

Queens Voc Baseball

Baseball . . . As It Ought to Be !

vol. 14 no. 3

June 2011

Tigers go to Playoffs 10th Straight Year

The 2011 Tigers ended their regular season in third place, then advanced to the fourth round of the playoffs—one of the final four B-division teams in the city.

With an 11 & 5 season record, the Tigers took on Queens HS of Teaching in the first round of the playoffs. With a 4-2 victory, the Tigers moved on to the second round and defeated Lab Museum 5-0. In the third round, the team defeated #2 ranked Brooklyn Studio Secondary School, 4-3. The Tigers then lost to Van Buren in the fourth round, 7-2.

As they did last year, the Tigers went 6 & 0 early in the season. Then, the Tigers lost to Flushing 4-0. Two days later, the team came back and defeated Flushing 18-0, only to lose their next two games, to HS for Construction, and to Van Buren in a game beset by “heart and dedication issues.”

Awards

At the annual team dinner at Aunt Bella's, on Friday, June 17, the following awards were presented:

Tiger of the Year	Armando Avila
Most Valuable Player	Lawrence LeBeau
Golden Glove	Jose Alvarez
Batting Title	Jason Perez
Cy Young Award	Daniel Corona
Most Improved	Bryant Cartagena
Coach's Award	Kevin Hernandez
Rookie of the Year	Luiny Monegro
	Jarvis Perez
Team Captain Award	Armando Avila

Congratulations to our award winners!

Upcoming Activities

- **Wednesday, July 20:** Community service baseball clinic with NY Mets in Central Park.
- **Thursday, September 1:** Orientation at Queens Voc at 8am.
- **Friday, September 23:** Medicals & parental consent forms due.
- **Thursday, September 29:** Tryouts begin.
- **TBD:** Action Team Training at Citi Field.

Armando Avila Queens Voc's First-Ever 4-Year Team Captain

As the 2008 school year began, there were high hopes that the team would have a great start, coming off a championship season. But that's not what happened. The team floundered. Up stepped a freshman rookie named **Armando Avila**. The rest has become history. Each year, Armando was appointed captain: 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11. Each year, **Armando** was inducted into the Honor Society. Each year, **Armando** helped produce the school newspaper, serving as Editor-in-Chief this year. **Armando** has now graduated, #3 in the senior class of 245, with a 93.6 average. At graduation, **Armando** received the most awards of any graduate:

- Army Reserve National Scholar/ Athlete Award
- Major League Baseball Players Association Action Team Scholarship
- New York State Comptroller Achievement Award
- New York City Scholastic Press Association
- NYC Social Studies Supervisors Association
- PSAL - George Wingate Memorial Medal
- Queens Borough Rotary Club Scholarship Award
- Scholarship for Academic Excellence
- School Newspaper Editor-in-Chief
- UFT English Language Arts Council - Outstanding Achievement in English Language Arts
- Four-Year Varsity Team Captain Award

As a special tribute, **Tanvir Toy ('03)** produced a brief video that was shown at the team dinner. See the video on youtube.com/watch?v=Mk4_Mfnsq6w

Training at Citi Field

Action Team training has not yet been scheduled, but it is usually held at the end of July at Citi Field. Team members interested in helping develop and coordinate our community service activities should keep an eye on the team wiki or stay in touch with the coach. Interested players should contact the coach, by phone (516-660-4887) or e-mail (coach@QVTigers.org).

There are several reasons to go: you get to help run some of our team activities, you get a tour inside the stadium, and there will be several Mets players who come by to meet with you. So why not help?

Orientation: Thursday, September 1

Tiger Wins Scholarship

Varsity team member **Armando Avila**, one of our team's Action Team captains, recently won a \$1,500 scholarship from the Major League Baseball Players Trust in recognition of his "outstanding community service work."

Congratulations, **Armando!**



Cooperstown

It was long a hope that the Tigers would trek to Cooperstown to visit the Baseball Hall of Fame. This was the year.

