Baseball . . . As It Ought to Be!

vol. 12 no. 4 June 2009

Hall of Fame

Tanvir Toy ('03) and Joe LiVecchi ('05) were inducted into the newly established Tigers Varsity Baseball Hall of Fame at the annual team dinner at Aunt Bella's. The dinner was held on Friday, June 12. **Tanvir** attended the dinner ostensibly to show his latest video for the team, a recruitment video that showed the school's shops and our varsity baseball team. Joe attended as the team's assistant coach. Each inductee was given a plaque with their picture and an engraved plate describing their achievements. Larger plaques are on display in the school. Congratulations to Tanvir and Joe!

Seasonal Success

The Tigers varsity baseball team had another successful season, as the team went 12 & 4, took second place in the division, and went to the playoffs for the 8th year in a row, this year going to the third round, known as the quarter finals.

Awards

At the annual team dinner at Aunt Bella's, on Friday, June 12, the following awards were presented:

Most Team Spirit Golden Glove Cy Young Award Most Valuable Players

Rookie of the Year Coach's Award Team Captain Award **Cristian Rodriguez** Esteban Soler **Carlos Belliard Jonathan Matias** Larry Lebeau **Daniel Corona** Javier Pasarin Armando Avila **Daniel Corona Esteban Soler**

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 Wednesday, September 2. 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

Our team website is a source of up-to-date information about our team. We have pictures from our tryouts, our 2009 roster, league and non-league games, as well as pictures from our activities over the past several years. We also have our newsletters posted online. Check out our website, if you haven't already. And register, so you can receive emails from us from time to time. Don't forget, we recently added a "Birthdays" list! Have ideas for improvement? Let us know. You can email us at Team@QVTigers.org.

Tigers at Citifield

Armando Avila, Erick Cabello, Daniel Corona, Luis Espinoza, and Esteban Soler represented the team at Citifield on May 27. The guys, as Action Team captains, coordinated the team's community service activities at Hour Children and Flushing Meadows Park. Prior to the Mets home game, the Tigers representatives were introduced on the field, met several Mets players, and were presented certificates from the MLB Players Association and the Volunteers of America.

Tiger Wins Scholarship

Varsity team member Luis Espinoza, one of our team's Action Team captains recently won a \$1,000 scholarship from the Major League Baseball Players Trust in recognition of his "outstanding community service work." Congratulations, Luis.

Team Paints FM Park

The Tigers varsity baseball team volunteered at the It's My Park! Day on Saturday, May 16, at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The team members painted park benches in Passerelle Plaza.

Volunteering at the park days 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. The guys even continued the tradition of playing football after their work at the park. The day proved to be a mixture of work and fun!

Goodbye to our seniors:

Luis Arias Carlos Belliard Rafael De Oleo **Jonathan Matias Cristian Rodriguez** George Serna

Hour Children

The Tigers worked again this year with Hour Children, located in Long Island City. Hour Children cares for children of incarcerated parents. The team members assisted in Hour Children's clothing and furniture thrift stores on Saturdays. Nice job, guys. You continue to make our school and our team look good!

We're still hoping to organize a bigger project, inclusive of more students, as part of our continued participation in the Action Team program.

Coach wins Award

Usually, our team newsletters focus on the players. But in June, Rob Schimenz, the varsity team coach, won a teacher of the year award from izzit.org. Rob and two guests—Armando and Esteban—were flown to Chicago for a four-day event, known as Winning Ideas Weekend. Pictures and more information is available at izzit.org and winningideasweekend.com.

Orientation: Wednesday, September 2, 7:30am All returning players are expected to attend.

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Small Team Enters Big Season

The third marking period report cards were not good; we lost about seven players who had been selected for the varsity team this year. Despite the unusually high number of fail-offs, the team is looking forward to a good season. On the team this year are: Jose Alvarez, Luis Arias, Armando Avila©, Carlos Belliard, Erick Cabello, Daniel Corona, Rafael De Oleo, Luis Espinoza, Stanley Garcia, Larry Lebeau, Jonathan Matias, Jose Monegro, Radison Moronta, Luis Pascual, Joseph Payamps, Diony Perez, Miguel Perez, George Serna, and Esteban Soler©. Now, guys, you've got to work on and off the field, to stay eligible, have fun, and win games.

