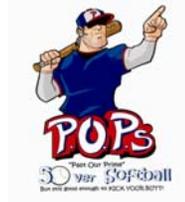


# POPS Softball Newsletter



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## POPS Softball Newsletter

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## Letter From the Editor

This year I was asked by the Board to see if I could get some coverage for the league by local newspapers. I reached out to a few papers, and was successful with the LI Herald.

First, we got coverage of our scholarship night (see below) by the Oceanside/Island Park Herald (July 7 edition, page 15); unfortunately I could not get the other towns' Herald editors to cover this. Then the Herald's overall sports editor got interested. He came to one of our games with a photographer and spoke to several players. Many of you saw the resulting full-page article and pictures in the July 21 edition of all 11 local Heralds.

What struck me was how impressed the sports editor was with our league. He noted how large, organized and well run POPS is. He also commented on the obvious camaraderie that he saw before, during, and after the game. He saw exactly what I love most about POPS - old-ish guys, still competing but also enjoying themselves and each other's company. This is a testament to all of us in POPS - the Board, the managers and every single player. We all contribute to making this league great and the envy of other LI leagues.

So, as the playoffs continue and Fall Ball begins (see below), please keep in mind how fortunate we are to be part of a great league and to still be playing ball. Keep your efforts up and your temperament even - remember we are out here to compete and also to have fun.

Thanks.

Andy Eisner, Director of Fun & Publicity, Editor-in-Chief  
POPS Softball Newsletter



by...  
**Keith "Commish" Pastuch**

## POPS Website Links

[POPS Homepage](#)  
[Playoff Schedules](#)

[Standings](#)

### We must be GOOD

As I reflect on another close to the POPS season, I have come to realize how special POPS has really become. I appreciate the kind words from so many of you and your spouses; players explaining how they worked to get in shape to play after years of neglect, wives asking if I could let their husbands play more than once per week! The social experiences, new friends, good old-fashioned competitive fun. I'm amazed at the growth this league continues to have. *We must be doing something right!* We already have new teams being formed from within POPS for next year and many teams "outside" the league have asked to join. Some of you have asked if you can bring your own team in for next year. Yes you can! This is how POPS grew to where it is today.

Many teams form where some players are committed and competitive, while others are just here for fun. At times that does not mesh and the team separates and divides into two teams. We can combine teams or add new players. Whatever it takes, we will work to make teams that accommodate everyone.

POPS will continue to expand based on field availability. We have already had preliminary talks and approvals from fields such as Shell Creek Park in Island Park and in the Herricks and Merrick school districts.

I'm sure you know by now, you can change teams for next year if you were not satisfied with your team or manager. We now have a free agent system in place to help you. There are 3 divisions in 40 & over and 2 in 50 & over. There is a team for EVERYONE.

New teams will be formed from this year's waiting list, and they will need some players too. So, if you want to change teams email me at: [commish@popssoftball.com](mailto:commish@popssoftball.com), or just let me know on your application for next year.

I started this league for the sole reason of wanting to enjoy playing softball with my friends, at a level I could still enjoy. We will try to do the same for you.

Looking forward to seeing you all at **Fall Ball** and at the "**Plates for the Greats**" (previously called the End of the Year Dinner).

# POPSOFTBALL.COM



The POPS website ([www.popssoftball.com](http://www.popssoftball.com)) is full of useful information on our

league. You will find rules, schedules, standings, approved bat lists, rainout information, etc. Please visit the site often for the latest information.

The site is maintained by POPS director Juan Tocabens.



## Scholarships

POPS presents scholarships each year to select graduating high school seniors who will be attending college in the fall. The scholarship recipients are children of players in the POPS league, and were chosen based on a combination of academic achievement, athletic participation, and involvement in community service.

On June 15, at the Merrick Public Library, 20 individual scholarships were presented by POPS Commissioner Pastuch, who cited achievements of each recipient to the crowd of approximately 70 parents, players and members of the POPS Board of Directors. The recipients boast impressive resumes, including things such as participation in high school sports, charitable activities, raising money for charitable organizations, helping local kids, membership in high school clubs, and talents such as singing and writing.

*Why do we give scholarships?* School boards can choose to give field permits to anyone they wish. We have consistently been given permits to play on fields at certain schools due to the relationships we have developed with the various schools and their Superintendents over the years. We provide these scholarships as a token of our appreciation and to give back to our communities.

*Who got scholarships in 2011?* This year, awards were given to the following graduating seniors and families - congratulations to all recipients.

