



.B.B.L. 2007



**ELMSHADE ESTATERS
O.B.B.L. 2006 Champions**

by Ari Hirsch

The Orthodox Bungalow Baseball League was started by Milton Pfeifer and Gerald Schreck in 1977. Thousands of frum players have participated in the O.B.B.L. over the last thirty years. Children and grandchildren of original players enjoy the fun of the league today. Last summer the O.B.B.L. introduced a new COMMISSIONER YOEL ZAGELBAUM.

Before the summer The Country Vues sat down with the commissioner and asked him a few questions:

Q. How was your first year as O.B.B.L. commissioner?

A. B"H the first year went swimmingly (at least I think it did). It's important to understand the captains and players in the league are very accommodating and helpful and they make my job relatively simple. Of course, the credit belongs to Jerry Schreck, who built the league and gave me all the tools I need to continue his vision.

Q. Has the new administration changed a lot of things since the previous regime?

A. There have been some minor changes. We have put a lot of work into updating the website at OBBL.com. We feel that a tremendous importance must be placed on getting information to the teams and the website allows us to do that seamlessly. Obviously, it's still a work in progress, but when we are done we hope that OBBL.com can become a year-round hub for news and information for the OBBL and its extended family.

Q. How many teams are you expecting this summer?

A. The schedule isn't finalized but we are expecting about the same number of teams as last year, 40 or so. As is usually the case, there are a few new teams and some new teams in new places - Central Park Estates, Woodlake Village and Pine Tree Bungalow Colony. Of course, old favorites like the Lobos and Castle Hill are back for another run at a division crown.

Q. Is there anything you would like to share with our readers?

A. Our most important priority is trying to get the kids out to the games to experience the thrill of watching their parents and older siblings play organized softball. Obviously, we aren't the major leagues, but I know that I still remember and reminisce with friends about the great O.B.B.L. players from when I was a kid. For instance, I still get reminded from time to time about this one play that David Schonbrun made in center field while playing for the Silver Bullets a long time back, and I still remember Elliot Safer and Sammy Trencher hitting balls out of Krieger Park in Woodridge. I know people still talk about the old days in places like Kaufman's and Fair Oaks and Mintz Bungalow Colonies, among many other places.

So I guess what I am trying to say is bring your kids to the games. Let them watch and learn the right way to play sports. **Good luck to all of our teams on the coming season!**

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