



HARWINTON YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

WWW.HARWINTONSPORTS.ORG

IMPORTANT DATES

Baseball Registration:
Tuesday, January 27
thru Friday, January 30
5:30 pm-7:30 pm,
HCS Gym

Soccer Registration:
Register online at
harwintonsports.org;
Teams to be chosen by
March 9

UPCOMING MEETINGS

HYSA General Meeting:
Thursday, January 29
7:30 pm
Westside Firehouse

HYSA Baseball Meeting:
Tuesday, February 10
7:30 pm
Harwinton Senior Center

HYSA Soccer Meeting:
Monday, March 9
7:00 pm
Harwinton Senior Center

HYSA General Meeting:
Thursday, February 26
7:45 pm
Westside Firehouse

HYSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Steve Graboski

Secretary
Diane Marshall

Treasurer
Melanie Joseph

VP League Operations
DJ Doyle

VP Safety
Marc Nordstrom

VP Baseball
Dave Wall

VP Basketball
Jim Baiardi

VP Soccer
Darren Frechette

HYSA BASKETBALL

NEW HOOPS SEASON TIPS OFF

BY JIM BAIARDI

The HYSA basketball season has begun! It's great to see all the players back in the gym. We are looking forward to a year full of learning the game and lots of fun!

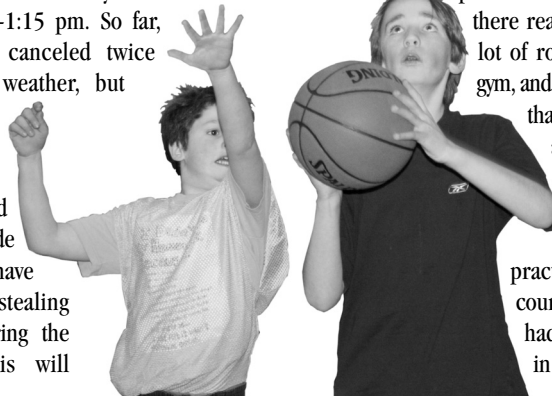
This year we have made some changes to the basketball season that will focus on setting a good foundation for our players. First, we have added a "Biddy Basketball" program that is offered through the Recreation Department and managed by HYSA. Designed for Kindergartners and first graders, this program provides a great start for our young players, who will learn basic dribbling, passing and shooting skills through drills and games. It takes place on Sundays at HCS from 12:30 -1:15 pm. So far, we've been canceled twice because of weather, but hopefully that will be it!

Next, in our second and third grade league, we have eliminated stealing the ball during the dribble. This will

allow us to really work with the kids on their dribbling. As most of you know, games at this level are not refereed, so it will be the responsibility of the coaches to instruct players that stealing on the dribble is not allowed. As always, the coaches will be running the games in an instructional manner; this means a lot of stops in play, but in doing so, we should see improvement in our players' skills going forward.

Lastly, we wanted to give the players more practice time with their coaches. With the addition of gym time on Mondays, we are able to hold practices the entire month of January and still play the normal 10 games per team.

I would like to ask a favor of all the parents. As you know, there really is not a lot of room in our gym, and I would ask that we keep all children not scheduled for games or practice off the courts. We have had incidents in past years



with players running into younger kids that aren't scheduled to be on the courts. Also, no basketballs are allowed in the hallway adjoining the gym. This is a school rule, and we don't want to give HCS any reason to take our gym time away.

Dan Iyga, our web designer, is doing a great job putting information on our website. The complete schedule is posted there. Please check back regularly for more info and pictures of the players working hard at learning the game. In the near future look for our "Coaches Corner." It will feature drills and tips from our basketball coaches that will help your players improve their game.

I hope all our players have a great season and I look forward to seeing you at the gym!

ON THE WEB

Check out **Coaches Corner**, a new feature in the basketball section of www.harwintonsports.org. With fun drills and skills that kids can use to raise their game, this feature is designed to enhance the coaching that they receive on the court!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROGRAMS IMPROVED, PAYPAL ADDED

BY STEVE GRABOSKI

The past two years have been very exciting for youth sports in Harwinton. Our local government, with taxpayer support, has built a beautiful sports complex for our children and many others to enjoy. Construction is complete, and we just need to wait patiently for spring of 2010 when we will be able to use these wonderful new fields. Keep an eye out for updates from the town recreation office.

