



OWATONNA BASEBALL - ISSUE 18

## OWATONNA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

OHS (Grades 9 - 12) will begin their season on Monday, March 21st 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 22 at OJHS with a start time of 6:00 am.

Varsity will return a total of 12 letter winners from 2015 that will look to compete for a Big 9 Championship and the opportunity to play for a MN State Championship at Target Field. The 2015 Huskies finished up with a runner up finish in Section 1AAA. 2015 Big 9 Champion - Northfield. 2015 Section 1AAA Champion - Northfield.

## MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE AND BIG 9 NEWS

The MSHSL has added a 4th class to baseball this spring. Owatonna will compete in 4A - the highest class that will compete within the state. We will be entering into an 8 team section that will be comprised of the following teams: Owatonna, JM, Mayo, Century, Lakeville North, Lakeville South, New Prague, and Farmington.

## LITTLE LEAGUE PLAYER FEES HAVE BEEN REDUCED

With the help of the MN Twins Foundation - they have awarded the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club a grant to reduce the overall player fees by \$15.00 per player. All Little League players will receive the discount for their 2016 player fee. The purpose of the grant is to help promote participation in our youth baseball program. Thank you to the MN Twins and their generosity.

## THE FUTURE

**VFW Baseball** - 27 players played this past summer on two teams (VFW 9 and VFW 10) finishing with a combined record of 32 - 20 - 1. Owatonna captured the District 1 Tournament and advanced to the VFW State Tournament in New Ulm where they went 1 - 2.

**Legion Baseball** - 16 players played this past summer and finished with a record of 8 - 13. The bats never heated up and they went 0 - 2 in the playoffs. Austin advanced to the Legion State Tournament.

## SUPPORT OHS BASEBALL

## WATER SOFTNER SALT SALE

## PRE-SALE BEGINS NOW!

CONTACT COACH TATE CUMMINS FOR SALES

EMAIL: [owatonnabaseball@live.com](mailto:owatonnabaseball@live.com)



# PITCHING CAMP AT DARTT'S PARK - SUMMER OF 2016

PLAYERS THAT ARE ENTERING 4TH AND 5TH GRADE, JUNE 13 and 14

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 13 and 14. 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 and OHS Pitching Coach - Brian Price. The registration deadline for this camp is Friday, June 3rd.

**SEND THIS FORM TO: HUSKIES BULLPEN CLUB / PO BOX 96 / OWATONNA, MN 55060**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Before we know it the temps will be rising, snow will be melting, grass will start to turn green and kids will be itching to get outside. When I was a kid, as soon as winter started moving towards spring, baseball was on my mind. There are no better childhood memories of mine than of the many baseball games (formal and informal) that were played with friends. We would dream of the walk off home runs, pitching that no-hitter, stealing second, making the catch off the wall, etc. While none of us made it to the MLB, we still had plenty of fun learning a great game and making those memories.

Baseball is the great American sport and can be enjoyed by everyone. A goal of the Huskies Bullpen Club is to have as many kids as possible experiencing baseball through our youth programs(s). For 2016, we were fortunate to receive a grant from the MN Twins Community Fund that will allow us the one time opportunity to lower all player fees by \$15 for our in-house Little League players. We hope that this will allow all kids interested in the game of baseball to learn and enjoy the game. The Huskies Bullpen Club is excited for the upcoming season and we look forward in having your son and family down at the ballpark this summer.

Paul Smith / President, Huskies Bullpen Club.

## HOME TOURNAMENTS - 2016

We hope your experience in 2015 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 to help these tournaments run smoothly. With that said, another year is upon us. Here are the tournaments scheduled for 2016. These are all hosted in Owatonna.

**May 20 - 22:** U12AA      **June 3 - 5:** U13A & U14/15A      **June 10 - 12:** U12A & U15AAA (VFW9)

**June 17-19:** U11A & U14AA      **June 24 - 26:** U13AA & U14/15

Our success continues to hinge on the volunteer efforts of parents and community members of Owatonna. We are hoping that you join us in 2016 for another year of youth baseball in Owatonna!

