



7th Inning Stretch

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This Month's Newsletter

Welcome back...

First of all, a big thanks to those of you who have signed up to receive the newsletter every month, as well as all the nice comments about the idea, it's greatly appreciated.

This is the first real issue, with real news and information, so I hope you enjoy it. Remember, I need news to keep this thing alive, so please try to get anything you can to me by as close to the end of the month as possible, as I want to try to issue the newsletter on the 1st of every month.

Bob Taunton

District Administrator

Ontario Little League District 7

"Mickey" on DVD and Contest Details

Little League Canada is proudly endorsing this new film, and has a contest running, which is open to all Little Leaguers. Please [click here](#) to go to the Little League Canada website to see previews for the film, as well as to obtain a ballot to enter the contest.

More information regarding the movie follows below in an article taken from the Little League International website:

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (March 16, 2005) – "Mickey," a film written and produced by John Grisham, will be available soon on DVD.

Harry Connick Jr., stars in "Mickey," an original screenplay written by the best-selling author, who played Little League Baseball in Southaven, Miss., in the 1960s.

The DVD will be available for shipping within the next couple of weeks from the Little League on-line store. To order now, [click here](#). The price is \$19.95, plus shipping. The DVD also will be available in stores.

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Much of the final portion of "Mickey" was filmed in June and August 2001 at Little League International in South Williamsport, home of the Little League Baseball World Series. A film crew of about 100 spent 12 days in the Williamsport area.

The film, directed by Hugh Wilson, opened last year in selected U.S. cities. Mr. Wilson also directed "The First Wives Club," "Guarding Tess," and "Blast from the Past," among other hits.

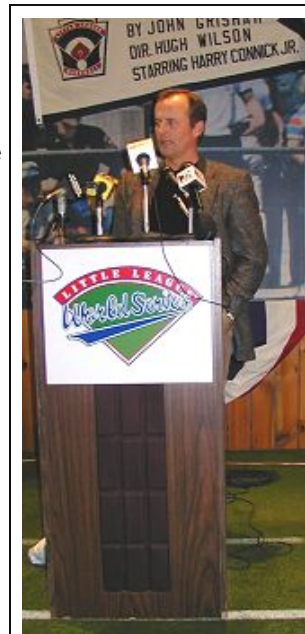
In "Mickey," Tripp Spence and Derrick decide to assume new identities and flee to Las Vegas, forcing Derrick (whose new name is Mickey), to forego his final year of eligibility in the Major Division of the local Little League in Virginia. But Mickey's new identity makes him a year younger, and he plays in the following year as a 12-year-old, believing that the fraud will end with the final game of the regular season.

"Most serious Little League dads like myself have the thought, 'What I would give for one more year of Little League Baseball,'" Mr. Grisham said. "That's where the thought originated, and I took it a step or two further and concocted a plot and a scheme whereby a father could do that."

They don't count on the fact that the league they've joined in Las Vegas is about to have a dream season, and its all-star team - led by Mickey - will have a chance to reach the pinnacle of youth sports: the Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

"My two favorite sporting events each year to watch on television are the College World Series and the Little League World Series," Mr. Grisham said. "I'd rather watch the Little League World Series than watch the Yankees and Braves."

Shawn Salinas ("All That," Nickelodeon), an actor/athlete from California, plays the title role. The role of Tony, Mickey's coach, is played by Mike Starr ("Dumb and Dumber," "Ed Wood," "Mad Dog and Glory," "On Deadly Ground" and "The Bodyguard"). Michelle Johnson ("Death Becomes Her," "Far and Away") plays the principal of the Las Vegas school where Mickey and his father end up.



"Mickey" screenwriter John Grisham came to Williamsport in the spring of 2001 for a news conference at the Peter J. McGovern Little League Museum.

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Mr. Grisham's first visit to Williamsport came in February 2001 to pitch the idea to Little League International.

"We knew that Little League's involvement would be crucial because the story culminates at the World Series in Williamsport," Mr. Grisham said. "Hugh (Wilson, the film's director) and I flew up to Williamsport and I got the grand tour of the facility for the first time. For me it was almost like going to heaven.



Crewmembers from "Mickey" outnumbered the players during the filming of "Mickey" at Howard J. Lamade Stadium in June 2001.

"When we filmed the two weeks up there, we asked the locals to come and play extras in the movie. Williamsport and the surrounding community answered the call and were extremely supportive."

Other portions of "Mickey" were filmed in Charlottesville, as well as Richmond, and Petersburg, Va.

Mr. Grisham's first novel, "A Time to Kill," was published in 1988 while he was a practicing attorney and a member of the Mississippi state legislature. His next novel, "The Firm," spent 47 weeks on The New York Times best-seller list. It was made into a movie starring Tom Cruise, and the film became one of the biggest hits of 1993. "The Pelican Brief," starring Julia Roberts as a Tulane University law student, was released the following year and was another major hit. "The Client" and "The Chamber" enjoyed similar best-seller status, and in 1994 "The Client" became yet another hit film, this time with Susan Sarandon starring in a role that earned her an Oscar nomination.

