



LITTLE LEAGUE
BASEBALL CANADA
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Featured Coaches

COACHES CORNER

Coach – Inspire - Play

Issue 5

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Welcome to Issue 5 of the Coaches Corner! In this issue, our featured coaches are from District 6 in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Ross Ballard - Trout Lake Little League

Sport has had a massive impact on my life - Playing our country for 8 years on the National Volleyball Team and Professionally across Europe for 10 years obviously has influenced me and impacted my life in so many incredible ways. However, it is through coaching that I have been taught so many valuable "life lessons" from the teams/kids that I have been so fortunate to coach.

My journey in baseball began when my wife asked me to volunteer to coach with Trout Lake the first year my son played T-ball. I said no because I felt I didn't know anything about coaching baseball. Well.... the following year my wife signed me up without me knowing and I find myself 10 years later coaching every level of baseball at Trout Lake, as well as joining the board and taking on the role of League Head Coach. So, it turns out that the baseball stuff a person can learn.

I have been a volleyball coach and teacher at Little Flower Academy for the past 13 years where we've won 3 provincial championships and 3 bronze medals in AAA girls volleyball. As with anything there are moments of learning but one of the most rewarding aspects of coaching for me is seeing the shy or kid who lacks confidence try something new or challenging and succeed. Those moments are so special.

Probably the most striking moments for me are when the team is playing at such a high level because of all the hard work they have put in and they don't need to be micromanaged in key moments because they know what needs to happen and how to make it happen... I would call this "staying out of the way so the kids show they're FLOW." I am always so proud of my athletes when they achieve these moments and they really provide me with so much joy to see the team playing in such a state. It just has everything to do with them just being immersed in the game and "dialed into" whatever they need to do. It is magical for me to watch this happen.

Editors:

Corinne Chow
Ken Bradley
Candice Henson

(continue on next page)

Featured Coaches (con't.)

(Ross Ballard...)

Some things that I try to bring to all of my teams is a High Performance Attitude but also fun. If a kid isn't having fun... then I am doing something wrong. However, with fun obviously comes dedication, buying into the process (this really just comes down to putting in the work), but most importantly being a good teammate and creating a common ideal or team philosophy. As a coach I think my best attribute is getting the group, as a whole, to play at its highest level in the moments that matter the most.

Trout Lake Little League has given so much Joy to me and my family. I feel so fortunate that my wife pushed me into coaching baseball sending me on an unexpected journey where I have been so blessed to share so many special moments with my two sons and now I get to reinvigorate myself with my daughter who has begun her journey into TL baseball this year in Rookies. 5 & 6 year olds are just so entertaining!!

Go Lakers Go!



Steven Yee – Trout Lake Little League

Steve is an avid Little League baseball fan and spends most of his spring and summer either coaching or following the road to the Little League World Series for teams from across Canada. He is a devoted father of three and husband to one. Steve began his Little League career while doing his Masters of Applied Science degree at the University of British Columbia when after a not so long day of studies, he would drive a short distance to Jericho Park where he coached a Junior team at what was then West Point Grey Little League. Several years later when Steve had children of his own, he rekindled his coaching career starting first at Renfrew-Killarney

Little League but eventually returning to his Little League Alma Mater, Trout Lake Little League. His children have long finished playing ball, but Steve continues to coach for the love of the game, to teach children to play outside and to hopefully one day make it to the Little League World Series.

Steven first coached in 1991 and started with his own children in 2004.

The most reward aspect of being a coach is watching children gain confidence, learning and improving. My greatest feeling is when a player I've coached many years ago breaks away from their group of friends to come over to say hello to me. I have been told my greatest strength as a coach is my positive attitude.

Featured Coaches (con't.)



Steven Marcus – Petite Ligue Communautaire de Hastings

I moved to Canada in 2012 from New York. Growing up in the states, Baseball was a huge part of my life from playing in the New York well known SYAG baseball organization, to playing in high school and beyond. I have been part of the Hastings Little League organization now for 10 years as a dad, board member, and a coach. I am fortunate to work in a financial organization that allows me to have the time to devote to little league baseball and be the coach for my daughter now for almost 10

years. I have spent my time in Hastings little league coaching, T-Ball, Rookie, Minor, Major, Selects, and All-Stars and have enjoyed every bit of it.

1. **How long have you been a coach?** I have been coaching Hastings Little League for 10 years. I have coached from the Tball level all the up to the Major level.
2. **What is the most rewarding aspect of being a coach?** There is nothing more satisfying then watching kids take what you taught them and put it to use effectively. I have always preached that coaching little league house ball is not just about winning, it's more about giving the kids the skills they need to perform at a level which makes them enjoy the game.
3. **What are your strengths as a coach?** I would say knowledge....being part of this game for 45 years has allowed me to obtain a lot of knowledge to teach and demonstrate to the kids. I also like to keep things light with the understanding of work, dedications, and passion must be given at every practice and games. In my opinion, trying to coach or teach from an angle of yelling and hard discipline simply is not effective at the little league level.
4. **How would your players describe you?** I would think my players would describe me as one of them just only much older and bigger. I try to keep things fun and silly at all times and introduce different competitions and rewards for the kids to keep their energy levels up along with their drive to succeed and win.
5. **What drew you to become a coach?** I wanted my daughter to have the comfort in joining a mostly all boys team. She was apprehensive not having other girls around and having me as her coach gave her the comfort to come out and be the only girl on most of her teams. This has allowed her to be playing in the Hastings organization for 9 years.

Fun Facts

Why is a baseball field called a diamond? Because of the shape of the infield.

What was baseball originally called? The game was called rounders. This was a game that came from England.

When was the first Little League game? On June 6, 1939. Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy, 23-8. Lycoming Dairy came back to win the season's first-half title, and faced second-half champ Lundy Lumber in a best-of-three series. Lycoming Dairy won the final game of the series, 3-2.

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On behalf of the Coaching Advisory Action Group, thank you for reading our newsletter.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future issues such as coach to be featured, stories or jokes, please submit them to: bradleysdj@ns.sympatico.ca

Thank you!