## **RAMP UP - PITCHING DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

In collaboration with OHS Baseball, Little League, and U11 Baseball - we have developed **RAMP Up**. A program that will develop 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 concern 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. Ramp Up will be a step in the right direction.

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 (see below).

Tuesday, May 3rd after the scheduled home date vs. Northfield. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

Tuesday, May 10th after the scheduled home game vs. Albert Lea. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

Monday, May 16th after the scheduled home game vs. Eden Prairie. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

Thursday, May 19th after the scheduled home game vs. Winona. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

Monday, May 23rd after the scheduled home game vs. Rochester JM. Time: 7:15 - 8:00 PM.

Thursday, May 26th from 7:15 - 8:00 PM. Coaches: Little League and Minor League Coaches.

Wednesday, June 1st from 7:15 - 8:00 PM. Coaches: Little League and Minor League Coaches.

### **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 BY FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH. SEE [OWATONNABASEBALL.COM](http://OWATONNABASEBALL.COM) FOR ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

## **LITTLE LEAGUE COACHING COORDINATORS**

The Huskies Bullpen Club is committed in providing support to our youth coaches at all levels. Our goal is to provide excellent instructional strategies that will increase the overall development of all players. The first two weeks of June we will be providing two coaching coordinators to assist and work alongside our youth coaches at the Little League level (2nd Grade - 4th Grade). Coordinators will provide assistance in the following areas: practice planning, stretching routines, throwing mechanics, defensive drill work, base running strategies, hitting drill work, and providing leadership opportunities to all players. Additional information will be sent to all Little League coaches in the near future.



## ACADEMY TIMES

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

U11 Silver - Tuesday  
11:00 - 12:15 PM

U12A's - Thursday  
10:00 - 11:15 AM

U12AA - Thursday  
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

U13A - Wednesday  
10:00 - 11:15 AM

U13AA - Wednesday  
11:00 AM - 12:15 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 14th 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 led by Coach Cummins and staff.

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 7 years.

\*All time changes will be communicated to the Head Coach of their respective team by June 1st.

### OWATONNA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY - TBD IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER**

**BROOKTREE GOLF COURSE / OCC**

**4TH ANNUAL EVENT**

**HELD FOR ALUMNI AND BASEBALL SUPPORTERS**

**4 PERSON BIG CUP = \$80.00/PERSON**

### OPEN GYM SCHEDULE

Wednesday nights at OJHS from  
7:00 - 9:30 PM from now until  
March 16th.

Tuesdays and Fridays at OHS from  
7:30 - 9:55 AM from February 2nd  
until Friday, March 18th.

Check [www.owatonnabaseball.com](http://www.owatonnabaseball.com)  
for all other gym times.

# LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL REGISTRATION - 2016

Registration for 2016 season opens on Friday 26th, 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.

With the help of the MN Twins Foundation - they have awarded the Owatonna Huskies Bullpen Club a grant to reduce the overall player fees by \$15.00 per player. All Little League players will receive the discount for their 2016 player fee. The purpose of the grant is to help promote participation in our youth baseball program. Thank you to the MN Twins and their generosity.

## **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:** \$40 payable to Owatonna Park and Recreation at registration (\$50 after March 11th) and a \$25 check payable to the HBC for the Taco Johns Fund Raiser. Final deadline to register is May 18.

**Evaluations:** April 9th at OJHS. 2nd Grade: 9:15 am / 3rd Grade: 11:00 am

**Kick off/meet your coach:** May 31st 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.

**New for 2016:** 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:** \$60 payable to Owatonna Park and Recreation at registration (\$70 after March 11) and a \$25 check payable to the HBC for the Taco Johns Fund Raiser. Final deadline to register is May 18th.

**Evaluations:** April 9th at OJHS. 4th grade: 12:30 pm / 5th grade: 1:45 PM

**Kick off/meet your coach:** May 31st at Four Seasons - 6:00 PM

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

# U11 TRAVELING BASEBALL - 2016

## U11 TRAVELING BASEBALL - Recommended FOR ALL 5TH GRADERS.

Registration for 2015 season opens on Friday, February 26th 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.

