

General Meeting Minutes
Northwestern Youth Athletic Association
March 31, 2005

The meeting was brought to order by President Edd Rasmussen with the following people present: Keith Nagle, Molly Brown, Dan Willis, John Yaneck, Danielle Kurecz, Tom Bavaria, Lisa Rice, Scott Searcy, Stacey Schappell, David Dorney, Tammy Dorney, Lisa Rice, Craig Breckenridge, Jim Kester, and Shelley Age

Public Comments:

- None

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Due to weather conditions and the low number of attendees, no minutes were taken at the February meeting.

Treasurers Report:

- Basketball ended their season in the black – Great job Bob Oxley!
- Stacey is still spending a lot of time posting payments to the Online Registration. Edd and Lisa will continue to help out with the fall registrations. A suggestion was made to create some temporary administrative accounts during peak registrations times so other NYAA members can assist with registrations. Edd will consider this if the regular board members need help.
- Edd will talk with FocalBase about making some changes to the 3 step registration process to make it less time consuming. UPDATE: 4/1/05 – Edd got a price of \$250 for this change. The board voted by e-mail and agreed the authorized the expenditure.
- We still have some families who have not mailed in their registrations checks. Edd is sorting through this and will give reports with the sports directors who will need to follow-up with those individuals. The rule is if they don't pay their registration by the start of practice, they don't play the sport that season.

Directors Reports:

Soccer

- Molly Brown reported that soccer is in good shape overall with the following registration #'s (total 374):

- 40 Pre-K children
- 75 U7 children – 9 teams of 8
- 6 U8 teams
- 2 U9 teams
- 3 U10 teams
- 2 U11 teams
- 4 U12 teams
- 2 U13 teams
- 3 U14 teams

- The travel teams start their schedule Sunday April 3rd and the recreational teams start their season the week of 4/9.

Football

- John Yanek reported that his budget is complete and submitted. Edd will review prior to next meeting.
- Mike Schaffer and Mark Stelmack went to the coaches' clinic and brought back some very useful ideas and materials.
- This year's opening week will be different than in the past in that it will be run like a clinic with coaching being given to both the kids and the coaches.

Cheering

- Theresa was not available to give a report.

Softball

- Chris Fronheiser was unavailable to give a report.

Lehigh Valley Baseball

- Jim Kester reported that the baseball season starts May 2nd with pictures being taken on April 9th.
- He has three teams at the youth level which have the following players:
 - 13 Bidy
 - 14 Midget
 - 12 Knee-Hi
- Connie Mack and Legion sign-ups have started out a little slow.
- We are low on line with only two bags left. Edd will call Charlie and have more brought in.
- Financially he is on target. The budget will be short \$1700 until he holds his off-season fund-raiser

Northwestern/Parkland Baseball

- Tom Bavaria reported that baseball is using the potato building for the older teams to practice in. It is still not dry enough. Work has begun on installation of a second back of lights – there are 5 to go. New spouting was donated. Tom is going to talk with Gerald about putting out bids to have the earth berm removed.
- The season starts at the end of April and runs through the end of June.
- We have 15 total teams (the same as last year) although fewer children are enrolled.

- 7 T-Ball
- 4 Grasshopper
- 1 Bidy
- 1 Midget
- 2 Knee-Hi

Basketball

- Bob Oxley was unavailable to give a report.
- Edd reported he believes Stella Blake will be taking over as Basketball Director next year.

Volleyball

- Shelly Age reported that she had trouble this past season with the high-school age children not coming to practice because they did not like Kempton. The floor is a cement pad that is dirty. Once basketball was finished, they moved to Jacobs Church that was much better. Jacobs is willing to split the cost with NYAA of putting holes in the floor to hold the nets that would allow them to replace the unsafe tires/nets that are currently being used.
- She thinks there is some interest in spring volleyball but it fell through this year. She will try again next year.

First Aid

- The Terwilligers were not available to give a report. The Terwilligers are resigning at the end of the year so this position will be open in 2006.

Fundraising

- Tammy Dorney reported that the spring fundraiser went well – snacks alone earned \$2100 – earnings for the candle sales are not yet available although everyone agreed this was a good seller.
- The fundraising meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00 for fall sports: Update – the meeting was held and it was decided that we would sell pizza and cheesecakes.
- In the spring Tammy did not need extra help from the sports but she thinks in the fall she will need some help. Sports directors should appoint a volunteer from their sport for this task.
- In the spring fundraiser, some families sold nothing even though they committed to it. Edd in combination with the sports directors will track down these families and extract the \$25 buyout from them.
- Edd suggested we charge all families the \$25 buyout fee at the time of registration whether they commit to the fundraiser or not. This would eliminate us having to track them down when they don't sell anything. This would require changes to the online registration system. The group thought this might upset some families and opted not to do it at this time.