Several of John Grisham's novels have been adapted for the big screen. "Mickey" was his second original screenplay to be made into a movie. The first was "The Gingerbread Man" in 1998. Another best-selling novel, "A Painted House," was made into a television movie.

Mr. Wilson has directed several box office successes, but also is known from his days in television. He was the creator of "WKRP in Cincinnati," and wrote for the "The Bob Newhart Show." This was his first project with Mr. Grisham.

"I have always wanted to make a baseball movie," Mr. Wilson said.

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"John and I have known each other for some time, and when I read 'Mickey,' I knew this would be the one."



Some of the extras in the filming of "Mickey" were autograph seekers - a common sight at the Little League Baseball World Series.

Harry Connick Jr., has played a tailgunner in "Memphis Belle," a college student in "Little Man Tate," a serial killer in "Copycat," a jet fighter pilot in "Independence Day," a leading man/love interest in "Hope Floats," and has a recurring role on television's "Will and Grace." But he is best known for the musical sides to his personality: big band, New Orleans funk, classic American standards and jazz. He has numerous multi-platinum albums, is a Grammy Award winner and has been nominated for an Academy Award and an Emmy.

Before "Mickey," only one other motion picture, "The Little Giants" in 1958, had received permission to use the Little League trademarks. "The Little Giants" is the story of the Monterrey, Mexico, Little League team that won the Little League Baseball World Series title in 1957. The movie also was the last to be filmed substantially in the Williamsport area.

"We're pleased that Mr. Grisham wrote his screenplay with Little League Baseball as the backdrop," Mr. Keener said. "Little League rarely approves the use of its trademarks in films or on television. However, we believe that the positive moral message at the outcome of 'Mickey,' as well as the outstanding reputation of Mr. Grisham, Mr. Wilson and the entire production company will reflect well on Little League."

LL Baseball...The Quintessential Experience

The following article appeared in the Cypress Park Little League 2005 Newsletter, which was published in January. Thanks Rick for an excellent article.

Please feel free to check out Cypress Park's web page at <http://eteamz.active.com/cypressparkll>

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LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

The Quintessential Experience

Can you think of any activity where children and adults can have as much fun: meeting people; making new friends; developing social and athletic skills; working as a team for a common goal; and learning how to deal with success as well as disappointment, all while enjoying being outdoors?

Amateur baseball isn't just recreation; it's entertainment, even if you're not a coach (and they can be pretty entertaining at times!). Imagine a club with no initiation fee and inexpensive annual dues, that offers the opportunity to meet and socialize with people from all walks of life in a friendly, inviting, outdoor atmosphere. From what I've observed, parents in the grandstand have as much fun as the players on the field. Our game is played in the fresh air, usually in good weather, at beautiful parks in nearby neighborhoods, and at civilized hours. It beats getting up well before dawn or keeping children up well past bedtime driving to and from some uninviting, damp and frosty building clear across town. Our sport certainly beats huddling under an umbrella on the sidelines on a cold, dreary and wet autumn day. Our kids don't play baseball in the pouring rain on a patch of gravel!

Perhaps you're thinking: "But hockey and lacrosse are Canada's games!" Oh, really? How many NHL games have you been watching this winter? In the meantime, Jason Bay of the Pittsburgh Pirates, a former Little League player from Trail, BC, became the 2004 National League Rookie of the Year; three time NL batting champion Larry Walker from Maple Ridge powered the St. Louis Cardinals into the 2004 World Series; and Justin Morneau of New Westminster batted in heart of the order for the Minnesota Twins during the American League divisional playoff series. More than a few Canadians, from right here in British Columbia, have been holding their own rather well lately in our Neighbors to the South's revered "national pastime."

Little league baseball is more than just another activity to keep kids busy. Enjoying the sport goes way beyond the numbers on the scorebook. It's more than just a game. Baseball teaches children the discipline of teamwork. Kids learn about getting along with others from different neighborhoods, about not letting their teammates down by being on time for practices and being actively involved during the game, and about striving to give the team their best, regardless of their caliber of skill. The very nature of the game also teaches that, despite striking out, or not making the best throw, or not catching the ball, there is always another at-bat, another play, the next game, many more chances for success. Only the few overly zealous parents get wrapped up about winning and losing (this isn't amateur hockey!); for the children, the important thing is to be having fun.

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Baseball is a life experience for parents. For me, it has been one of the joys of parenting. Each Spring for the past nine years, I have seen my son grow up on the baseball diamond. I have watched him become part of a new team each season. I saw him make his first out in the field, catch his first fly ball, connect on his first base hit. I watched him turn an F9–3 double play with a throw to first base. Like many of us, I have shared his bitter disappointment of striking out with runners in scoring position. But I also got to share his own and his team's excitement the day he hit a game winning two RBI double. I have shared my son's love for the game.