Tee Shirt Sale

We broke last year's record by selling over 150 2009 Tigers Baseball tee shirts. Freshmen **Radison Moronta** and **Joseph Payamps** designed the tee shirts and led the sales effort. Queens Voc staff members accounted for 85 of those and alumni accounted for 40 of the shirts sold. We still have shirts that were ordered and not paid for. If you are one of those people, please stop by to purchase and pick-up the shirt we ordered for you. We also have a few extras, for anyone who is interested. The cost is \$10. Anyone interested can email us at Team@QVTigers.org or stop by the school.

Magazine Coverage

Open up the December 2008 edition of ESPN's Rise magazine (NY Metro edition) to page 37 and not only will you find an article about our Tigers baseball team, but you'll see a picture from our tryouts, with old and new players. If you want a copy of the magazine, stop by the school or email us at Team@QVTigers.

We're Ready

Uniforms have been ordered, and so have team duffle bags and jackets. We've printed and distributed the handbooks, and posted the rosters and player profiles on the PSAL and QVTigers websites. Schedules, directions, and signs will be distributed at our kick-off meeting on Friday, February 27. Now all that's left is to take the field!

Upcoming Activities

The following list is not all-inclusive of baseball team activities. Between league and non-league games, the team has 42 games scheduled. The complete list of games and activities can be found at QVTigers.org.

- Thursday, February 26: PSAL clinic at Aviation HS, 4:30 6:30pm
- Friday, February 27: Kick-off Meeting at Queens Voc, 4 7pm
- Saturday, February 28: Baseball Hour Children, 9am - 1pm
- Monday, March 2: Take the Field!
- Monday, March 23: Team Meeting
- Tuesday, March 24: First League Game

They're Perfect

According to their third marking period report cards, Luis Arias, Daniel Corona, Jose Monegro, Luis Pascual, and George Serna have not been absent this school year. Congratulations, guys. You've set good examples for your teammates!

QVTigers.org

Our team website has become a source of up-to-date information about our team. We have pictures from our tryouts, our 2009 roster, league and non-league games, as well as pictures from our activities this year and last year. We also have our newsletters posted online. Check out our website, if you haven't already. And register, so you can receive emails from us from time to time. Don't forget, we recently added a "Birthdays" list! Have ideas for improvement? Let us know. You can email us at Team@QVTigers.org.

Tigers to Actively Recruit

After receiving numerous calls from guidance counselors at intermediate schools in the area, we planned to develop a recruitment brochure. We're going to take that a step further. We've planned out a way to recruit for the school and at the same time recruit for the baseball team. We're going to produce a brief video that highlights each of our shops and majors. The second part of the video will showcase our baseball team. The video will be put on DVD and sent to our feeder schools' guidance counselors. **Tanvir Toy** ('03) has agreed to edit the video and produce the DVD.

Uniforms

We have ordered uniforms for our rookies. We expect them to be in around the middle of March. Rookies are reminded to start saving their money to pay the balance by the time the uniforms come in. The full cost of the uniform is \$150, which includes pants, 2 jerseys, a belt, socks, and a fitted hat. In the past, the school has supplied black, long-sleeved mock turtle neck shirts that we wear under the jerseys. We're not sure if they will continue to do so.

Pool Tournament

Our third-annual Queens Voc baseball team pool tournament was held on Friday, November 7, at Master Billiards, 39-01 Queens Blvd, across from the Hess Station on Queens Blvd. This was our most successful tournament yet, as 15 former players joined the varsity team. Larry Lebeau and Radison Moronta won the tournament by defeating alumni Manny Portorreal and Tanvir Toy.

Former players were: 2003 graduates Isaac Collado and Tanvir Toy; 2005 graduates Alberto "Zuzu" Aspiazu and Sandy Rodriguez; 2006 graduates Joey Long, Danny Lopez and Yoda Moronta; 2007 graduates Rene Cruz and Danny Medina, and 2008 graduates Steve D'Elena, Juan De La Cruz, Annaldo Jimenez, Manny Portorreal, Guillermo Taveras, and Angel Tejada. What a great time we had. Yap!

Tigers Cleanup NYC

Twenty Queens Voc students volunteered at the "It's My Park! Fall Cleanup Day" at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on Saturday, October 25.

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. The guys even continued the tradition of playing football after their work at the park. The day proved to be a mixture of work and fun!

Hall of Fame

Long discussed and certainly overdue, a Tigers Baseball Hall of Fame is being planned by captains **Armando Avila** and **Esteban Soler.** Former or current players or other readers who have ideas for a Tigers hall of fame should contact the captains at Captains@QVTigers.org

psal.org & qvtigers.org

You can keep up with the latest high school sports news by viewing the PSAL website. The website has upto-date information including teams-past and current, as well as team rosters, records, and stats.