The team raised over \$4,000 to rent a bus and hotel rooms, go to the Hall of Fame, and to play several games while upstate. The team headed up on the morning of Wednesday, April 20, visited the Hall of Fame, went in the hotel pool, ate dinner together, and had a bowling tournament. In the morning, the team had breakfast together, and headed to the field for a doubleheader against Hutchinson Tech HS, from Buffalo. The team returned home that night.

A lot of work went into planning and coordinating the trip, and most of the work landed in the laps of the captains and coach. Thanks to captains **Armando Avila**, **Daniel Corona**, and **Kevin Hernandez**.

Pictures from the trip will soon be posted on QVTigers.org.

Orientation-Be There!

As we have done in the past, returning Tigers players will assist at the orientation for new students, prior to the start of school. Orientation is scheduled for Thursday, September 1. Team members will meet in room 301 at 7:30. Breakfast will be provided.

Please dress appropriately, and wear your green team jerseys. Players should check the team wiki to verify the date, or contact the coach for further information.

QVTigers.org

We admit it. We haven't updated our website since the spring, when we added a lot of pictures from our past seasons. We still have a lot to add. Within the next few weeks, we expect to have the site updated. Keep an eye out. If you have not already registered on our website, please do so. Through our website e-mail feature, you will be keep informed of the latest team news. Have ideas for improvement? Let us know. You can email us at Team@QVTigers.org.



Tryouts: Some Important Changes in the Works

Tryouts will be a bit different this year. For one, they will be shorter than in the past. Also, because of some issues this year, before selections are made, returning players and rookies—and their parents—will meet with the coach to discuss the decade-old requirements for participating on this team. No player will be selected who does not have a parent or legal guardian meet with the coach. This is non-negotiable and no player is exempt.



There have been lapses in commitment to the team ethics, and honesty. That ends now.

Current non-senior team members were asked several weeks ago to pick up medical forms in preparation for the upcoming tryouts in September. Whether you have or not, please schedule medicals in time to have the completed submitted by September 15, so you can participate in some tryout-scrimmages. Forms are due no later than Friday, September 23.

Goodbye to our 2011 seniors:

Honor Society Members

Jose Alvarez

Armando Avila

Lawrence LeBeau

Thanks for your hard work & dedication!

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March 2011

Giving Thanks



Our fifth annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Queens Voc was held on Wednesday, November 24. Over 40 people attended, including **Gio Cano** ('05), **Steve D'Elena** ('08), **Luis Espinoza** ('10), **Henny Fernandez** ('00), **Janio Fernandez** ('07), **Annaldo Jimenez** ('08), **Danny Lopez** ('06), **Jonathan Matias** ('09), **Daniel Medina** ('07), **Yodarlyn Moronta** ('06), **Miguel Perez** ('10), **Manny Portorreal** ('08), **George Serna** ('09), **Guillermo Taveras** ('08), **Angel Tejada** ('08), and **Tanvir Toy** ('03). **Ronald Carrasco** ('08), long-time Tigers supporter also attended.

At the Thanksgiving Dinner, senior **Armando Avila** was appointed team captain—the first four-year varsity baseball captain in our team's history, and likely in our school's history. **Daniel Corona**, a junior, was re-appointed captain, making him only the fourth three-year captain.

Upcoming Activities

- **Friday, March 25:** Home Opener at Flushing Meadows #10 against Arts & Business.
- **Wednesday, April 13:** Baseball Team Bake Sale.
- **Wednesday, April 20**-Thursday, April 21: Trip to Cooperstown (tentative).
- **Saturday, May 21:** It's My Park Day at Flushing Meadows Park.
- **Thursday, June 9:** Sports Banquet.
- Please see our website, **QVTigers.org**, for our full schedule.

