Throughout the season each player was able to expand their knowledge of the fundamentals of baseball and improve their baseball skills while forging new friendships that will carry over into the 14 year old season.

Shop Amazon.com using the link on the Renegades website and Amazon will donate a percentage of your purchase to the Renegades' capital campaign. Follow these three simple steps:

1. Go to [www.renegadesbaseball.com](http://www.renegadesbaseball.com)
2. Click on the Amazon icon on the home page.
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### 11U — Coach: Tim Murphy

The inaugural season of the Renegades 11U team was quite a success, according to Coach Murphy (although the parents might put a different spin on it!). After spending several tough weeks becoming schooled in the "Renegades Way," these newest Renegades closed the season in a very strong fashion:

- Champions - KWBA Firecracker Classic in Winnetka/Northfield
- Champions - Bensenville Fourth of July Wood Bat Classic
- Runners-up - Mid Suburban League (MSBL) National Division Tournament
- Semi-finalists - USTBA Midwest National Championships in Indianapolis

These boys did a great job in their first year of getting familiar with some important Renegades fundamentals — both baseball skills and some indispensable life skills which are integral to the Renegades philosophy. They are ready to tackle their next challenges as the first Renegades 12U team! Coach Murphy wishes Coach Boock all the luck in the world as he takes on these kids next year — he'll need it!!

We are pleased to announce three new additions to the Renegades coaching staff for the 2009 season:

*Doug Fear joins us as the head coach of this year's 13 year old team. He has been involved with competitive baseball as a player and coach for 25 years, and will be channeling his love and knowledge of the sport through the Renegades. Doug played his baseball in Michigan, primarily as a pitcher, until an arm injury ended his career during college at Michigan State. After an investment banking career, Doug co-founded Thermagen Power, a company focused on the design and operation of industrial combined heat and power facilities. He and his wife, Kim, have a daughter and two sons. His older son, Erich, played on the 11 year old Renegades team last year, and it wasn't long before Doug was converted. Our sympathies to his wife.*

*Matt Fierer, a 1989 Renegades alum, is back to pass on some of that hard-earned Renegades wisdom. Matt graduated from Glenbrook South and went on to Kent State University to study Aeronautical Engineering. There he was a walk-on for their baseball team. His Chicago roots are deep, however, and he returned home to earn a degree in Actuarial Science with a minor in Physics from Roosevelt University. He worked at Northern Trust Company for 4 years as a portfolio analyst before becoming a math teacher and assistant baseball coach at Proviso West. Matt is married with two sons, ages 3 and 1. Matt will be assisting Coach Boock and Coach Fear for the 2009 season.*

*Mike Ryan will also be working with our 12 and 13 year old teams this year. He played college ball for Carthage College and today lives and breathes baseball as: the owner of the Fastball USA Training Centers, an Associate Scout with the Seattle Mariners, an instructor for the University of Notre Dame Baseball Camp, and author of "Hitting For Success." Several of Coach Ryan's students have played with the Renegades over the last 12 years, and his oldest son, Jimmy, is carrying on the tradition as a member of this year's 14 year old Renegades team. Mike and his wife, Shelly, have two additional children, Maggie, age 7, and Jack, age 5.*

### It's not just about baseball

For years, we've all identified with the Renegades philosophy statement: "Through baseball, the Renegades hope to help develop young men with compassion for others, a strong sense of self responsibility, and who exhibit good sportsmanship in victory and defeat."

### Psychologist Nathaniel Brandon on self-responsibility:

In developing self responsibility, we gain control of our lives by recognizing we are responsible for our choices and actions. Self-responsibility plays a major role in determining the kind of social system we live in. If we abandon it, we become followers and dependents, turning control of our lives over to others.

*A class athlete is defined not simply by the characteristics of his play,  
but more precisely by the character he displays while playing.*

Renegades Baseball  
Class in Black and Grey  
[www.renegadesbaseball.com](http://www.renegadesbaseball.com)

To remove your name  
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please [click here](#).

