
News Release
St. Paul, MN
June 12, 2006

**FOURTH DISTRICT AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH BASEBALL
PROGRAM ANNOUNCES THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF WOODEN BATS
FOR 2006 LEAGUE SEASON**

The American Legion Baseball program's Fourth District announced that it has adopted the exclusive use of wooden bats for its 2006 league baseball season.

According to Fourth District Director, George Bodlovick, "In light of the ongoing controversy concerning the safety of metal bats, we felt that it was the right thing to do, although it was a significant dollar investment for all of the teams in our league. In addition, it allows the youth who participate in our program to play 'real baseball' – play the game the way it was meant to be played, and in the same manner it is played by Major League Baseball." Bodlovick added "I believe we are the first youth program in the State of Minnesota, certainly in American Legion Baseball, to make the switch to wooden bats. We feel proud that we've taken this step, even though we could be at somewhat of a disadvantage against all the other teams using metal bats."

Established in 1925, the American Legion Baseball Program is the premier, oldest and largest, teenage baseball program in the nation, boasting over 10 million participants since its inception. In 2005, over 100,000, aged 15 to 19, participated. Minnesota is one of the strongest participants in the United States, consistently being ranked as one of the top five States, in terms of the number of registered teams.

The State of Minnesota is divided into ten districts with respect to team organization. The Fourth District encompasses St. Paul and its surrounding suburbs, with team formation based upon school district boundaries. The following teams currently participate in Fourth District league play: Arcade-Phalen, Hamline, North End, North St. Paul, Rosetown, Tri-City Red of New Brighton, and White Bear.

Teams in each District play for the right to represent the District in the American Legion Baseball State Championship Tournament, held each year in August. State Champions then compete in regional and national tournaments. Of the 80 Minnesota State Tournaments held since 1926, the Fourth District has won the State title 30 times (37.5%) – far more often than any other District. The Fourth District has further produced four Regional Champions, as well as one National

Champion, with Tri-City Red of New Brighton winning the American Legion Baseball World Series in 1999. (The State of Minnesota has produced a total of 17 Regional Champions and four National Champions, including Richfield in 1943, Edina in 1983, Tri-City Red of New Brighton in 1999, and the Rochester A's in 2003.)

Prestigious alumni of Minnesota American Legion Baseball's Fourth District include Joe Mauer, Paul Molitor, Jack Morris, Robb Quinlan, and Dave Winfield.

For further information, Fourth District Director, George Bodlovick, can be contacted at 651-429-7855.

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