Student	Team	High School	Scholarship
Zach Cohen	H. Cohen	Oceanside	Peggy Carlock Award
Jared Goldenberg	H. Cohen	Oceanside	O'Side Dept. of Comm. Services Award
Camille Eisner	Sklar	South Side	David Kerner Memorial
Samantha Malis	Pastuch	Bellmore JFK	Ed Corbett Memorial
David Pepe	Realmutto	Mephram	Ronnie Gies Memorial
Rachel Staiano	Arm	East Meadow	Scott Crohn Memorial
Taylor Gabel	H. Cohen	Oceanside	O'Side Dept. of Comm. Services Award
Ted Dowd	Dowd	Herricks	General
Kayla Barnofsky	Barnovsky	Bellmore JFK	General
Samantha Rothery	H. Cohen	Bellmore JFK	General
Rachel Feit	Barnovsky	Hewlett	General
Hayley Mackler	H. Cohen	Bellmore JFK	General
Alexa Katz	H. Cohen	Oceanside	General
Marley Mensher	H. Cohen	Oceanside	General
Nicole Insardi	Trapani	Bellmore JFK	General
Gil Doremus	Rothwell	Old Bethpage	General
Troy Stone	Heiman	Bellmore JFK	General
Daniel Savarino	Heiman	East Meadow	General
Joshua Lowell	Heiman	Bellmore JFK	General



## **Plates with the Greats (aka End of Year Dinner)**

Our 4th annual POPS end of year dinner celebration has officially been renamed "Plates with the Greats" to reflect the fact that we are all great softball players (at least in our own minds!). This year's event will be held once again at the Oceanside Jewish Center on **Thursday, September 8 at 7:30PM**. All championship awards, including the coveted Pastuch Diamonds, will be handed out at the dinner.

As in the past, all POPs players are invited. The cost for all Directors, Managers, as well as the 5 championship teams (40 & Over American, National, Central and 50 & Over American & National) is covered by POPS. The cost for all other POPS players is \$25 - the balance of the cost will be covered by POPS. In addition, spouses, domestic partners, girlfriends, boyfriends, etc. are also invited for the same low \$25 fee. A night worth twice the money!!! It promises to be a truly great evening and gives you a chance to have some fun with your fellow POPS players. Last year we had over 150 players and guests attend.

How to sign up? Players on non-winning teams should email POPS Commissioner: Keith Pastuch at [commish@popsoftball.com](mailto:commish@popsoftball.com). Please indicate if a guest will be coming so we have an exact count for the caterer. **The cut-off date is September 2nd**. You can pay at the door that night for \$30.



We

## **2011 All Star Games**

will continue our tradition of having POPs All Star games - one for the 40 & Over league and one for the 50 & Over. To make sure the games are competitive, we will have assigned 2 Directors to divide players into fair teams.

The games will be played at Oceanside High School and are tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, August 25**. The 50 & Over game will start at 7:00 and the 40 & Over game will start at 8:30. For each game, we will try play up to 9 innings (depending on time) to allow ample opportunity for all players.

As usual, we will have our own Billy Bogatz announcing play by play and providing color commentary.

We are all "All Stars", so even if you are not participating in the game, please come down and root your fellow players on!



## **Play Ball! - Fall Ball That Is!**

POPS Fall Ball has proven to be very popular, and we expect our 4th season to once again be a big hit. Guys just don't want to stop playing softball - who can blame us?

Fall Ball will be an 8 game season, with games being played on Monday through Thursday nights at Oceanside High School. The season will run from 9/6 through 10/27. Based on past success, we envision having 2 divisions and possibly a separate 50 & Over division. If we have room, we may allow teams from outside POPS to play Fall Ball in 2011.

We will continue with last year's format allowing summer POPS teams to register and play together in Fall Ball. Individual players not part of a team playing in Fall Ball can register and will be drafted by teams needing additional players to complete their rosters. New for this year, players outside of POPS can play in Fall Ball (additional insurance fees will apply).

The fee to play Fall Ball is \$60. If you are interested, click here - [Fall Ball application](#) - or go to the [POPS website](#) to print an application. **The registration deadline is Friday, August 26** - so don't delay!

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## **Baseball Quotes**

"If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there are men on base." - Dave Barry

"I don't want to play golf. When I hit a ball, I want someone else to go chase it." - Rogers Hornsby

"Baseball is the only sport I know that when you're on offense, the other team controls the ball." - Ken Harrelson

"There are three things in my life which I really love: God, my family, and baseball. The only problem - once baseball season starts, I change the order around a bit." - Al Gallagher

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## **Giving Back a Base?**

Did you know that it used to be possible to steal first from second? Why would you want to do that? Well, if there is a runner on third stealing first from second could distract the catcher and allow the runner from third to score. The last recorded instance of this happening was on September 4, 1908 by Detroit's Germany Schaefer in a game against Cleveland. Soon after the rules committee outlawed the practice as they thought it made a mockery of the game. I don't know about you but it sounds kind of fun!