

Texas Alumni High School Baseball Coaches Association

August Newsletter

Volume 3, 2015

We are on the downhill slide of 2015!

The State Tournament was great while it lasted, it is the culminating step in a season for all that participated. The State Tournament was again a once in a life time moment for the schools and ballplayers that were fortunate to win the State title in their classification. It will be remembered by those that were there at all their social gatherings and class reunions from now until the end of time. There is no greater experience for ballplayers, parents, grandparents, and coaches.

Congratulations to all that played and a big Hoorah for those that won their respective UIL classifications. Great Job!!

The All-Star game was again a showcase of talent of the ball players and hard work by the officers of the THSBACA, (the THSBACA officers combined talents and experience, during the time they had to pull that dang tarp on and off the field, not once but twice, was pure coordination of knowhow and want to! It was great not to hear those words of “quit jackin around and get to work!! Great Job!!

As usual there were great plays made by the ballplayers, a testimony to the hard work they put in during the off season, there is no substitute for hard work and want to in Baseball, and it sure was good to see the fruits of that labor during both All-Star Games.

We have a treat this newsletter, it may become known as the TEXAS TRAVELING COACHES SUMMER SALVATION ADVENTURE! But for now we will call it just the Texas Coaches Traveling Summer Adventure.

It was the first ride for the infamous and well-traveled Joe Ray Halsey in an attempt to go see all the baseball parks in the nation. It surely won't be his last.

**Mike McGilvray
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According to Joe Ray it was the best time and most fun he has had since the time the "hogs ate his little brother!" it was thoroughly enjoyable. It had the combination that can't be beat, Great Baseball, good food and a good time by all of the coaches who went on this summer excursion!

This coaching adventure was the brain child of Fred Oliver, he was the one who first conceived the idea of going on that first trip to St. Louis. This group of coaches which has numbered as high as 12, has toured the east coast, west coast and the central plains. The group this year included the following; Fred Oliver, Mike McGilvray, Jim Long, Dale Westmoreland, Ben Scott (Fred's brother-in-law), master navigator Frank Romeo and yours truly Joe Ray Halsey.

Cleveland was the first stop on the itinerary, where we saw a great Cleveland Indian game. We were the guests of Mike Hargove, he provided us with a suite, were treated to some wonderful food, drinks, hospitality and some of the best seats in the house.

A trip to the Rock'n Roll Hall of Fame was on tap next and the show there was topped off with some smooth danc'n moves by Dale-Dale The Danc'n Machine Westmoreland, plus his powerful renditions of some Rockn roll songs. We toured the Cleveland downtown area, enjoyed the local scenery, which was without the aid of any weapons for personal protection. I was quite surprised that Cleveland was this much fun and we were at no time in fear for our lives, the local people

actually told us they enjoyed our Texas accent.

That was just the first day, day two we went to Detroit City in a rented van. This van was great, but the very last seat was designed for three kids ten and under, not three xlarge coaches. It was a good thing that we had a good air conditioner to keep the air moving and not to have that stale air just linger in the back of the bus!! It was a game of rock, paper, scissors to see who it was that rode the pine in the back!

Tiger Ball Park is a wonderful looking stadium, it had the feeling of a college game with the all the tailgating going on. Once inside, we immediately got that “ole time feel’n”, there was a merry go round in one area with a lot of people that had been in touch with the bubbly just spinning away during the game. It was easy getting on, but it was the getting off part that proved to be tricky!! I say this only as an observer!!

Tickets for the game came from Adam LaRoach, who played for Dale at Klein Oak High School. They were great seats with a great view.

Mike McGilvray
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After the game we went to Motown, it was a step into the sixties, Marvin Gay, Tammy Terrell, the Four Tops, the Temptations. It was topped off again by Coach Westmoreland’s tremendous talent of singing and dancing to those Motown Sounds and to be backed up by a trio of coaches, but it was a bit of a letdown when there was not an offer of a contract, rejection, so sad!

We then traveled to the University of Michigan, where we were fortunate enough

to get into the “Big House” and tour the football stadium and the baseball complex,
both were very impressive.

From there we went to Toledo, did not get to see the famous Toledo Mudhens play as they were on a road trip. We met a friend, Michael O’Reilly from the good ole Sun Belt days and were guided to some very good eating spots.

If you run into to Coach Long and Coach Westmoreland down the road you might ask them their rendition of the local laws of Toledo Ohio, it will be worth the time spent listening to them explain their exploits.

The third day was spent in Canton Ohio, the Football Hall of Fame, even for devoted baseball guys, we were impressed by what we saw, so impressed and inspired by what they saw, some of the coaches wanted to get taped and hit the field a-runn’n, it inspired them so much!

We then traveled to Put In Bay which is located on Lake Erie, it was a long ride on a very choppy sea which made for a bumpy ride in that hydroplane boat, there were a few coaches that staggered a night after the ride.

Our last day was spent in Pittsburgh at a ball game, the park was a great sight to see, and the people were very gracious and very accommodating to us all.

We flew home next day tired but happy that we got to see some great sites and baseball and have some good adventures with people that share a common feeling about Baseball.

If you think you might be interested in joining this adventuresome group next summer give Fred Oliver – 806.790.1770 or Mike McGilvray – 713.876.7803 a call for some information, you will not be disappointed I am sure.

Mike McGilvray

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Thank you,

Joe Ray

Joe Ray Halsey

P.S.

If you are wondering why you see Mike McGillivray's name on the newsletter so much, it is because Coach McGillivray stated that he had never got to see his name up in lights or in any type of publication and would indeed like to see his name in the lime light, so we helped him out a bit, so that he could make that particular claim to fame, well here it is in good ole black and white!!!

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