Our own website is also rich in information, and includes our complete-yet-tentative schedule, and our roster, which is not yet up on the PSAL website.

Bowl-a-Thon Rescheduled

Our Tigers bowl-a-thon, originally scheduled for December 12, was rescheduled until after the season. Further details will be forthcoming in our5 next newsletter and will be posted on the team website.

Hour Children

The Tigers have been working again this year with Hour Children, located in Long Island City. Hour Children cares for children of incarcerated parents. The team members have been assisting in Hour Children's clothing and furniture thrift stores on Saturdays. We received some very nice compliments from several of the Hour Children leaders. **Sister Teresa Fitzgerald**, the executive director, wrote recently: "We are so grateful for the dedicated and helpful service given week after week by the young men on the Baseball team! Their service in our daycare with our young children is touching and meaningful. In our thrift store they jump in and help sort, organize and move our treasures!"

Nice job, guys. You continue to make our school and our team look good!

We're still hoping to organize a bigger project, inclusive of more students, as part of our participation in the Action Team program.

Let's Chat

Don't let small problems develop into big problems. If you're having trouble, the team and coach are there to support you. Don't hesitate to come by 301 before school, during period 5, or at the end of your day to ask for help with a problem or schoolwork, or just to chat.

Baseball Handbooks

Our baseball handbooks, updated last year, have been prepared and distributed to our rookies. The handbook, which contains a lot of baseball skills guides and team



information, was distributed to team members in printed form and in digital form on a CD. Thanks to those who stayed and helped get them ready! Now, guys, remember to use them.

Come see us play! For an up-to-date schedule, and to check on potential rainouts, Check out our website: QVTigers.org

Baseball . . . As It Ought to Be!

vol. 12 no. 2 October 2008

Congratulations

Over 60 boys tried out for the baseball team this fall. Twenty-five were selected for varsity, 21 of the boys trying-out were recommended for the junior varsity team.

The boys selected for varsity are:

Jose Alvarez
Anthony Arias
Luis Arias
Armando Avila
Carlos Belliard
Erick Cabello
Daniel Corona
Rafael De'Oleo
Luis Espinoza
Stanley Garcia
Larry Lebeau
Raylin Leroux

Jonathan Matias
Jose Monegro
Radison Moronta
Luis Pascual
Joseph Payamps
Christian Perez
Diony Perez
Jason Perez
Gary Santos
George Serna
Esteban Soler
Daniel Vargas
Kelvin Ventura



Pool Tournament

Our third-annual Queens Voc baseball pool tournament will be held on Friday, November 7, at Master Billiards, 39-01 Queens Blvd, across from the Hess Station on Queens Blvd. Our first two tournaments were highly successful and we are looking forward to another fun day. Current and past baseball players are invited. The cost will be about \$5 for each pool player. The tournament will run from 4:15 to 7:30pm.

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: **Giovanny Cano** ('05)

Ronald Carrasco ('08) Steven D'Elena ('08) Juan De La Cruz ('08) Elbel Estrella ('07) Annaldo Jimenez ('08)

Daniel Medina ('07) Manny Portorreal ('08)

Guillermo Taveras ('08)

Angel Tejada ('08)

Special thanks to **Joe LiVecchi** ('05), our assistant coach, for being at all our team events! The development of bonds between past, present, and future players has been a major part of our team's family atmosphere.

Upcoming Activities

- Saturday, Oct. 18: Hour Children, 9am -1pm
- Thurs., Oct. 23 & Fri., Oct. 24: Parent Conferences
- Saturday, Oct. 25: "It's My Park Day" 9:30am
- Thursday, Oct. 30: Halloween Event at Flushing Meadows, Park, 4pm
- Saturday, Nov. 1: Hour Children, 9am 1pm
- Thursday, Nov. 6: Conditioning Club 4pm 6pm
- Friday, Nov. 7: Pool Tourney, 4:30 7:30
- Saturday, Nov. 8: Hour Children, 9am 1pm
- Thursday, Nov. 13: Conditioning Club, 4pm 6pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 18: Conditioning Club, 4pm 6pm
- Thursday, Nov. 20: Conditioning Club, 4pm 6pm

QVTigers.org

Our team website has become a source of up-to-date information about our team. We have pictures from our tryouts, our 2008 roster, scrimmages posted, as well as many pictures, including two from the Action Team training over the summer. And we just added a "Birthdays" list! Have ideas for improvement? Let us know. You can email us at Team@QVTigers.org.

