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## POPS Softball Newsletter

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## *Letter From the Editor*

Most, if not all, POPS players were impacted directly by Superstorm Sandy. With anything from wind and tree damage to devastating floods. And most of us lost electricity for anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Hopefully all POPS players and families are safe, warm, and either fully recovered or well on their way.

With the timing of Sandy, I was unable to send a 2012-year-end Newsletter. So, here it is. Hopefully it will provide some warm thoughts of summer softball.

Spring training is just around the corner - looking forward to seeing you all soon for a safe and fun 2013 POPS season.

Thanks.

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

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

## Year-End Comments

Yet another year is complete and POPS is even better than ever! It was great to hear from so many of you how much you are really enjoying POPS.

Already I am being swamped with requests from new teams and new players to join POPS for next year. Next year I anticipate more changes for our league. I've spoken to many of you and have heard some teams are considering splitting up to form two teams, some players are looking to switch teams or leagues, and some have asked how to play in more than one league - it's starting to get crazy, but that's POPS. If

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any of you are considering bringing in a new team for 2012, contact me ASAP. There are quite a few teams from outside POPS who will be applying to join our league. We always try to accommodate our existing players before bringing in new. The Board has a lot of work ahead of it this winter. I foresee some definite changes for next year as we strive to improve every year. The new POPS Father - Son League will start next fall, in conjunction with Fall Ball. Realignment of Divisions and new fields will all be on the agenda for 2012.

Believe it or not I have a life BEYOND POPS! Personally, my son Sean and I recently started a new facility in Long Beach called Thrive Rehabilitation with a Cross Fit gym attached. The facility is a 3,000 sq. ft. building that is divided into two distinct areas - a complete rehabilitation clinic with Chiropractors, Physical Therapists, Massage Therapists and Nutritionists and "Cross Fit - King of the Beach" on the other side. The reason I'm sharing this with you is because I've worked it out with my son to provide courtesy classes before we start the 2012 season, so that we "over 40's - and up" can get ready for the season and hopefully avoid the many injuries we suffer each year!

POPS continues to grow every year, and is really becoming a full time job. I could not do this job without the help of our Board of Directors. I want to thank the Board and the Managers for their hard work in making POPS the most successful adult softball league on the Island.

Looking forward to seeing you next year...

Commish

## ***Congratulations to the Winners!***

Congratulations to all of the winning teams of the  
 2012 POPS softball season!

Champion	POPS League
Summer Season	
Team Carra	40 & Over - American
Team Callahan	40 & Over - National
Team Longo	40 & Over - Central
Team Zimmerman	50 & Over - American
Team Wexler	50 & Over - National
Fall Season	
Team Labeck	American
Team Kronenberg	National

Our 2012 playoffs were filled with many exciting, well played games. Teams exhibited great competition and sportsmanship. A fitting end to another successful season of POPS softball.

## ***POPS End of Year Dinner Celebration***

Our sixth annual End of Year Dinner was another smashing success. The Oceanside Jewish Center provided great food and we provided great company. Championship awards, including the coveted Pastuch Diamonds, were handed out.

The dinner was attended by over 160 people, including players, spouses and friends, and a great time was had by all. The 50-50 raffle raised over \$1,000, \$500 of which went to the raffle winner with the balance to be used to offset managers' fees for 2012.

A special presentation was made to our own Mike Callahan for organizing the first annual POPS Charity Softball Night which raised over \$3,800.

Please remember: The dinner is not just for the players whose teams won - it's for ALL players in POPS and their spouses. Everyone is welcome to attend next year.

## ***2012 All Star Games***

This year's POPS All Star games were much more competitive, as the league got involved and ensured there were fair teams in both games. A special thanks to POPS Director Bob Lashinsky and all other Directors for making it happen.

There were great games in both the 40 & Over and 50 & Over divisions. The All Star shirts looked good and everyone had a great time.

And thanks to POPS Director Bill Bogatz who was master of ceremonies and did a spectacular job yet again.

## ***Fall Ball - Another Successful Season***

Our 5<sup>th</sup> season of POPS Fall Ball was a tremendous success. We had 14 teams this season, split into 2 divisions. Some teams were complete summer league teams, while others were a mix of players from various teams. The fall season is a great way to play with and against new players - a good chance to meet more POPS guys.

As we've done for the past few years, Fall Ball games were umpired by 2 POPS players. Based on the feedback we've received, this once again worked very well. Some actual comments: "They know our rules better than the ASA umpires." "Having 2 umpires for the games was a big help." "They did a great job." "Andy was my favorite ump."

Thanks again to Tony and Kat Spataro for running a smooth season and personally keeping the field playable.

## ***Father and Son League - A Successful Inaugural Season***

The 1st season of POPS Father and Son League is now under our belt. I think all participants will agree that it was quite a success. Think about it - an opportunity to play ball with our next generation (actually, given our age, it's more like the next, next generation).

We had XXX teams and played on Thursday nights during the POPS Fall Ball season. It was all about fun with lots of joking and a relaxed style of play. It was great to see the fathers do all they could to impress their young relatives - and definitely not always succeeding! And we were all impressed at the talent waiting in the wings to participate in POPS down the road.

We envision expanding in 2013 and seeing this league grow just like the Fall Ball has over the past several years. If you did not participate in 2012, consider doing so in 2013.

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### ***Ideas? Suggestions? Concerns?***

If you have an idea, suggestion, or concern relating to POPS, please tell your manager or any director who will bring it up at the next Board meeting. Or contact the Commish...Keith Pastuch at:[commish@popsoftball.com](mailto:commish@popsoftball.com). We value your input and will address any concerns you may have.

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### ***All About "The King And His Court"***

Eddie "The King" Feigner (March 25, 1925 - February 9, 2007) was born in Walla Walla, Washington as Myrle Vernon King. He first assembled his four-man team, known as "The King and His Court," in 1946 and took on all comers, first in the Pacific Northwest and then around the country. Feigner retired from pitching after suffering a stroke in 2000 but continued to tour with his team, acting as emcee and telling stories while the team played.

The King and His Court touring team played over ten thousand softball games in a hundred countries since the late 1940s and achieved widespread fame similar to that of the Harlem Globetrotters. Feigner's meticulous records claim 9,743 victories, 141,517 strikeouts, 930 no-hitters and 238 perfect games. The Washington Post described him as "the greatest softball pitcher who ever lived."

On February 8, 1967, Feigner appeared in a celebrity charity softball game against many Major League players. In the game Feigner struck out Willie Mays, Willie McCovey, Brooks Robinson, Roberto Clemente, Maury Wills, and Harmon Killebrew all in a row.

"The King and His Court" was a four-man team: pitcher, catcher, first baseman, and shortstop. When asked why the team had four members, Feigner answered that they couldn't play with three: if all three got on base, there would be no one available to come to bat.