Baseball can be at least this varied, as entertaining and rewarding an experience, both for you and your children. So, get involved (become a league volunteer), demonstrate your enthusiasm (attend your child's games) – for your child's sake, and you're your own. I have no doubt you will be favorably surprised by just how enjoyable the baseball experience will be.

We'll see you at the ballpark!

*Rick Hatch
President, Cypress Park Little League
West Vancouver, BC*

Leagues Merge in Calgary



News Release

Calgary's Newest Little League

The 2005 season brings a new League to Alberta District 8. **Calgary Rocky Mountain Little League** has been formed from a merger of the Continental LL and Southland LL, both members of District 8.

During the past 4 years, the Executives from Continental and Southland have worked together to provide a full program in South Central Calgary. From 'working together' situations, naturally grew the idea of a merger. Both leagues could be defined as 'inner city' without a new development or growth areas.

In October 2004, the AGMs of both leagues voted to accept a

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proposal to run a single chartered league for the 2005 season and to complete the merger (the legal stuff) following that. A new Executive was elected and as registration winds up, we believe that we will reach and quite probably exceed the total baseball registration that the 2 leagues had in 2004.

There is a new excitement within our boundaries as a new name and logo are used in our recruitment. The commitment of the combined Executive is "fan"-tastic and we are all eagerly awaiting the weather to cooperate to start the season.

Play Ball – Rocky Mountain Little League

Florian Green
President
www.crmll.com

Marthe's Reminders

The deadline for 2005 Charter application submission is April 15th.

Early submission of the charter application will allow us at Canadian Headquarters to send out rule books, umpire manuals, coaching material and other materials that will assist your league during the coming season. If you are not sure of the exact number of teams you will charter you can estimate the number of teams and then send in a correction later, once your teams are set. Payment of the charter fees need not accompany the submission of the charter application. We will send a detailed invoice, usually within 30 days after the charter is processed and payment can be made at that time, or you can make payment by cheque when you submit your charter application.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK April 17 – 23, 2005 "Volunteers Grow Community"

Please take advantage of this special week to recognize your Little League volunteers and express your sincere thanks and appreciation to each and everyone for their invaluable contributions. The strength and success of the Little League program lies in the talented corps of volunteers – from the coaches to the people who prepare the playing fields and umpire the games. Your efforts on behalf of all the players, merits our deepest appreciation.

NEW SPONSOR FOR 2005

We are please to announce that **COMBAT BASEBALL** has become the Official Bat for Little League Baseball Canada for the 2005 season.

COMBAT BASEBALL has created a fundraising program geared to

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registered Little Leagues and/or teams across Canada.. **(see attached document)**.

COMBAT BATS will assure that Canadian Little League players have access to excellent Combat brand bats this season.

We hope that you will take advantage of this incredible offer.

Brain Teasers

Do you have a baseball brain teaser to pass along? Send it in, and I'll get it on the page. This page can't only be serious, it has to have a bit of fun on it as well. Here's one for this month...

There are seven ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Taking a base on balls - a walk - is one way. Name the other six. [Answer at the bottom of the page.](#)

Upcoming Tournaments

Do you have a tournament you would like advertised? Let me know, and I'll add a section for tournaments in all areas of the country. Please note that the tournaments we advertise here must be approved Little League Tournaments.

Little League Canadian Championships

All details of the Canadian Championships will be posted to this newsletter for all to see.

Recognition Of Little League Volunteers

Do you have volunteers in your organization who have reached a milestone? 5 Years service, 10 years, etc. Let us know, and we'll make sure all of Canada is aware of the great volunteers in this country.

Upcoming Important dates

Upcoming Little League Canada, or Provincial meetings scheduled? Send them in, and I'll post them here

Answer to Brain Teaser: Batter hit by a pitch; passed ball; catcher interference; catcher drops third strike; fielder's choice; and being designated as a pinch runner.

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LITTLE LEAGUE BUY-IN PROGRAM



Let your players enjoy the added performance and durability of Combat 100% composite bats this season! Combat Canada is please to offer a unique buy in program for all Canadian Little Leagues. League may purchase bats at discounts of up to 40%!

	MSRP (\$)	1 – 9 UNITS (25%)	10-19 UNITS (33.5%)	20 + UNITS (40%)
B1YB	175.00	131.25	116.38	105.00
C4YB	145.00	108.75	96.43	87.00

Order 6 bats or more and you will get free ground shipment within Canada.

Not only do Combat composite bats provide superiour performance, but they don't dent like their aluminum counterparts resulting in greater durability. As opposed to other manufacturers Combat bats will carry a one-time replacement warranty for the course of the Little League season, even on team use bats.

Our program will not only offer you an opportunity to save some money but to make some as well. If you insert a Combat link to your website you will receive a League Affiliation code. When a customer orders a bat using this code they will receive a 10% discount and you will receive a 15% commission!

If you have any questions on this program please contact Bruce MacAllister of Combat at 1-866-904-BATS (2287), or by e-mail bruce@combatbaseball.ca.