J V Recommendations

Jonathan Bonilla Tomas Bueno Andre Castillo Alexander Cruz Rodolfo Diaz Geovanny Duy Michael Flores Luis Gonzales Keivan Jimenez Brandon Lopez Jonathan Lopez

Dillon Maynor Maximilian Manticof Brendan Nichols Jason Noriega Ricardo Ortega Johnny Paulino Kevin Rosario Joseph Tecarr Brian Vasquez Jonathan Velasquez

Pool Tournament: Friday, November 7

Tigers to Cleanup NYC

Queens Voc baseball will participate in the "It's My Park! Fall Cleanup Day" at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on Saturday, October 25. All varsity baseball team members are expected to participate in the park cleanup. Former players are also welcome. We will meet at Passerelle Plaza (by the train yard and tennis center) by

9:30am. Please be there on time.



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. Last

year, the parks department fixed up our field the day of our home opener.

Usually we rake, sweep, bag leaves, fill dozens of bags with debris, and even work on some baseball fields.

The boys from Queens Voc are often the largest group in attendance. Let's all pull together to make the park—and our school—look good!

Why I Made the Team

From an initial 60 students who triedout, 25 boys were selected for varsity. For the most part, these boys have demonstrated the proper attitude and behavior, earned the grades, shown team spirit, and demonstrated sufficient baseball skills to warrant being members of Queens Voc's varsity baseball team.



Want to know why you made it? Want to know why others didn't? Ask yourselves a few simple questions: Did I show the coach that I will be a positive example for my teammates? Did I maintain good grades and attendance? Did I help by volunteering my time? Did I improve my skills over last year? Did I attend and do well at the tryouts? Do I have the baseball skills necessary to help my team on the field?

Once you have answered those questions, the rest is easy! Now, your task is to *stay on the team*.

Tee Shirts

Again this fall, we will sell Queens Voc Tigers Baseball



tee shirts. The shirts are being designed right now. By November, we will be taking orders. We'll place our order at the beginning of December, in time for a pre-Christmas delivery. The shirts, which must be ordered in advance, will be

sold to teachers and current and former baseball players.

Hour Children

The Tigers will again be working with Hour Children, located in Long Island City. Because of changes in Hour Children's needs, we'll be primarily working in the food pantry and at the thrift store on Saturdays. We're glad to be able to help!

This year, we're also going to try to organize a bigger project, inclusive of more students, as part of our participation in the Action Team program.

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. There are other benefits as well. See **Mr. Vega** in Room 143 to join if you have not already done so.

Let's Chat

Don't let small problems develop into big problems. If you're having trouble, the team and coach are there to support you. Don't hesitate to come by 301 before school, during period 5, or at the end of your day to ask for help with a problem or schoolwork, or just to chat.

Wristbands

The varsity baseball team has again been selling "Queens Voc Tigers" wristbands. It's a popular fundraising activity. We don't make much money on it, but it fosters school spirit here at Queens Voc, and helps us pay for the bats that we will use—and break—throughout the year. Wristbands are still available in Room 301 for \$1 each. Buy some, sell some.

Parents and Grades

On Thursday, October 23, and Friday, October 24, Queens Voc will have Parent Teacher conferences. If you are a new player, please have your parents stop by to speak with the coach. We can discuss your report cards and talk about team and player expectations. Of course, veterans, your parents are welcome to stop by to discuss your report cards, the team, or anything else that concerns them.

FYI: School should be your number one priority. Baseball should be your number two 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.

Baseball . . . As It Ought to Be! vol. 12 no. 1 September 2008

Tryouts

Nearly 70 boys who attended the sports meeting on Tuesday, September 9 signed up to tryout for baseball. Of those, 11 are veterans. Only 7 of 16 JV players signed up to tryout.

Last year after tryouts, we noted that the turnout and wealth of talent displayed would be crucial to our rebuilding. It also brought us much needed leadership.

The selection we make will reflect an assortment of grade levels that will form the basis of our team for several years, ensuring the stability brought by three-year and four-year players.

