

# Sandlot 2009 Summer Hitting League Summary (Week 1)

## Overall Summary:

The 2009 Summer season got off to a nice start. Everyone quickly got a feel for how a typical game works. The Junior Bracket (11U) boys are very evenly matched up and it looks like a great season is ahead of us. The Freshmen Bracket (8U) boys got off to a slow start as only Andy and Travis were able to make the first week's game. Evan and Nathan will be catching up this week. These four boys are the youngest we've ever had participate in a Sandlot hitting league. We will make the Freshmen Bracket more of an instructional league and not really worry too much about the competition. The kids should concentrate on individual improvements and not try to compare themselves to each other or to the boys in the 11U bracket.

## Junior Bracket Summary:

In the 11U bracket things started a bit rocky. Alex Preston had to bow out after warm-ups with soreness in his hand. We haven't received a report back on Alex yet but we hope everything is positive. As a result, Nathan Simmons was called upon for double-duty and had to hit all 8 innings of his team's game. Nathan's first four innings counted toward his personal and team score and then his next four innings just counted toward the team score only. Nathan's effort helped his team, Blue Lightning, pull out the win over Homerun Hitters by a score of 51-45. The late match between Grand Slammers and All-Stars was a thriller. Every inning of the game was close with four points or less separating the individual hitters each inning. All-Stars had built a 12 point advantage after the sixth inning before the Grand Slammers mounted their Ruthian comeback. The comeback was capped by a 17 point inning from Tim Steele in the 8th to give the Grand Slammers a brief but solid 8 point lead. Robbie Cerasuolo had put up 6 points going into his last three pitches. He singled twice to tie the game going into the final pitch then doubled to secure the victory for the All-Stars by a 63-61 score.

Blue Thunder got the first week BYE (automatic win) while scoring an impressive 63 point outing. Great job by all!

## Freshmen Bracket Summary:

The Freshmen bracket was only partially filled during week #1. Andy Potter and Travis Garnett were the only hitters this first week. No wins or losses were recorded but both kids got a chance to see what it was like to hit off the Iron Mikes. Andy did a great job which included a Homerun in his 4 innings of hitting. Although he had a bit of trouble adjusting to the speed of the machine, Travis kept a positive attitude throughout the contest and is looking forward to next week. Evan and Nathan will get started this coming week. To keep a positive light on the hitting league we will try different approaches for our youngest hitters. Some tee-work and an alternate scoring system will be tried to determine the best system for measurement of progress and improvement.

## C.H.A.M.P.S. Summary:

C.H.A.M.P.S. stands for **Coachable, Honor, Attitude, Mentor, Perseverence, Sportsmanship**. These are the character traits that we stress in Sandlot programs in developing well rounded student-athletes. During Week #1, the C.H.A.M.P.S. focus was on the **Attitude** trait. The C.H.A.M.P.S. letter during week #1 goes to Travis Garnett. Travis was a member of the Sandlot Little Sluggers program last year and learned a great deal about the game of baseball and the importance of keeping a positive **attitude**. Travis struggled in his first battle with the pitching machine this week but maintained a great **attitude** and kept doing his best on every pitch. Travis has been seen around the Sandlot this week working hard to improve his game. Congratulations Travis!