

Queens Voc Baseball

Baseball . . . As It Ought to Be !

vol. 15 no. 1 November 2011

Tryouts

Tryouts lasted only a day, but the fifty-three boys who tried-out for baseball this fall demonstrated enough talent to give us reason to think we'll have a good 2012 season.

Tryouts took place on Friday, September 30. Rain prevented tryouts the previous day. Thanks to **Jose Alvarez** ('11), **Annaldo Jimenez** ('08), and **Manny Portorreal** ('08) for helping run tryouts. Thanks also to **Armando Avila** ('11), our first-ever four year captain, for stopping by on his way from college to work, to offer some words of encouragement.

For the first time in nearly a decade, the team held no fall scrimmages, a result of a late start, as many of the returning veterans didn't help get our team organized in time. The fall scrimmages allow us to see the rookies in real-game situations and enhance our ability to make good selections. Without them, selections were difficult.

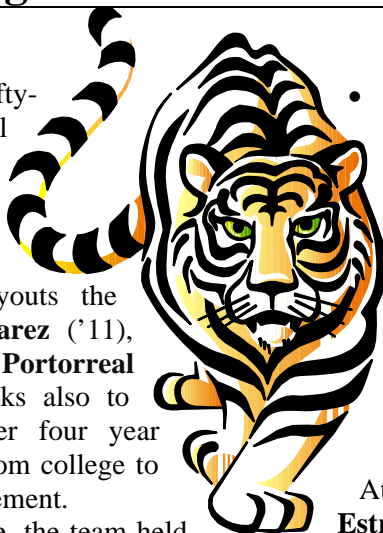
The boys who have been selected, which include 16 returning veterans from last year, plus another 3 veterans from previous years, have been joined by 12 rookies we have picked who we believe will help the team this year.

The math will show a roster of 31 players. That's a lot, but once the second and third marking period report cards are out, we anticipate a reduced number. Four of the new players are seniors, bringing our senior total to 13. We were not looking to build for this year only to decimate our team for next year.

Congratulations

The boys selected for varsity are:

Henry Alvarez	Jordan Balcacer
Bryant Cartagena	Erik Castro
Andy Collado	Daniel Corona
Alex Cruz	Saul Cruz
Rodolfo Diaz	Daniel Henao
Kevin Hernandez	Max Manticof
Jose Monegro	Radison Moronta
Joan Mulato	Hamza Naseer
Javier Pasarin	Alexander Peña
David Peña	Diony Perez
Jason Perez	Nathaniel Rodriguez
Adonis Rosario	Mario Salcedo
Jesse Santander	Gary Santos
Brandon Taveras	Joseph Taveras
Cristian Trujillo	Greamy Ureña
Daniel Vargas	



Upcoming Activities

- Wednesday, Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Dinner, 5pm at Queens Voc.
- Friday, Dec. 2: Conditioning Club, 4pm
- Friday, Dec. 9: Conditioning Club, 4pm
- Friday, Dec. 16: Pool Tournament, 4pm at Steinway Café Billiards. \$10.
- Friday, Jan. 6: Conditioning Club, 4pm
- Friday, January 20: Conditioning Club, 4pm

Giving Thanks

At the beginning of the 2006-07 season, **Elbel Estrella**, **Dio Gonzalez**, and **Dan Medina**, who would later become the team's captains, secretly planned a team Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a huge success. It brought together the newly assembled team and numerous former players. It was the beginning of a great season. **Elbel** remarked that "we wanted to start our own tradition." The tradition continues on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 5pm. Thanks again, guys, for what you brought to the team, and for what you added!



Pool Tournament

Our sixth-annual Queens Voc baseball pool tournament will be held on Friday, December 16, at Steinway Café Billiards, 35-25 Steinway Street, Astoria, NY 11102. Our first five tournaments were highly successful and we are looking forward to another fun day. Current and past baseball players are invited. Advance notice is appreciated. Call the coach, or e-mail him at Coach@QVTigers.org. The cost is \$10 for each pool player. The tournament will run from 4pm to 7:30pm.