Pool Tournament

Our fifth-annual Queens Voc baseball pool tournament was held on Friday, December 10. The tournament was held at Steinway Café Billiards, on Steinway Street in Astoria. Thirty-five people attended, including **Elvis Collado** ('05), **Luis Domenech** ('02), **Joe Livecchi** ('05), **Danny Lopez** ('06), **Daniel Medina** ('07), **Manny Portorreal** ('08), **Guillermo Taveras** ('08), **Angel Tejada** ('08), **Tanvir Toy** ('03), and **Daryl Villavicencio** ('05). **Ronald Carrasco** ('08), our honorary Tiger, also attended.

Congratulations

Late December brought some bad news, as a huge snowstorm brought NY to a halt. Almost. On that day, the day of the big snowstorm on December 27, former Tigers baseball captain **Yodarlyn Moronta** was among 1,147 police cadets who graduated, becoming New York City Police Officers. Congratulations, Yoda! We're proud of you!

Tee Shirts

Again this fall, we sold Queens Voc Tigers Baseball tee shirts, designed by our very own **Radison Moronta**, a three-year veteran. We ordered 163 tee shirts, a new record. There are only 6 remaining: 1 small, 4 large, 1 extra large. If you would like one, please stop by the school, or call the coach at his new cell number, 516-660-4887. The cost remains \$10.

QVTigers.org

We've been updating our website with new info and old pictures. Current members should keep abreast of the latest team news. Former players, teachers, parents, and others can see our schedule of games and other activities. We have recently added lots of pictures from the past. Check them out! We also have the 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.

Thanks for your help

We always take space in the newsletter to ask for team members' help in preparing for the season. So it's appropriate that we thank those who do step up. The captains, of course, do the bulk of the work. Thanks to **Armando Avila** and **Daniel Corona**, the team's captains, who have done so much for so long! Also stepping up a lot have been three other team members: junior **Luis Gonzales**, freshman **Kevin Hernandez**, and sophomore **Joseph Taveras**. Other players stop by less frequently, but are still helpful. All of you can do more. The help you give will make your team better.

Join us at our

Opening Day: March 25 @ FM #10

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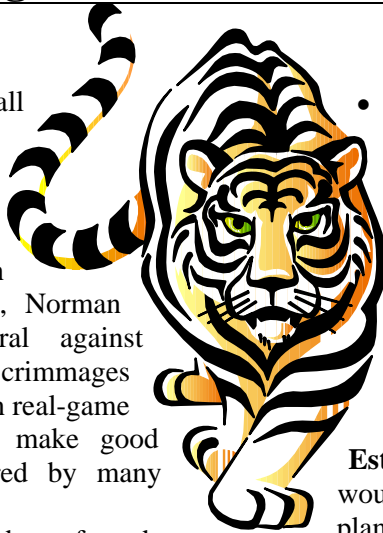
Tryouts

Fifty-three boys tried-out for baseball this fall, 17 of whom were veterans.

Tryouts took place on two full days: Saturday, October 2, and Saturday, October 16. Additionally, we held more fall scrimmages than ever. This year we faced Aviation, Norman Thomas, Transit Tech, and several against Bushwick and Forest Hills. The scrimmages allowed us to see many of the rookies in real-game situations, enhancing our ability to make good selections. Tryouts ran well, bolstered by many former players who came by to help.

This year, we had a smaller number of students trying out than in the past few years. Further, we found that there was a lot of talent that still needed to be developed. In other words, there was a wealth of talent suited for a junior varsity team.

The boys we have picked are boys we believe will help the team this year. While our varsity team will be smaller than usual, it will still be a force in our division. Further, the wealth of talent in JV will supplement the varsity team next year.



Upcoming Activities

- Wednesday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Dinner, 4pm at Queens Voc.
- Friday, Dec. 3: Conditioning Club, 4pm
- Friday, Dec. 10: Pool Tournament, 4pm at Master Billiards. \$10.
- Friday, Dec. 17: 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 4pm. Thanks again, guys, for what you brought to the team, and for what you added!