Your HYSA board has been working very hard to improve every aspect of our programs. Our website is continuously updated with news, information and

facts. Our webmaster has worked very hard on this project for two years and the entire HYSA board is extremely grateful. We appreciate his great effort in keeping us updated and well informed. Also, our V.P. of Soccer and his committee have concentrated on increasing the size of our soccer program. Last year our enrollment was the largest ever and this spring looks to be even better. Baseball had a great year in 2008 and enrollment is expected to pick up this spring. Basketball just started its 2009 season and our V.P. of Basketball has implemented many new ideas to enhance the experience.

Finally, I want to announce a new way to register for HYSA programs. Our webmaster and treasurer have created an online registration program using PayPal. Our hope is to make registering faster and easier for everyone; we realize however that online registration is not for everyone, so other means will be offered as well.

I want to thank everyone from the HYSA board to the volunteers who help coach our kids and do everything that needs to be done. It is a tremendous amount of work to run a program like ours and any help anyone can give is appreciated.

hsa HARWINTON YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 124
HARWINTON, CT 06791

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**BASEBALL
TRYOUTS
FEB. 21 & 28**



SEE INSIDE
FOR DETAILS

**RESIDENTIAL
HARWINTON, CT 06791**

**HYSA SOCCER
PROGRAM TO EXPAND**

BY DARREN FRECHETTE

HYSA Soccer is expanding to serve boys and girls from U5 (Pre-K, or under 5 as of 7/31/08) through U12 (Grade 6, or under 12 as of 7/31/08). Micro Soccer serves Pre-K through Grade 1, and Recreational Soccer serves Grades 2-6. We require a minimum of 12 players and two coaches per team for Recreational teams, otherwise teams may be combined or cancelled.

The season will run from April 20th to June 20th. Registration will be \$40.00 per child. This year, reg-

istration will be online at www.harwintonsports.org through PayPal. Otherwise, registration and medical forms may be mailed with payment to HYSA Soccer, PO Box 124, Harwinton, CT 06791.

Please register now; decisions on teams will be made on March 9th at 7:00 pm at the HYSA Soccer subcommittee meeting at the Harwinton Senior Center.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please email Darren Frechette at soccer@harwintonsports.org

**HYSA BASEBALL
TRYOUTS, FIELD DAYS PLANNED**

BY DAVE WALL

It's that time of year again as we look forward to the beginning of our baseball season. This will be the final year that we play at the Locust Road fields, which were so generously leased to us by the Harwinton Agricultural Society for all these years. By spring 2010, we will take the fields at the beautiful new Recreation Fields that have been under construction since last year. It's truly an exciting time for youth sports in Harwinton.

Once again, the baseball season will start off with evaluations held at The Hit Club in Thomaston on February 21st and 28th. Times are not yet determined and will be posted on www.harwintonsports.org when they become available. Those who played tee ball in 2008 are not required to try out; they are automatically advanced to our instructional level, unless the player's parents prefer that they remain at the

tee ball level. Likewise, those players who played at the majors level last year are not required to try out. Only players who wish to advance to the next level should attend evaluations. Teams will be chosen by the first week in March and coaches will notify their players immediately after.

Volunteers are asked to help out on Field Day on April 4th (and April 18th if needed). Please come out to help us prepare the fields for practice and Opening Day. The more folks we have on hand, the more gets done! Also, there are several teams still without a sponsor; if you are interested in sponsoring a team, please contact me at baseball@harwintonsports.org.

HYSA values input from everyone involved in our organization. Please attend our baseball subcommittee meeting at the Harwinton Senior Center on Tuesday, February 10 at 7:30. I look forward to seeing you this spring!

**SPRING FUNDRAISING
MUNSON'S CHOCOLATES**

The Munson's Chocolate fundraiser has been one of our most successful over the years so, once again, we ask for your support. Order forms will be handed out at baseball and soccer registration. Order forms and payments will be collected at the Harwinton Library on Wednesday, Feb. 25 from 5 to 7 pm or Saturday, Feb. 28 from 10 am to 12 pm. Candy will be available for pickup on Saturday, March 21 and Saturday, March 28. If you would like an order form or are able to volunteer, please contact me at (860) 459-4606 or scott.onofrio@cigna.com

- Scott Onofrio

