



## - The Pony Express -

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### **Positive Coaching Alliance Comes to MHPB:** Goal is to bring a new attitude toward Youth Sports in MH

Members of the Executive Board as well as other Board members of MHPB met with local associates of PCA to discuss and consider the benefits of the PCA program and what it could bring to MHPB.

"I've been trying to bring PCA into MHPB for the past two years," said Bob Benevento, league Vice President, who initiated the contact. "It's time for the league to get to the next level in leadership, coaching and parent participation." MHPB will enter into a PCA Partnership Program, with the intent of helping the leaders, coaches and parents become partners in a program designed to establish a culture that helps young athletes develop the values, habits and skills needed to become successful as both athletes and citizens.

The first year of the program will include a Leadership Workshop, intended to give board members and leaders the tools for creating and attaining a league culture conducive to positive coaching in the long and short term. A second workshop, the Double-Goal Coach Workshop, will provide coaches (and interested parents) with tools they can use to be "Double-Goal" coaches...coaches who want to both **win** and **develop character** in their players. There will be two sessions of the Double-Goal Workshop, broken into the older divisions and the younger divisions of MHPB. Future years may see the inclusion of "Sports Parent Workshops" and "Athlete Workshops".

All managers and coaches in MHPB will be expected to participate in the Double-Goal Coach Workshop. Parents will be invited to participate, space provided. The League will be covering the base cost of the program, nearly \$2,000.00 There will be a \$5.00 workbook charge per participant. A national program, all instructors are certified PCA Trainers. The trainers are located throughout the country and come from varying sports. They bring high levels of coaching experience and a wealth of knowledge about youth sports. **Check the MHPB Website and local papers for further information on dates and locations for the workshops.**

The follow commentary was taken from the PCA website:

*Positive Coaching Alliance was established at Stanford University in 1998. PCA believes that winning is a goal in youth sports but that there is a second, more important goal of using sports to teach life lessons through positive coaching. (See PCA cont'd p. 2)*

### **Dates to Remember**

This should be a handy reference as the season progresses. Look for more info along the way.

January 8, 2006	Sunday Spring Training begins
January 14, 2006	Walk-in Registration Day #2
(Registrations received after 1/14/06 must pay \$25. late fee)	
January 15, 2006	Sunday Spring Training Day 2
January 21, 2006	Player Evaluation Day
January 22, 2006	Sunday Spring Training Day 3
January 25, 2006	Late walk-in Registration Day #1
January 28, 2006	Player Evaluation Rainout Day
January 29, 2006	Sunday Spring Training Day 4
January 30, 2006	Mustang Draft
January 31, 2006	Bronco Draft
February 1, 2006	Pony Draft
February 2, 2006	First Aid Clinic
February 4, 2006	Practices Begin / Coaches Clinic
February 7, 2006	Positive Coach Alliance Workshop
	Scorekeepers Clinic #1**
February 8, 2006	Late walk-in Registration Day #2
February 13, 2006	First Aid Clinic
February 16, 2006	Positive Coach Alliance Workshop
February 25, 2006	Coaches Clinic
February 27, 2006	Scorekeepers Clinic #2**
March 1, 2006	Coaches Scorekeeping Class**
March 4, 2006	Opening Day 2006
April 3, 2006	Weekday Evening games begin
April 14 – 21, 2006	No Games – Spring Break
May 20, 2006	Last Day of Regular Season
May 21 – 24, 2006	Reserved for make up games
May 26-29, 2006	Memorial Day Weekend
May 30, 2006	League Playoffs Begin
June 4, 2006	Coaches Game Day
June 17, 2006	City Championship Day (all Div. MHPB Board Election Day)

**\*\* All Scorekeeping Sessions start 7:30 PM @ Mountain Mikes Pizza. Contact Joe Grove for Additional information.**

**Sunday Spring Training open to all players 7 – 12 years**  
**Location: Live Oak HS Baseball field.**  
**Time: 10 AM to Noon**  
**No signups required. Held Rain or Shine**

As the season progresses, look for this column to post the training schedules for new coaches, including PCA, Coaches Clinics, First Aid training classes, and Umpire training .

### **Quotable Quotes:**

**"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill**

**(PCA)** In the United States, youth are dropping out of sports at an alarming rate. A major contributing factor is the "win at all cost" mentality of many parents and coaches that creates a pressure filled environment for the kids and ultimately turns them away from sports. According to Michigan State University's Institute for the Study of Youth Sports, children participating in organized sports tend to achieve higher results in school, develop excellent interpersonal skills and lead healthier lives.

Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) provides live, research-based training workshops and practical tools for coaches, parents and leaders who operate youth sports programs to get them on the same page about what it means to Honor the Game. Positive Coaching Alliance educates adults who shape the youth sports experience by offering partnership programs with Youth Sports Organizations, schools, cities and national sports governing bodies. PCA also provides corporations with the opportunity to offer sports parent workshops to their employees.

(Ref. [www.positivecoach.org](http://www.positivecoach.org) home page)

## Board Welcomes New Members

The Board would like to introduce its newest members, just in time for Christmas and the 2006 Season. Mac Jones has agreed to be the new Shetland DR. Dave Affourtit joins as the new Mustang DR, and Ed Struzik joins us as the new Tournament Director. Welcome Gentlemen! We'll see you in 2006.

## Know the Rules

Check this space for Definitions and Rules

### The **DROPPED THIRD STRIKE** Rule

Rule 6.05 A Batter is out when-

(b) A third strike is legally caught by the catcher;

"Legally caught" means in the catcher's glove before the ball touches the ground. It is not legal if the ball lodges in his clothing or paraphernalia; or if it touches the umpire and is caught by the catcher on the rebound.