**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.

**Evaluations:** April 9 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 Tournament Play:** 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 qualification (must not reach age 12 before May 1) may register for U11 travel team(s). U11 participants in 5th grade will receive a uniform (2 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.

## 2016 - 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 the weekend of July 10 - 13.
5. Another primary goal is to advance our pitching depth and development. This has been an area of improvement over the past several years and we believe this new system will further our skills on the mound. Arm care will continue to be a cornerstone to Owatonna Baseball. We will continue to follow national guidelines that protect our youth baseball players.

# MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL - 2016

Registration for the season opens on Friday, February 26th 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 Owatonna 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.

**Kick off/meet your coach:** Sunday, May 1 at Dartt's Park - 5:00 p.m. start. Form can be found online.

**Practice/Games:** Beginning in May

**Evaluations:** Sunday, April 10 at the Owatonna Junior High School

- 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 at the end of 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!

## VFW and Legion Registration

Legion and VFW registration will be completed at the Player, Parent, Coach meeting for OHS Baseball on Monday, March 14TH 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: Brian Price. Assistant Coach: TBD

VFW Registration for all 9th and 10th graders will be \$300 this year. There will be two VFW teams once again in 2016 with the VFW 9 and 10 playing a shared schedule. Both teams will play approximately 18 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 23rd and 30th. Checks will not be cashed until the middle of May.

# C A L L E N D A R

January - March	Open Gym at OJHS on Wednesdays nights Open Gym at Owatonna High School on Tuesday and Thursday.
Feb. 21 - March 13	Winter baseball camps at OJHS (Sunday Nights)
February 26	Minor League registration (Senior Place) from 7 - 10 AM Little League registration (Senior Place) from 7 - 10 AM
March 10	OHS Baseball parent/player meeting at OHS (6:00 PM)
March 21	OHS Practice Begins at 3:15 PM (OJHS). All Grades. Kids 1st player/parent meeting at OJHS (6:30 PM)
March 22	OHS pitchers and catchers at 6:00 AM (OJHS). All grades.
April 4	Kids 1st practice begins
April 9	Little League evaluations at OJHS
April 10	Minor League evaluations at OJHS Torey's Brunch for Owatonna Baseball
April 12	OHS season opener at Northfeild
April 30	Salt delivery beginning at 8:00 AM
May 1	Minor League Kickoff Meeting at Dartt's Park
May 2	U12, U13, and U14 Metro Leagues begin
May 11	Youth Baseball Coaching Clinic at Dartt's Park - 5:30 PM
May 19	Senior Parents Day vs. Winona at 5:00 PM (Dartt's Park)
May 28	Section 1AAA Playoffs begin
May 31	Little League kickoff at the Four Seasons
June 13-14	Pitching Academy (10 - 11 Year Olds Only)
June 14	Owatonna Baseball Academy Begins
July 30 - Aug 7	The August Classic begins for Minor League
TBD	Golf Tournament - Brooktree Golf Course / OCC





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 our youth.

Thank you,

Huskies Bullpen Club



- 1st United Bank
- Bosch Automotive
- Bremer Bank
- Carrie's Cleaning
- Cash Wise
- Cole's Electric
- Cumberland Northwest Trappers Supply
- Demi Heating
- Fame Awards
- Federated Insurance
- General Plumbing
- Gopher Sport
- HomeTown Credit Union
- Huskies Bullpen Club
- HyVee
- Josten's
- Kato Roofing
- King Orthodontics
- Legacy Signs
- NCS Pearson
- Oak Glenn
- Owatonna Bus Company
- Owatonna Foundation
- Owatonna Park and Recreation
- Owatonna School District
- Owatonna Vet Hospital
- Prairie Ridge
- Sons of Norway
- State Farm Plemel Agency
- Studio J Images
- Sweet's Towing
- Taco Johns
- Tony's Flooring
- Tri-M Graphic
- US Bank
- Viracon
- Walser
- Wells Federal Bank
- World of Wheels
- Zappa Insurance Agency

S  
P  
O  
N  
S  
O  
R  
S