Upcoming Activities

- Sunday, September 21: scrimmage at Forest Hills,
 9:30am start. Players must have submitted their medicals and parental consents in advance to attend.
 Check the website to confirm game.
- Wednesday, September 24: medicals and parental consents are due.
- Monday, September 29: Pre-tryout meeting, 4pm
- Tuesday, September 30: Tryouts at Flushing Meadows #10 & #11, from 8am to 3pm
- Wednesday, October 1: Tryouts at Flushing Meadows #10 & #11, from 8am to 3pm
- Saturday, October 4: scrimmage at Newtown, 10am start. Check website to confirm game
- Thursday, October 9: Tryouts at Flushing Meadows #10 & #11, from 8am to 3pm
- Saturday, October 25: "It's My Park Day" 9:30am

QVTigers.org

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PSAL.org

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Help Run Tryouts

It has become a tradition to have our former players help run our tryouts. We'd love to see you there! The development of bonds between past, present, and future has been a major feature of our school's varsity baseball team. Last year, players who graduated in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2007 helped.

Tigers alumni who are interested in helping are asked to call or email the coach to let him know. We'll have tryout activities planned, while still allowing for your input. Alumni who are able to help may wear their jerseys.

Tee Shirts

Again this fall, we will sell Queens Voc Tigers Baseball tee shirts. The shirts are being designed right now. By November, we will be taking orders, which will be placed at the beginning of December, in time for a pre-Christmas delivery. The shirts, which must be ordered in advance, will be sold to teachers and current and former baseball players.

Tigers to Cleanup NYC

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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. Last year, the parks department fixed up our field the day of our home opener.

Usually we rake, sweep, bag leaves, fill dozens of bags with debris, and even work on some baseball fields.

The boys from Queens Voc are often the largest group in attendance. Let's all pull together to make the park—and our school—look good!

SO?

All members of school sports teams are required to join the SO. Membership entitles you to use a school locker and to attend home basketball games. There are other benefits as well. See **Mr. Vega** in Room 143 to join if you have not already done so.

Let's Chat

Don't let small problems develop into big problems. If you're having trouble, the team and coach are there to support you. Don't hesitate to come by 301 before school, during period 5, or at the end of your day to ask for help with a problem or schoolwork, or just to chat.

Why I'll Make the Team

Most years, fewer than half the boys who tryout are selected for the varsity baseball team. Many of those who don't make it will become members of the school's JV team.

If you really want to, you'll make team. For the most part, boys who demonstrate the proper attitude and behavior, earn the grades, show team spirit, and demonstrate sufficient baseball skills will be selected.

Ask yourselves a few simple questions: Am I showing the coach that I will be a positive example for my teammates? Am I maintaining good grades and attendance? Have I been volunteering my time, or will I volunteer? Will I attend each tryout, on time and work hard to show I want to be a team member? Do I have the baseball skills necessary to help my team on the field?



Once you have answered those questions, the rest is easy!

Help on the Way

Preparing for the upcoming season doesn't start in March. Since we returned to the school in August for Orientation, a lot of work has already been done. Some of you have stopped by and offered to help during and after school. You've helped review medicals and parental consents, planned our tryouts, worked on the design of the 2009 baseball tee shirt, planned our upcoming pool tournament, and sold Queens Voc Tigers wristbands.

We still have events to plan, an equipment inventory to take and an order to put together, and 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 two years.

Some of you stop by daily to assist. And while all of you can do more, the help you give is appreciated.

Wristbands

The varsity baseball team has again been selling "Queens Voc Tigers" wristbands. It's a popular fundraising activity, but we don't make much money on it. It fosters school spirit here at Queens Voc, and helps us pay for the bats that we will use—and break—throughout the year. Wristbands are still available in Room 301 for \$1 each.

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

W. Winans

Electronics, Hats, Lateness

Ipods and the concomitant headphones, cell phones, and hats are just some of the items students are prohibited from using in school. This year, we have cracked down even harder. We've been impressed with the results.

Some students seem to have trouble getting to school on time. Fix it. There are really no good excuses for coming in late.

Do people make mistakes? Sure, we're all human. But when mistakes are more a pattern of behavior, it's a problem. Can cutting players hurt our ability to win? Sure. So what? Winning isn't everything.

Parents and Grades

On Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24, Queens Voc will have Parent Teacher conferences. If you have tried out for the baseball team, (or if we've already announced our picks and you have been selected), please have your parents stop by to speak with the coach during parent conferences. We can discuss your report cards and to talk about team and player expectations.

FYI: School should be your number one priority. Baseball should be your number two 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.

Pool Tournament

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Please continue to check outside room 301 for up-to-date information about Queens Voc baseball. Don't miss out because you don't find out.