



# THE PONY EXPRESS



VOLUME TEN

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NOVEMBER 2001

## 2001-2002 Board of Directors

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<b>(Second required)</b>		
Pinto Division	pinto@mhp.org	
Tim Mason	776-1523	("Mason")
Gordon Perry	782-5018	("Gordy")
Mustang Division	mustang@mhp.org	
Louie Andrade	779-5711	
Patty Goularte	683-0489	
Bronco Division	bronco@mhp.org	
Mike O'Connell	778-0609	
Alan LaBranche	782-1197	
Pony Division	pony@mhp.org	
John Bennett	776-0983	

### Colt Division

**OPEN**

### Board Staff Positions

Baseball Store	Barb McClung	778-0792
Booster Chair	Nanette Muhn	778-5800 booster@mhp.org
Equipment Manager	Ralph Villafuerte	778-3395 equipment@mhp.org
Fields Director	Matt Crider	847-7436 fields@mhp.org
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Training Director	Joe Sorci	779-6640 training@mhp.org
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Tournament Dir.	Gregg Hall	776-7427 tournament@mhp.org
MHPB Directory	Stacy Barrett	779-3403
Webmaster	Mike Heil	782-8770 webmaster@mhp.org

MHPB Information 778-MHPB

MHPB Web Site [www.MHPB.org](http://www.MHPB.org)

## Winterball is Over

### *Shetland Division*

*DR – Gregg Hall*

The Shetland Division had a great Winterball season and the players all learned a great deal. There was no end of the season tournament, so no results to post.

### *Pinto Division*

*DR – Tim Mason and Gordon Perry*

A fine season for our Pinto players. The final game was between Team 1, managed by Tim Mason and coached by Kenny Palmer and Team 2, managed by Bob Price and managed by Mike Pereira. It was a close game, which Team 1 (the Giants) won by a score of 8 to 5. Great job everyone!

### *Mustang Division*

*DR – Louie Andrade and Patty Goularte*

On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, the final game was played on Mustang 2. The Patriots outscored the Blue Jays 7 to 6 in a game that was tied going into the bottom of the sixth. Congratulations to both teams for having advanced to the finals, the Blue Jays having been defeated earlier by the Patriots to put them in the losers bracket, the Patriots not having lost a game entered through the winners bracket. It turned out to be one of the best games played by 9 & 10-year-olds this season. Thanks again to all of you and we hope to see you in the spring.

### *Bronco Division*

*DR – Mike O'Connell and Alan LaBranche*

The Bronco Winterball program had a very successful season. This year we fielded 6 teams of 12 players each for a total enrollment of 72. That is a the largest Winterball enrollment for Bronco in many years.

Many thanks to the parents that assisted with team parent and field maintenance duties throughout the season. Thanks also to the managers, coaches, assistant coaches and those fans that were called upon to “call” the balls and strikes. Last but not least, thank you to the parents, family and friends who came out (sometimes in the foggy dew of a 9:00 am game) to support their teams and see some great baseball.

Did you know that many of the Bronco Winterball players also played additional sports during the Bronco Winterball season? Players participated in soccer, hockey, basketball, football and baseball. Multi-sport players and multi-player families had very busy Saturdays this Fall, but the outcomes were terrific.

Winterball is a great way for players moving up from a lower division to learn the new rules, techniques and strategies of playing at the next level in Pony Baseball. Winterball is also designed to allow players to keep in shape and develop confidence and skills at new fielding positions. If you haven't played Winterball before, please consider it for next year and get a head-start on your Spring season!

Interested in being a manager or coach of a Bronco team next Spring? Please call either of the Bronco Division Representatives listed below and find out more information.

Mike O'Connell      778-0609  
Alan LaBranche      782-1197

### ***Bronco Division***

*DR – John Bennett*

The Winterball Pony Tourney finished with Steve Azevedo's team beating Salinas/Greenfield. The MHPB boy's took an early lead and held off a late charge from Salinas/Greenfield to win. This was a well played game by two good teams. Thanks to all the parents that helped prepare the field for the games.

## **Mustang Winterball Season**

*By Patty Goularte*

Congratulations to all the Mustang players who participated in the Winterball program. This season, your level of play was above average and a pleasure to watch by all those in attendance including parents, board members, and any baseball admirers. The growth in skills and knowledge of the game was displayed all season, but especially in the year end tournament where in many of the games admission could have been charged to watch the achievements of so many of our young players. Once again, we would like to thank our coaches for their time and dedication to the program for without you these improvements would not be possible. Thank you Bill Tuminaro, Steve Muir, Dan Mendolla, Mike Schreiber, Gregg Hall, Andy Peabody, Mike Davis, Nick Pusateri, Matt Crider, Mark Garrett, and Brian Rotter! Hope to see you back in the spring!

If interested in coaching in the spring, please contact one of the division reps below.

Patty Goulart 683-0489  
Louie Andrade 779-5711

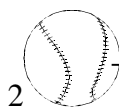
## **Player Agent's Corner**

*By Tom McClung*

### ***Sportsmanship Matters***

There has been much talk this winter about competitive teams and how we should deal with them. As parents, we want our children to have the best of everything and so we look for ways to build their athletic skills. Time and again we ask ourselves about ways we can make our children better players. As we've had countless discussions, it has occurred to me that MHPB baseball has always been about developing character. Maybe the question we should be asking ourselves is how should we change the league to make our children better citizens.

What is it that really matters to parents of young athletes? Is it making sure their children can throw a curve ball, hit a home run, or catch a pop fly?



I suggest it is really making sure that we create an environment where they can learn life lessons, using sports to inspire, uplift and empower. Steve Young once testified before Congress that society must double their efforts to teach values and principles so that our children see good examples. We should do that in our league. Starting now.

