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## IAB President's Newsletter April 2006

Dear IAB Members,

This is the second of our quarterly newsletters whose purpose is to keep the parents and players up to date on the activities of the IAB. Baseball is moving into high gear. Besides our league play, which is now in full swing, we have a number of special events planned for the spring and summer. Wishing the entire baseball community a very Happy and Kosher Pesach. Haim Katz, President -Israel Association of Baseball ([hdkatz@013.net](mailto:hdkatz@013.net)).

### Art Shamsky Comes to Israel



Art Shamsky, former Jewish major league baseball player for the Cincinnati Reds and New York Mets will be coming to Israel to conduct a series of clinics for the IAB. Mr. Shamsky will also be promoting his book, *The Magnificent Seasons*,

about the 1969-70 seasons for the Mets, NY Knicks and NY Jets, who all won their respective championships.

The clinics will be held during the first half of May in cooperation with the Jewish Book Council. Stay tuned to the web site ([www.iab.org.il](http://www.iab.org.il)) for more details.

### Tuesday Night is Baseball Night at the Yarkon Sports Complex (Baptist Village)

Our Senior and Junior leagues are in full swing, and we want you to share in the action. Buy some peanuts and hotdogs. Root for the home team or visitors. Second guess the ump's and the coaches. Juvenile and Cadet coaches - bring your kids: the batting cages will be open, as well as other surprises and competitions. (You will need to reserve the cages in advance - [hdkatz@013.net](mailto:hdkatz@013.net).) First game is April 11.

### Camp of Giants - Summer Day Camp with ex-Major Leaguers

The Israel Association of Baseball and the [Israel Baseball League](http://www.iab.org.il) will hold a baseball day camp for children ages 8-13. The camp will be run by ex-Met and Yankee Elliot Maddox, and ex-Kansas City Royal Bob Tufts, along with

additional professional instructors. In addition to the camp, there will be a one-day Baseball Expo in Jerusalem to showcase Israel baseball to the Israeli public at large, as well as to tourists. The first week will be located at the Yarkon Sports Complex and the second week at Kibbutz Gezer. Below is the schedule of activities:

Date	Time	Location
Sun. July 2 – Thur. July 6	8:30 - 14:00	Baptist Village
Sun. July 9– Thur July 13	8:30 - 14:00	Kibbutz Gezer
Fri. July 7	9:00 - 14:00	Jersl'm Expo

#### Price (NIS)

Sessions	IAB	
	Member	Non-IAB*
5 days	500	600
10 days	800	1000

#### Evening Clinic Age 13-17

Date	Time	Location
Sun July 9 and Thur July 13	19:30 - 22:00	YSC Clinic
Mon July 10 – Wed July 13	19:30 - 22:00	Gezer fielding

#### Price (NIS)

# Sessions (days)	IAB	Non-IAB*
1 day	80	100
5 days	350	450

\* 50% of difference between IAB and Non-IAB rates can be credited to fall registration

### Not One but Two Umpire Courses



Our unflinching ump's, Leon Klarfeld and Craig Dunning, conducted two umpire courses in March. One was for the IAB, adding 10 new umpires to our growing umpire pool; the second took place in



ת.ד. 1672 בית שמש 99000 טל: 02-9910945  
 1672 Bet Shemesh 99000, ISRAEL TEL/FAX: 972-2-9  
 MAIL: [isbasebl@zahav.net.il](mailto:isbasebl@zahav.net.il) web: <http://www.iab.org>



Amman Jordan, with 20 participants. The course was the first step in a renewed cooperation effort with the Amman Little League and we hope it will lead to more events in the near future.

### **Lake Elsinore Storm Baseball Team Supports Israel Baseball Development**



Mr. Gary Jacobs, owner of the [Lake Elsinore Storm](#), a minor league baseball team in the San Diego, CA. area has made a substantial contribution towards the development of baseball in Israel. Mr. Jacobs, who became aware of the IAB through the activities of the [Israel Baseball League](#), has made a generous contribution towards two of the IAB's most pressing needs, the Coaches Training Program and the Junior/Senior activities. The IAB salutes the Storm and Mr. Jacobs.

### **Senior/Junior League Gains Support in Corporate Community**

The Senior and Junior leagues continue to gain support from the corporate community. PTC, a



global leader in design software is sponsoring the Ra'anana team for the second straight year, granting them

MVP status. Mike's Place, has joined our list of



supporters as a new sponsor of the Jerusalem Senior team.

### **International**

**Sports Properties** is contributing to the Senior National Team. In addition to team sponsors, we received 36 wooden bats from [Franklin Sports](#) and 5 wooden bats from the [Lexington Legends](#), and another equipment donation from the Solomon Shechter Sluggers of Long Island.. As we say in Hebrew, Kol Hakavod V' Todah Rabbah.

### **Senior National Team to Begin Practices**

The senior national team, under head coach Jeff Chesnut and assistant coach David Schenker,

have begun their Wednesday night practices. The goal is to participate in the CEB Championships in 2007. Fundraising efforts are underway to meet this goal. For more information contact Jeff ([jefferychestnut@bigfoot.com](mailto:jefferychestnut@bigfoot.com))

### **Juvenile National Team Holds Tryouts**

**Report from Zaq Harrison, team manager**  
Just shy of 40 eager faces met us at the Baptist Villiage as we kicked off the first session of the Juvenile National Team selection mini-camp. Head coach Chuck Tover, previous national team coach David Sommer and the renowned coach Eliyahu Jackson led the prospective team members through a grueling 2 hour workout, focusing on core fundamentals. The mini-camp is scheduled to run 6 sessions. It also constitutes a much needed enrichment program that will benefit the level of play throughout the country. Even the players that do not make the final cut will go back to their local leagues with more experience and new skills. Judging by what we saw in our first 2 sessions the Europeans better beware, Big Blue is coming to play some Baseball

### **JNF Launches Project Baseball**

**JNF**, in partnership with [Israel Baseball league](#) (IBL), will build new fields throughout Israel and improve or replace makeshift ones so that each city will eventually have its own baseball field. The IBL is working in close coordination with the IAB to ensure that the project will be run according to the IAB's priorities. At present, the project is purely a fundraising campaign, and marks is a major step in increasing our exposure to the North American Jewish Community.

### **IAB to Hold Baseball Bridges Tournament in Summer 2007**

An international tournament involving teams from Jewish communities throughout North and South America will be held in Israel for 13-15 year olds. Jay Zauderer ([jsz@netvision.net.il](mailto:jsz@netvision.net.il)) will be organizing the tournament. If you would like to help with the tournament planning, or have contacts with communities who might want to participate in such a tournament please contact Jay.

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UDATES AND MORE INFO [www.iab.org.il](http://www.iab.org.il)**



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