

# Queens Voc Baseball

Baseball . . . As It Ought to Be !

vol. 16 no. 1 November 2012

## Beginnings & Ends

This newsletter began as an end of the year newsletter—a wrap-up of the 2012 season. It never got finished. The end of the year last year was busy. We went to the playoffs for the 11th straight year, and went all the way to the championship. As the season ended, there was the fourth edition of the school newspaper to publish. The coach also had, once again, a comprehensive DVD guide to write and he again coordinated a trip to izzit.org's Winning Ideas Weekend. With all that going on, we did not have time to put out a final newsletter. Worse, Aunt Bella's closed and O'Neill's had previously burned down, so we did not even have our annual end of season dinner. Perhaps this year everything comes together again.

## Tryouts

Tryouts were reduced to one day this year, as rain flooded Maurice field the day before the first scheduled tryout. On October 3, more than 50 boys tried out for the school's varsity and junior varsity teams.

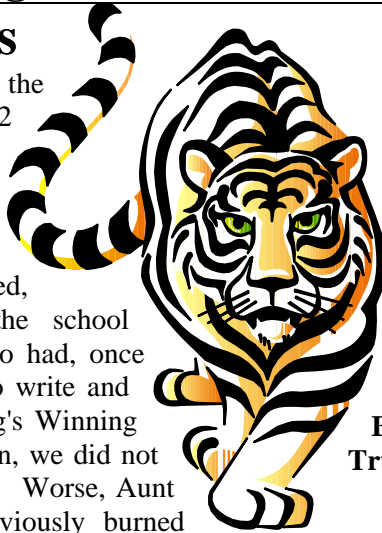
Thanks to **Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu** ('05), **Carlos Belliard** ('09), **Bryant Cartagena** ('12), **Steve D'Elena** ('08), **Larry Lebeau** ('11), **Jonathan Matias** ('09), **Javier Pasarín** ('12), **Esmi "Larry" Pichardo** ('08), and **Manny Portorreal** ('08) for running tryouts—one of the best run tryouts we have had in a long time.

For the second year in a row, the team held no fall scrimmages, which have been helpful in allowing us to see the rookies in real-game situations and enhance our ability to make good selections. Without them, selections were more difficult than usual.

We had a lot of seniors try out this year, many for the first time. In selecting the players, we were not looking to build for this year only to decimate our team for next year.

The boys who have been selected, which include 10 returning veterans from last year, plus another 2 veterans from the previous years, have been joined by 15 rookies we have picked who we believe will help the team this year, while they prepare to lead the team to future successes.

The math shows a roster of 27 players. That's a lot, but once the second and third marking period report cards are out, we anticipate no more than 25.



## Congratulations

The boys selected for varsity are:

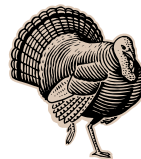
**Robinson Adames, Henry Alvarez, Jordan Balcacer, William Callanan, Erik Castro, William De Los Angeles, Christopher Fnu, Harlinson Gaviria, Daniel Henao, Kevin Hernandez, Joan Mulato, Hamza Naseer, Osvaldo Nunez, Dolapo Oyekanmi, Jarvis Perez, Steven Polanco. Eddie Quiles, Jhon Reynoso, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Mario Salcedo, Travis Savino, Jason Seino, Brandon Taveras, Joseph Taveras, Cristian Trujillo, Charles Urena, and Adrian Vega**

## Upcoming Activities

- Wednesday, Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Dinner, 5pm at Queens Voc.
- Friday, Dec. 7: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm
- Friday, Dec. 14: Pool Tournament, see info below
- Wednesday, Dec. 19: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm
- Friday, Jan. 4: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm
- Friday, January 11: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm

## 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. 21 at 5pm. Thanks again, guys, for what you brought to the team, and for what you added!



## Pool Tournament

Our seventh-annual Queens Voc baseball team pool tournament will be held on Friday, December 14, at Steinway Café Billiards, 35-25 Steinway Street, Astoria, NY 11102. The tournaments are a fun way to get to know each other better. 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.



**Pool Tournament: Fri., December 14**

## 2012 Season Recap

The Tigers went 15 & 1 in the regular season, winning the division and heading to the playoffs. They went on to defeat Beach Channel (11-1), Truman (3-2), Grover Cleveland (10-1), and Transit Tech (4-2) to make it to the city championship. While the Tigers ultimately lost to South Bronx, 2-1, at MCU Park, they finished with their best record ever. Congratulations to the 2012 Tigers, and thanks to all those who supported the team and attended our games!

## School, Baseball, and...

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 team events, staying out of trouble, and maintaining eligibility are all part of each team members' responsibility to the team.

## 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 recent events such as It's My Park Day, Arrow's Halloween Bash, and tryouts. There are also many pictures from past events, a history of uniform numbers, past newsletters, and awards from previous years. 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. Over 50 Queens Voc students—many of who had tried out for baseball—participated in the park cleanup on Saturday, October 20. The students and varsity coach were joined by **Mr. Elfreich** and **Ms. Ferrara**.

This has become a regular event for Queens Voc students and 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

Several Queens Voc students donned scary costumes at the Arrow Community Center's Halloween Bash on Saturday, October 27, and others spent an evening at the Poppenhusen Institute to assist with a post-Halloween clean-up, as part of our team's community service activities. This was our third year assisting at the Arrow event for young children, and our second year helping Poppenhusen Institute. Thanks to those who helped.

## 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 players have come by consistently to help. **Kevin Hernandez** was a freshman captain in 2011. He took last year off as a captain, but has come back strong. At a meeting of varsity veterans, on November 13, **Kevin** was appointed team captain once again. And Kevin is not the only one helping. **Jordan Balcacer**, **Joan Mulato**, and **Hamza Naseer** have been there too..

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. All team members can do more. The help we get will make our team better.

## Action Team Training

Varsity team members **Kevin Hernandez**, **Joan Mulato**, **Hamza Naseer**, and **Nathaniel Rodriguez**, helped lead the Action Team training at Citi Field, on Saturday, September 22. The training session was webcast and featured the four Tigers players discussing past community service projects. In addition, several Mets players spoke with the Action Team trainees about the importance of community service. After the training, the attendees were given tickets to the Mets-Marlins game and given food vouchers. **Erik Castro**, **Mario Salcedo**, **Travis Savino**, **Jason Seino**, **Joseph Taveras**, and **Brandon Taveras** also volunteered to participate in the training.

## Scholarships Available

Varsity team members who help as Action Team captains—leaders of our community service activities are eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship from the MLB Players Association and Volunteers of America for "outstanding community service work.". We've had several winners in the past and would like to continue that. See the coach for an application.

We also have a huge list of scholarship opportunities on the wiki.



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

W. Winans