Why does sportsmanship matter? Because what we are building are good citizens. Very few of our children will grow up to be great athletes, but all of them will be required to contribute to society. Now is the time for us to preach far less about winning and losing and far more about building character. Building good sports eventually builds good citizens. Has there ever been a better time for young people to know the difference between right and wrong or between what is right and what is not?

Good sportsmanship also makes for fun times. There are not many people who enjoy playing with someone who is not a good sport. Many players do not have great athletic skills, but nobody minds them being on the team if they are enthusiastic, supportive, and try their best. On the other hand, no matter how good someone is, if they yell, scream, and complain, playing with them is not fun. The same thing can be said of parents who act this way too. Without the concept of good sportsmanship, good will, and caring for others, the journey of sports loses a great deal of its joy and meaning.

MHPB has always been about providing an environment for all players and abilities. This needs to continue. Regardless of skill, every child in the league should have a chance to learn about baseball, but be a witness to good behavior and good sportsmanship. It is not about winning, it is the development of character that we should find ways to enhance.

It is my hope that MHPB provides an environment where parents and children create a new breed of player, one who recognizes that sport must be built on the cornerstones of respect, humility, responsibility and inclusion. When you get right down to it, the wins and losses will fade over time, but sportsmanship endures for a lifetime.

## **Tournaments**

*By Gregg Hall*

Did you or your child enjoy the Tournaments we held last year (Memorial Day and All-Stars)? We are in need of someone to step up and help with the Tournaments this year. I am currently both the Shetland DR and the Tournament Director, and need someone to help. This would be a great way to help the league in a low pressure job. I have been the Tournament Director for 2 years now and have a pretty good handle on what needs to be done, just looking for assistance. This would also be a great way to learn so that next year you could take over the position with a year of training, something that most Board Members never have the luxury of having. Please contact me if you are interested.

*Gregg Hall 776-7427*

## **Winterball Equipment Bags**

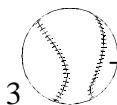
*By Ralph Villafuerte*

Please return all Winterball Equipment bags asap. Phone me at home @ 778-3395 to arrange drop-offs. **DO NOT LEAVE THE BAG ON MY PORCH WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING IT'S THERE.** Please go through the bag and make sure everything is in there. If there is damaged equipment, let me know. If you can't get the bag to me, ask your division rep. to help you. Again, make sure everything is in the bag. Thanks!

## **Want to coach?**

*By John Bennett*

If you are interested in Managing or coaching this year. Please contact the appropriate Division Rep. as soon as possible. Most all DR's will be interviewing all candidates in December, 2001. Don't wait, or you may be passed over for one of these positions. Look at the front page for phone numbers of the appropriate Division Rep. There is a Manager Registration form elsewhere in this newsletter.



## Whose Glove Is It Anyway?

By Mike O'Connell

How much money does a good baseball glove or bat cost? Ask the families that have had to replace a lost bat, glove or gear bag because they never wrote the players name and phone number on the item. Please ensure your player is ready for the next game by using a permanent marker to clearly identify his name and phone number on every piece of gear you would like returned to you in the event it is left behind at a game or practice!

## Field Preparation Day

By Matt Crider

The first spring season field preparation day will be held on **Saturday, December 8, 2001 at 8:30 a.m.** We will meet at **Britton Field** by the equipment shed.

First we will need to aerate the fields and rake the plugs off. After that, we will roll the fields with the water roller or the larger roll if available. We will then spread seed and cover with a compost about one inch deep. Each field will need to be watered every other day for a week, by hand or by rain. We will be working on the fields at Britton, Burnett, and El Toro.

We will need at least two pickup trucks to pick up compost and delivery it to the fields. The compost will come from Monterey Mushroom. The pick up times are from 8:00 until 2:00 on Saturday. We will need wheelbarrows, hard rakes, shovels, and anything else you might have to make the job easier.

The more people we have, the faster it will go. As you know, each parent is required to volunteer four hours of their time to the league. This is a great way to get it done. Why not come out, meet your neighbors and some board members, have a little fun and get a little exercise?! If we don't get at least 10 people to confirm, we will have to cancel this essential task and the fields may not be ready for the spring season.

Please contact me at 847-7436 or [fields@mhp.org](mailto:fields@mhp.org). Thanks! *Matt*

## New Sponsorship Chairman

By Sally Plafker

I would like to welcome our new Sponsorship Chairman, Tony Saenz, to the MHPB Board. Tony has decided it is his turn to get involved in this wonderful program we have for our kids. He has already been sending out letters to previous sponsors and to perspective sponsors.

If you have been a sponsor in the past, please contact Tony and let him know you would like to continue your support. If you have not been a sponsor, but would like to start, please contact Tony so he can get you started!

Tony can be reached at 778-2097 or at [sponsorship@mhp.org](mailto:sponsorship@mhp.org).

Thanks, Tony, for getting involved in MHBP and welcome aboard!

## Open Board Positions

By Sally Plafker

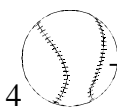
Speaking of getting involved, we have a number of positions on the MHPB Board that still need to be filled. Please consider helping us (and your kids) in one of this vital capacities:

1. A second Shetland Division Representative.
2. The Colt Division Representative.
3. The Snack Shack Manager
4. The Fundraiser Coordinator.
5. The Dinner Dance Coordinator

We are in desperate need of someone to step up to the plate and take over management of the snack shack, coordination of the See's candy sales, or putting together the dinner dance. MHPB gets a majority of our funds from these activities, and without them, we cannot function.

PLEASE, now is the time to get more involved in your child's baseball program. We have quite a few new members this season so you won't be the only one. Everyone is friendly and helpful, and we won't let you fail! Please contact anyone of us on the front of this newsletter if you are interested.

Thanks! *Sally*





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