Of 280 alumni, we have confirmed contact information for 185 players. Another 55 or so addresses appear to be good but are currently unconfirmed, and we have no contact information at all for 35 players. If you are in touch with any of these alumni, please ask them to visit the website for a link through which they can update their contact information.

*Did you know.....*  
 1991 alumnus Fred Grief was a semi-finalist on the 2008 season of The Bachelorette? The Renegades' website saw an increase in traffic as viewers tried to find out more about him!

<b>1988</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1994</b>		
Sean Collins*	Mike Anderson*	Matt Callero		
Kevin Foss*	Fred Czerwionka*	Kevin Clancy		
Ryan Kelly*	John Frano*	Gary Jackson*		
Jeff Kilburg	Fred Greif*	Chris Moran*		
Bill Ladra*	John Kunz*	Tom O'Neill		
Pete Morlas*	Phil Lulias	Pete Zonis		
	Dave Nelson*			
	Omar Ramirez*	<b>1995</b>		
<b>1989</b>	Chris Selejan	Mike Batch*		
Mike Bencal*		Brian Johnson		
Barry Murphy*	<b>1992</b>	Tom Mietus		
Rob Nelson*	Steve Bartman	Rocky Pascente		
Steve Saranecki	John Ham	Jeff Pearson*		
Matt Schabes*	Scott Harris*			
Don Schlenbecker*	Sam Incandela	<b>1996</b>		
Joe Thiel*	Phil Kondos	David Garcia*		
John Whitehead*	Sean Mason	Charlie Hahn		
	Todd Mueller	Nelson Lang*		
<b>1990</b>	Dan Pacer*	Kevin Morris*		
Alex Barton	Mike Redmond	Rory Murphy*		
Dave Campbell	Mickey Scala	Demetri Touzios*		
Mike Connelly				
Joe Kain	<b>1993</b>	<b>1997</b>		
John Kunz	Mike Bakula	Ben Dosch		
Phil Lulias	Zack Bukal	Louis Hirsch*		
Mike Porcaro*	J.P. Drevline	Nolan McCue		
Chris Selejan	Erik Koltz*	Shay O'Connor*		
Bob Wirtz	Scott Szafraniec			
Matt Ziolko				
			<b>1998</b>	<b>2002</b>
			Jeff Hanrahan	Tim Barry
			Jamie Kralovec	Mort Hart
			Adam Parsill	Drew Homyk
				Kurt Knapp
			<b>1999</b>	Joe Leyhane
			Mike Davis	Steven Yopchick
			<b>2000</b>	<b>2003</b>
			Guy Battista	Bob Bieniek*
			Joe Giorango	
			Aaron Newman*	<b>2004</b>
			Greg Reda	Ralph Cantore*
			Justin Rezzuto	Chris Kontos
			Keith Yopchick	Alex Rutstein
				Nikko Tountas
			<b>2001</b>	<b>2005</b>
			Will Harford	
			Bryan Olson	Ben Caffery
			Brian Schiller	John Manganaro
			Clark Thompson	Adrian Perez
			Pete Tountas	Lucas Ruske
				Matt Sullivan

\* no contact information

**An Update on Fields**

We continue our discussions to extend our long-standing relationship with Notre Dame High School for ongoing use of the Freshman field - our home for much of the past two decades. However, NDHS Administration has informed us that for this coming Spring we may need to seek another home as they have preliminary plans in place to install a turf field on their football field, and the Freshman field may be needed for construction staging, making it unavailable for play.

With that in mind, we have arranged use of fields at Maryville Academy on Central and River Roads in Des Plaines for our 13s and 14s. Our 12s will also be able to use this field as it has adjustable base paths. The 12's will also continue their use of the fields at Techny.

We continue to evaluate several options for bringing all age groups together at one location. We have presented a proposal to adapt the smaller fields at NDHS (currently used by the Park District) for use by our 11s and 12s, and are awaiting a response from NDHS. In the interim, we have identified several alternative parcels of land that would provide the space we need to establish a permanent home for the program. But, given our preference to stay near to our geographical roots, land of this size is typically associated with a school, corporate, or park district owner. We have initiated preliminary discussions with the owners of a few sites meeting our needs.