School, Baseball, and the Rest of Your Life

School should be the team members' number one priority. Students are expected to attend school each day and pass all their classes. But keep in mind that Tigers baseball comes second. Team members are expected to do what is best for the team. Attending all team events, staying out of trouble, and maintaining eligibility are all part of each team members' responsibility to the team.

Pool Tournament: Fri., December 16

Tee Shirts

Again this fall, we will sell Queens Voc Tigers Baseball tee shirts. The shirts have been designed and orders are being taken now, for a pre-Christmas delivery. Order forms have been mailed with this newsletter, but anyone interested in ordering a shirt can do so by contacting the coach at Coach@QVTigers.org. The cost will remain \$10.

QVTigers.org

Our team website is a great source of up-to-date information about our team. Our schedule of activities is posted, and we recently updated it with more pictures from the late '90s. We have also posted pictures of It's My Park Day, Halloween Bash, and the Queens Volunteer Recognition, and a baseball clinic in Central Park that the Tigers and New York Mets helped out at. There are also many pictures from past events, a history of uniform numbers, past newsletters, and awards from previous years. You can also register for up-to-date e-mails from us. Have ideas for improvement? Let us know. You can email us at Team@QVTigers.org.

Tigers Cleanup NYC

Queens Voc baseball again participated in the "It's My Park! Fall Cleanup Day" at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Thirty-one boys who tried-out for Queens Voc baseball participated in the park cleanup on Saturday, October 15. In addition, we were joined by students from freshmen leadership, led by **Ms. Ferrara**, a regular attendee of Tigers baseball games.

This has become a regular event for the Tigers. It allows us to work together to help keep our home park clean, develop bonds among fellow baseball players, and gain for our team recognition among park administrators.

Halloween Madness

Queens Voc varsity baseball team members donned scary costumes at the Arrow Community Center's Halloween Bash on Saturday, October 29, a day that was more reminiscent of Christmas with the falling snow.

This was our second year assisting at this event for young children.

While there, **Vivian Cruz**, with whom we have worked since her days at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, presented the team with a plaque from the City of New York Parks & Recreation department. The plaque reads: "Presented to **Coach Rob Schimenz** and the Tigers Baseball Team, 2005-2011, for your generous support to Queens Recreation." Thanks to those boys who helped out. Photos are posted on QVTigers.org.

Tigers & Mets @ Central Park

The Tigers, as part of their Action Team participation, worked alongside some New York Mets players to conduct a one-day baseball training camp. Many members of the Tigers attended the event at Central Park and helped teach some basic baseball skills to hundreds of younger children. Pictures are posted on the team website.

Help on the Way?

Preparing for the upcoming season doesn't start in March. Since we returned to the school in September for orientation, a lot of work has already been done. Some of you have stopped by and offered to help.

There is still a lot to do. We have tee shirts to sell, a pool tournament to plan, and duffle bags, uniforms, and jackets to order.

Some team members stop by daily, but few stop by to assist. All team members can do more. The help we get will make our team better.

Join SO

All members of school sports teams are required to join the SO. Now that we've picked our team, each baseball player should join the SO. Membership entitles you to use a school locker and to attend home basketball games (which we'll be doing). There are other benefits as well. See **Mr. Vega** in Room 143 to join if you have not already done so.

Parks Recognition Event

Once again, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park **Commissioner Estelle Cooper** invited the Tigers leadership to the annual Queens Parks Recognition event at Terrace on the Park. The event was held on Monday, Nov. 7. **Daniel Corona** and **Kevin Hernandez**, the previous year's captains, attended along with the coach.

Action Team Training

Varsity team members **Henry Alvarez, Bryant Cartagena, Kevin Hernandez, Jose Monegro, Diony Perez, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Joseph Taveras, and Cristian Trujillo** attended Action Team training at Citi Field. Players from the Mets and Phillies spoke with the Action Team trainees about the importance of community service. The training took place on Saturday, September 24, prior to a Mets-Phillies game. The training session was webcast and featured numerous Tigers players discussing past community service projects. Now it's time to develop our latest project.

Not doing more than the average is what keeps the average down.

W. Winans