New/Old Business:

- Lisa Rice is in the process of completing the Spring newsletter and the fall sign-ups letter to be handed out at the elementary, middle and high schools – **UPDATE both items distributed**
- Tammy Dorney talked with a T-Ball mom who wants to hold a Mom Bowl where the moms play ball while the dads run the concession stand. Tom Bavaria will set aside a date and advise Tammy of it.
- The recreation commission met Wednesday, March 30th.
- There will be a recreation field walk-around on April 4th at 5:30 – meet at the office.
- George started building a shed at field two. The recreation commission agreed to complete it now that it is started. For future, all modification requests must be submitted in writing and approved by the NYAA prior to beginning work. There are to be no direct calls to members of the recreation commission in regard to new construction or modifications.
- The block for the tractor will be back early next week. Keith will arrange to have the one brought up from Ontelaunee Park to use if ours is not ready by then.
- Edd would like to limit the people who can use the tractor to prevent excess wear and tear. He would also like to hold a training class for these people so the tractor is operated properly.
- The new park at Weisenberg is getting started. Keith met with the planning commission and sketches are underway. It will be located at 863 and Lyons Valley Road across from Peters Auto

Park. Initial money for engineering is being provided by Weisenberg Township. They have \$125,000 earmarked for this purpose. We expect the fields to be complete and useable by late 2006 or early 2007. There is no cost to the NYAA.

- Dan Willis will have the portable toilets delivered the week of 4/4/05. There will be 2 units at the rec field, on which is handicapped placed next to the office building, 1 at Ebenezer Church, 1 at Morgenland Church, and 1 at Weisenberg Elementary School. All toilets are rented from April through November with the exception of the handicapped unit, which is rented year round.
- Kempton is asking for their yearly donation. Lisa Rice made a motion to keep the donation the same and Stacey Schappell seconded it. The vote passed. Kempton will be asked to paint lines on the floor and get rid of the wires.
- Molly Brown presented the soccer club's desire to form premier soccer teams here in Northwestern, which would allow youth outside the NYAA region the ability to try out and play on these teams.

There were questions concerning whether the by-laws would need to be changed as well as how would changing the by-laws affect other sports (must all sports then be open to youth outside the NYAA area).

There were concerns that forming new team would cause additional field usage by the soccer club.

There were concerns about whether NYAA youth would be eliminated from traveling teams as a result of youth being brought in from outside the NYAA area.

Molly explained how soccer is different from other sports in that premier teams already exist in other local area and as a result of not having premier teams NYAA is losing some of our best players to other premier teams. Additionally, Molly explained how forming premier teams could actually create spots for Recreation League players to move up to competitive level teams. Finally, Molly assured the group that this would not affect field usage.

The group agreed that this issue must be decided by the soccer families first then brought to the NYAA after a decision is reached there. Molly will be setting up a meeting with the soccer families to discuss.

Website

- Keith will have a text block added to the online registration section of the website indicating that payments are due two weeks after the registration closes.
- Keith will look into whether we can have an auto reminder sent to those who did not pay their registration within two weeks after the signups close. Others suggested we should have a reminder sent out on the day registration closes telling families their payment is due within two weeks.
- It was agreed that we should hold a workshop to review the online registration and decide at that time what other changes we want.
- Tracking the fundraiser via the online registration was difficult. Edd will ask FocalBase whether we can get access to the fundraising reports then have the ability to export it to Excel.
- Scott Searcy reported that he sent out a bunch of templates for us to review in order to pick a new site design. He passed those same templates around at the meeting and asked all of us to list our favorites 1, 2, and 3. He will map out a new navigation strategy, apply the new template based on the group's feedback, then in about one month he will have a mock-up for us to review/change, then in 2 months we'll have a new site design.
- Molly asked if the new site design could be free of "scrolling" as some users didn't know how to do it. Scott is planning to put place everything on one screen by way of pop-ups/menus to eliminate

the need to scroll.

- Scott is getting rid of the yellow on black!!

Closing Notes

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and approved by all in attendance.

The next General Meeting will be held on April 29th at 7:30 pm at the Rec. Field Office.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Rice, NYAA Secretary