Congratulations

Of the 53 boys who tried-out for the baseball team this fall, 23 were selected for varsity. The boys selected for varsity are:

Armando Avila	Daniel Corona	Esteban Soler
Radison Moronta	Diony Perez	
Larry LeBeau	Nathaniel Rodriguez	
Jarvis Perez	Stanley Garcia	
Luiny Monegro	Henry Alvarez	
Jose Alvarez	Wilson Casado	
Jose Monegro	Carlos Rodriguez	
Daniel Vargas	Luis Gonzales	
Gary Santos	Andy Paulino	
Adonis Rosario	Kevin Hernandez	
Joseph Taveras	Brandon Taveras	
Bryant Cartagena	Javier Pasarin	
Jason Perez		

Thanks for Your Help at Tryouts

It has become a tradition to have our former players help run our tryouts. We appreciate the help from our former players and life-long members of our Tigers family: honorary Tiger **Ronald Carrasco** ('08), **Steven D'Elena** ('08), **Juan De La Cruz** ('08), **Annaldo Jimenez** ('08), **Danny Lopez** ('06), **Jonathan Matias** ('09), **Angel Tejada** ('08), **Yodaryl Moronta** ('06), **Guillermo Taveras** ('08), **Tanvir Toy** ('03). Special thanks to **Manny Portorreal** ('08), who attended both of the full-day tryouts.

Thanks also to **Joe LiVecchi** ('05), our assistant coach, for being at our tryouts and at most of our scrimmages!

The development of bonds between past, present, and future players has been a major part of our team's family atmosphere.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Wed., Nov. 24
Pool Tournament: Fri., December 10

Congratulations

Of the boys who tried-out for the baseball team this fall, 21 were recommended to **Mr. Cintron** for junior varsity:

Michael Aalil	Jhon Batista
Jose Cabrera	William Callanan
Erick Castro	Andy Collado
Saul Cruz	Carlos Fernandez
John Makiling	Osvaldo Nunez
Kevin Olivares	David Pena
Hommy Pena	Jonathan Perez
Kevin Perez	Steven Polanco
Raul Rosario	Ismael Ruiz
Jesse Santander	Louis Thomas

Diony Trejo

Pool Tournament

Our fifth-annual Queens Voc baseball pool tournament will be held on Friday, December 10, at Master Billiards, 39-01 Queens Blvd, across from the Hess Station on Queens Blvd. Our first four 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 4 to 7:30pm.



Action Team Video

In September, **Esteban Soler** was filmed at Yankee Stadium with New York Yankee **Curtis Granderson**. The video was about the benefits for volunteering. The video will be shown at Thanksgiving and pictures have been posted on our website. We will post a link as well.

Tee Shirts

Again this fall, we will sell Queens Voc Tigers Baseball tee shirts. The shirts are being designed right now. By the end of November, we will be taking orders, for a pre-Christmas delivery. The shirts, which must be ordered in advance, will be sold to teachers and current and former baseball players. 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 have 2010-11 tryout pictures, It's My Park Day pictures, and Haunting Halloween Madness posted. 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.

School, Baseball, and the Rest of Your Life

School should be your number one priority. Students are expected to attend school each day and pass all their classes. But keep in mind that baseball comes second. You 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 your responsibility to the team.

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 23.

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 scared a lot of little children at Arrow Community Center on Saturday, October 30. We were invited to assist at the haunted house, and as usual, the Tigers did a superb job. Thanks to those boys who helped out. Photos are posted on QVTigers.org.

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. You've helped review medicals and parental consents, planned our tryouts, worked on the design of the 2011 baseball tee shirt, planned our pool tournament, sold Queens Voc Tigers wristbands, inventoried equipment, and put an order together. We still have tee shirts, duffle bags, and uniforms to order. And we'll have to see if our newest team members, our rookies, will want to get the team jackets we gotten for the past four years.

Some of you stop by daily, but few of you stop by to assist. All of you can do more. The help you give will make your 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.

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

W. Winans