New Scotland Kiwanis Baseball Promotes Kids’ Physical Fitness

Kiwanis Club of NEW SCOTLAND, Capital Division – Long ago a former U.S. President said “The business of America is business.” The apparent truth of that statement has never been disputed.

Kiwanis Intl is likewise in business – the business of helping children of the world, helping them to become better citizens, better nourished, medically sound and physically fit. On the local level a prime example is the children’s baseball programs sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of New Scotland, New York through which youngsters ages 5 to 12 learn the fundamentals of a good healthy life. Participation also teaches them sportsmanship, honesty and the importance of a sound body and an alert mind.

Since its inception nearly 50 years ago, the New Scotland Club’s Children’s Baseball Program has exposed these benefits to over 10,000 youngsters. Annually, in late winter, baseball registration forms are distributed to local area schools, bulletin board notices are posted and news releases appear in local newspapers. In 2004, 260 youths signed up for participation in T-Ball, Big Sticks T-Ball and the Pee Wee and Minor Leagues. Of this total, 91 were girls who played in each of the divisions named above. In addition, 60 fathers and mothers served as coaches and there were 11 young boys and girls who worked as umpires. The fees charged were used to cover umpire and coaches fees and purchase players shirts. New Scotland Kiwanis furnished helmets, bats, balls, chest protectors, masks, and bases. In addition, it operated a refreshment stand using the net proceeds toward the children’s baseball program.

After the completion of this season (April 21-June 5, 2004), championship games were played between the two top teams in the Pee Wee and Minor Leagues. This year’s champions were the New Scotland Kiwanis Blackbirds in the Pee Wee league and the New Scotland Kiwanis Ravens in the Minor League.

Following the championship playoffs, a family picnic was held in the New Scotland Town Park, to which parents brought a variety of dishes and desserts. New Scotland Kiwanians grilled nearly 500 hot dogs and provided an assortment of condiments. A rousing good time was enjoyed by all.

By their participation in this New Scotland Kiwanis Club’s baseball program, youngsters learned not only valuable life lessons but the importance of being physically fit. Heading up the New Scotland Kiwanis Club’s baseball program was Kiwanian Lew Schedlbauer, who as coordinator coordinated the registrations, made up teams, and recruited coaches and umpires. He was assisted by Kiwanians Richard and Molly Reilly, who handled the T-Ball segments. Kiwanian Amy Faustel oversaw the refreshment stand operation with the help of several Kiwanians and players’ parents.