



Malcolm Baseball 2010



WHAT TEAM WILL MY SON PLAY ON THIS SUMMER?

1st – 6th GRADERS

The Malcolm baseball program is affiliated with the **Blue River League (BRL)** which is comprised of teams from Malcolm, Denton, Pleasant Dale, Milford, Utica, Staplehurst, Garland, Beaver Crossing, Ceresco, Dwight, Brainard, and Valparaiso. The BRL has three divisions: *8 & Under coach pitch; 10 & Under; 12 & Under.*

Malcolm's involvement in the BRL begins with boys currently in 1st grade.

8 & Under Coach Pitch – generally 1st & 2nd grade boys – **must have been 8 or younger on December 31, 2009**

10 & Under – generally 3rd & 4th grade boys – **must have been 10 or younger on December 31, 2009**

12 & Under – generally 5th & 6th grade boys – **must have been 12 or younger on December 31, 2009**

The **8 & Under division** is a coach pitch division where every batter gets 5 pitches thrown to him by a coach and if he isn't able to get a hit then he'll hit off the tee.

The **10 & Under division** generally includes 3rd and 4th graders. *Some 5th graders are young enough to play at this level and it is common for us to use 5th graders in the 10U division when we need players to fill out rosters or if we have 5th grade players that would benefit from the extra game experience provided by playing at the younger level.* This is a player-pitch division and *most* regular baseball rules apply.

The **12 & Under division** generally includes 5th & 6th graders. *Some 7th graders are young enough to play at this level.* While we encourage 7th graders to make the move to Pony League baseball – it's ultimately a decision for parents/players to make. It's important to remember that when 7th graders opt to play a third season of 12U baseball (and not also Pony) it can effect our numbers at the Pony level and hurt our chances of fielding a Pony team.

BRL games are played on **Tuesdays/Thursdays** (beginning May 11) with the 8U games at 6:00; 10U games at 7:00; 12U games at 8:15 p.m. The regular season lasts about six weeks.

HOW ARE THE TEAMS ASSIGNED?

We will likely have TWO teams at each of the 8U, 10U, and 12U divisions.

After registration is complete the Ball Committee will get together with coaches and go over registration lists to assign teams. Whenever possible we try to keep classmates together – however, that's not *always* possible. Consideration is also given to families with multiple players in the hopes that families can all travel to the same location on one night. Unfortunately, meeting everyone's requests/desires is impossible but every effort will be given to fulfilling the most requests possible.

WHAT ABOUT 7th & 8th GRADERS?

Malcolm is affiliated with the **I-80 Pony League** which consists of teams in Dwight, Utica, Milford, Seward, Schuyler, York, Crete, David City, Prague and Valparaiso. This is a *14 & Under league* – to be eligible you must be 14 or younger on May 1, 2010. This generally consists of players in the 7th & 8th grades. In fact...the league has a rule that if you are in 7th or 8th grade you are eligible to play (even if you're already 15). Games are usually played on Mondays/Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and the season lasts about 8 weeks.

During the past four seasons our Pony League team has operated in the following manner:

- Head Coach was not a parent of the players (last year's head coach has moved up to Jr. Legion and is not available to coach this year – we're pursuing a couple of leads)
- Head Coach received a stipend paid by parents or through fundraising efforts
- At registration players pay small fee for field use & umpire costs (uniforms purchased at a later date at additional expense)
- Players/Parents typically did a variety of fundraisers to help pay for coaching stipend and tournament entry fees.
- Team hosted a 6-team tournament with proceeds going toward team expenses
- Team typically entered one or two extra tournaments during the season (in addition to Malcolm and League Tourney)
- Season consisted of 20 – 25 games