

June 2017



The JetHawks Journal

The Official Newsletter of the Flight Crew Booster Club

Words From the Chair

The other night I traveled to California City to see a Pecos Baseball League game. I had driven past the field a few weeks ago and was doubtful if the little league facility would be ready for league play in less than 6 weeks. When I arrive at the site for the game I found the facility was still a work in progress, but a lot had happened that included additional lighting, covered dugouts, press box and sound system, green grass where dirt had been, outfield and perimeter fencing, and bleacher seating for about two hundred people. Most of these improvements were all accomplished by volunteers, city workers, and players after they arrived. I heard many people discussing projects for the coming weekend and when material arrives. The city has done a great job in supporting the new team by finding host homes for all the players to stay at, this was done in less than 5 weeks. They are planning on replacing the infield dirt (sand) with clay during the next week and a cushion guard for the top of fencing has been ordered.

The Pecos League has two divisions (Pacific and Mountain) with six teams in each division. The Pacific division is made up of the following teams: Bakersfield Trainrobbers, Tucson Saguaros, High Desert Yardbirds, Cal City Whiptails, Monterey Amberjacks, and Hollywood Stars. The old Cal League fields located in Bakersfield and High Desert are now being used by teams in the Pecos League. I believe the Pecos League skill level of players is about equal to a Community college team, I was told the players did not have previous experience in professional baseball, and most have one or two years of college.

They have three portable rest rooms within the field enclosure, the snack stand is part of the little league complex and is about 100 yards from the field and this building has inside restrooms. They are hoping to have beer sales on site in the next few weeks. The game I went to had about 60 spectators setting in lawn chairs or the bleachers. The admission was six dollars and you should park near the snack stand to lower the chance of a baseball hitting your car.

The following is a portion of an article in Baseball America that I thought was interesting: "Of the 2,366 drafted players in the minors, more than two-thirds (68.05%) of them come from 4-year colleges and 9.04% from Junior college. High school players account for nearly one-quarter (22.91%) of drafted players. Ninety-five out of every 100 minor league players turned pro either through the draft or international free agency (no International draft). Passed-over players in the draft who signed as free agents represent 3.65% of minor league players. The independent leagues represent 0.79%, Mexican league 0.24%, and Korea and Japan represent 0.6%. Further breaking down the 2,366 drafted players by state we find the California leads all states with 389 players, Florida with 272, Texas with 231, Georgia and North Carolina with 99 each, South Carolina with 79, Tennessee with 74, Arizona with 64, Oklahoma with 60, Louisiana and New York with 56 each. Three states-California, Florida, and Texas-produced 45.8% of all full-season minor league players drafted out of high school. Those same three states produced 52.8% of all players drafted out of junior college."

Rich

FLIGHT CREW BOOSTER CLUB

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Have you visited the Booster Club website
or the FaceBook page lately?

www.jethawksboosterclub.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board meetings- at Primo Cafe
7/1

General Membership Meetings
6/15, 7/13

Shakey's Fundraisers
6/21, 8/2 5-8PM

Banquet AV Country Club
August 21, 2017

JetHawks Homestands

June 8-11 vs Inland Empire

June 12 vs Lake Elsinore

June 19-21 All Star Break

June 22-25 vs Rancho
Cucamonga

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Saturday
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"Shake the Quakes!"



PLAYER SUPPORT

I'm happy to report that all players are comfortably housed and sponsored. Here are the latest numbers:

Living at home-3

Living in 3 rental houses-10

In apartments-0

Hosted in 6 homes-12

My goal this year was to have a possible host for every player that wanted one. I got pretty close.

There are booster events that are very appreciated and supported by our wonderful players. In case some of you boosters aren't aware, I've gotten great feedback on our potlucks and even though some players don't attend every Sunday, the ones who do really look forward to the variety and quality of the 'spread' and some visiting with boosters.

The Friday night grill meals by Lester and his team are getting rave reviews. The boys really look forward to these. If you haven't been asked by Lester to provide a side dish, feel free to approach him. He'll give you the details about quantity and timing to see if you might like to take a Friday evening to help out. No pressure! It would be nice to spread this service around to lots of members.

And one last reminder for you who are sponsoring, don't forget about the snack bags for non-commute road trips. One of my players assures me that nothing goes to waste that is sent. There's trading and sharing going on! Let me know if you need help with this part of sponsoring. I'm happy to help out.

Go JetHawks! Go Rockies!

Judy Lester

Player Support

661-860-7828

txjudyinca@yahoo.com

Annual Player Appreciation Banquet

Planning for the Annual Player Appreciation Banquet, at the Antelope Valley Country Club on August 21st, is under way. Ticket prices remain the same as last year - \$35 for adults and \$25 for children under 10. Ticket sales begin at the stadium on May 9th, contact Dave or Judy in Section 204, Row A to purchase. This is an event you will not want to miss. As usual, you must be a booster club member to attend.



Evolution of the baseball



See Curt after the games if you can help. Bags and gloves are provided.

Player of the Month



Pot Luck after the games on June 11th and June 25th. Bring a main dish for 20-25 and your assigned item.



California League Players of the Week

The JetHawks have 5 Player of the Week winners during the month of May!

- 5/1-7 Sam Hilliard
- 5/8-14 Brendan Rodgers
Jesus Tinoco pitcher
- 5/15-21 Wes Rogers
- 5/22-28 Brendan Rodgers

By Tyler Maun / MiLB.com | June 2, 2017 1:59 AM ET

No matter where he is, Brendan Rodgers rakes. Already a dominant force this season at home, he's finding his stroke on the road.

Colorado's top prospect recorded his eighth straight multi-hit game with a double and two singles, but Class A Advanced Lancaster fell, 7-6, to Stockton in 11 innings Thursday night. He's racked up at least three hits in nine 2017 contests and for the fourth time in seven games.

Rodgers calls The Hangar -- one of the Minor Leagues' most offensive-friendly ballparks -- his home, and the young shortstop has taken advantage of his surroundings. In 16 home games, Rodgers is batting .500 with a .526 on-base percentage and .941 slugging percentage.

Brendan has been named the Cal League Player of the Month for May 2017

Are you doing a scrapbook for the player you sponsor? It can be as simple or as inclusive as you want to make it. Some players have been given theirs as a "flash drive" book. Or all of the pages are included on a CD. These are especially great ideas if you plan to finish it after the end of the season. Mailing a scrapbook can cost more than \$20 if it has to be sent later. Judy Lester and Suzi Eslick will be happy to share ideas and resources. Anything you do will be appreciated by your player when their time here is done.