If a foul-tip first strikes the catcher's glove and then goes on through and is caught by both hands against his body or protector, before the ball touches the ground, it is a strike, and if third strike, batter is out. If smothered against his body or protector, it is a catch provided the ball struck the catcher's glove or hand first.

(c) A third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out.

Rule 6.09 The Batter becomes a runner when –

(b) The third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied, or (2) first base is occupied with two out;

When a batter becomes a base runner on a third strike not caught by the catcher and starts for the dugout, or his position, and then realizes his situation and attempts then to reach first base, he is not out unless he or first base is tagged before he reaches first base. If, however, he actually reaches the dugout or dugout steps, he may not then attempt to go to first base and shall be out.

Reference: 2005 Official Baseball Rules; pages 44 & 50

## AMERICA'S GAME BASEBALL INSTRUCTION

Dave Salter and his expert staff at America's Game are coming to Morgan Hill. That's right, the best instruction in the Bay Area and we're coming to you. Over the last 12 years America's Game has instructed thousands of ballplayers, young and old, beginner and experienced, the skills it takes to play this great game.....America's Game. Come experience why America's Game is second to none. Great instructors, great instruction, great experience = great season.

- Private Instruction (1 on 1 instruction) (pitching, hitting, fielding)
- Group Lessons (minimum of 4 players)
- Team Lessons
- Camps (Holiday camp, summer camp etc.)

- Hitting Clinics
- Pitching Clinics
- Coaches Clinics
- Lectures/chalk talk

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[americasgamebaseball.com](http://americasgamebaseball.com)

Or call

650-537-9700

[dave@americasgamebaseball.com](mailto:dave@americasgamebaseball.com)

Holiday Camp dates: 12/20-12/22 and 12/27-12/29

Mention this ad and get \$10.00 off Holiday Camp

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# Calling for Managers, Coaches and Volunteers!

It's that time of the year again. Player registrations have arrived in the mail. You're filling out the necessary information and you come to the little area that says;

"Dad/Mom will volunteer to ( ) Manage ( ) Coach ( ) Field Work ( ) Team Parent ( ) Tournaments ( ) Opening Day ( ) Player Evaluations ( ) Team Sponsor - \$300 fee".

If mom is filling out the form, it's a "No Brainer"! She checks off the box volunteering her kid's father for something, and off to the Post Office she goes to mail in the form. Dad gets a call from some guy on the board a few weeks later and wonders when he signed up for this duty.

But if dad is filling out the form, then the wheels really start turning. "Do I want to do this? Do I have the time? I don't know the first thing about coaching. I have to commute too far. I can't commit to something so demanding of my time."

Nonsense! It's your kid! It's your league! Make a commitment to do something to help your child and MHPB.

Want to try to coach? We'll help teach you. Didn't you read the article on the Positive Coaching Alliance?

Don't know anything about baseball? Read a book! Watch on TV! TAKE YOUR KID TO A GAME! You can learn.

Don't have the time? You mean you can't find two hours for us in a six month period? Come on people! It's your kid. You can't give up two hours for him or her?

Look, we don't mean to be wiseacres here, but this is a big league. We support close to 800 players every year and need some help. There are lots of options available from coaching, to working in the snack shack, to field work, to just helping on Player Evaluation Day. Can't make up your mind? That's ok! We're like Orchard Supply Hardware, we'll help you find something.

Please, give us a break here and respond with an enthusiastic "YES" when asked to help. Your child will appreciate it, we'll appreciate it, and heck...you might actually like it. Besides, you might earn some points with the wife. You just never know!

We look forward to seeing you on the field this year!

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## Winterball Report (and other stuff)

We didn't get a lot of feedback this year, but what we got was favorable. It looks like there is a refreshing movement

towards working on skills and techniques again, not just the competitive aspects of the game.

Did any of you Bronco players have a chance to spend time with Rich Taylor of **Taylor Made Baseball**? If you did, you've got to have improved. If you didn't, look for his column in the MH Times Sports Section. He's always got some good advice for you (and your parents).

We also welcome our first advertiser this year, Dave Salter & **America's Game Baseball**. Check 'em out, give 'em a call.

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## Executive Board

President	Mike Rusch
Vice President	Bob Benevento
Secretary	Gregg Hall
Treasurer	Carolyn Rusch
Player Agent	Manny Brum

## Division Representatives

Shetland	Mike O'Connell Mac Jones
Pinto	Tom Moorehead C W McGowen
Mustang	Cody Pyle Dave Affourtit
Bronco	Chris Blocker Damon Grose
Pony	Louie Andrade John Howard
Colt	John Bennett
Palomino Commissioner	Roy Jackson

## Staff Positions

Baseball Store Mgr.	Rob Conlan
Boosters Chairperson	Charlene Brum
Equipment Mgr.	Tim Mason
Fields Director	Chris Houle
Head Scorekeeper	Joe Grove
Chief Umpire	Mike Rusch
Newsletter Editor	Bob Benevento
Publicity Chairman	Bob Benevento
Snack Shack Mgr.	Marlene Mooney
Sponsorship Chair.	Daryl Hughes
Training Director	Todd Branon
Webmaster	Gary Winzler
Fund Raising Chair	Rob Conlan
Tournament Director	Ed Struzik

Website: [www.mhpb.org](http://www.mhpb.org)

Phone: Listed on the website, or 778-MHPB

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*"The Mission of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball is to teach life skills through Baseball"*

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