



May 7, 2008 - Issue 59

# Silver Hawk Pride



### Our Motto

Building Character,  
Developing Athletes,  
Serving the Community

# Silver Hawks BB 11's Batting 1.000! 1 Tournament ... 1 Championship

### Inside this issue:

BB14 Black	2
BB13 Black	2
BB14 Green	2
Silver Hawk Tribute	4-5
Sponsors	6-9
Calendar	10
BB11's - KCBL	10



Silver Hawk 11U's with first place trophies at Streamwood Sidewinder Tournament

The Silver Hawk 11U baseball team wasted no time in earning their first trophy, defeating the highly touted Wheatland Ducks Gold team 8-4 in the championship game of the Steamwood Sidewinders Tournament on April 27.

The youngest of the new Silver Hawk teams in 2008, the 11U's opened with a 6-4 victory over the Tinley Park Bulldogs. They then earned their way to the championship game with a semi-final win over the Carol Stream Storm, 8-2.

# Play Ball!

## Baseball 14 Black

### Staying Hot!!

#### Fischer, Ford, Favia, and Smith Pitch Combined No-Hitter

The 14U Black Silver Hawks continue to pound the competition sweeping 2 games this week-end by a combined score of 34-1.

Saturday the boys traveled to nearby Wheaton to play the Wheaton Briarcliff Blazers on a cold windy afternoon. The only thing that was hot in Wheaton this cold afternoon were that bats in the Silver Hawks dugout as they pounded out 29 hits and 28 runs. Everyone hit the ball well. **Erik Stazy, Mike Partyka and Michael Fischer** each had 4 Hits while **Michael Heine and Ryan Ford** each had 3 **Kevin Jakowitsch, Ryan Roszkowiak, Matt Downing and Brian Mckeague** all had 2 hits and **Sean Kenna, Robert Smith and Mike Favia** contributed with big hits as well.

The pitching was remarkable while the defense was almost flawless (1 error and 1 unearned run). Fischer pitched the 1<sup>st</sup> inning facing 4 batters with no hits or runs. Ford came in and pitched the next 2 innings facing 8 batters with

2 K's and 1 base on balls. Favia came in and pitched to 4 batters in the 4<sup>th</sup> with 2 K's as well and Smith came in the 5<sup>th</sup> and successfully protected the no hitter!

On Sunday the Silver Hawks hosted the Winfield Wolves. These two teams have had plenty of great battles in the past 3 years. The Silver Hawks came out in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> with 3 runs. Fisher, Jakowitsch and Roszkowiak all crossing the plate with RBI's coming from Partyka and Heine. They add 3 in the 5<sup>th</sup> with Heine, Ford and Stazy all scoring on RBI's from Stazy, Downing and Kenna. Once again the defense was outstanding while Jakowitsch, Kenna and Stazy pitched a shut out.

The boys host the Western Springs Hawks on Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup>. The forecast is Hot! That is the forecast for the Silver Hawks bats (if you want to know the weather check the weather channel.)

## Baseball 13U Black

### Great Pitching to Open the Season

April showers bring May flowers - it's no joke. With 8 games scheduled for the 13U Black team in April, they have managed to dodge enough rain drops to get 3 games in. It is going to be a hectic schedule once the weather breaks. Their record is 1 win and 2 losses with all 3 games being 1 run games and having chances to win in the last inning in both losses. The boys are playing great baseball in a very tough "A" division.

They have suffered two early injuries this year, **Danny Klein** (broken wrist) and **Giacomo Visconti** (separated growth plate/ankle). Klein will be back in the next week or so and Visconti is out for another 4 weeks. Get well soon guys!!!

They enter their first tournament in Racine, WI, May 16th-18th - two men down but with high expectations!



## Baseball 14U Green

### Rubbing Elbows with the Pros!

Silver Hawk David Negrete spends some Easter vacation time at a Major League spring training game between the Detroit Tigers and the Pittsburgh Pirates. Shown with David are Pirate coach, Rich Donnelly (left) and Tiger manager, Jim Leyland (right).

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# A Silver Hawk Tribute

## Angels in Our Outfield

By Rick Newton

For those that know me well, it would come as no surprise that although I am not an avid follower of movies, those that most often capture my emotions are baseball-centric – *The Pride of the Yankees*, *The Natural*, *For the Love of the Game*, *Bull Durham*, *Field of Dreams*, *Eight Men Out*, etc. I can (and do) watch them over and over without tiring of the plots and still succumb to the little boy in me that never tires of this great game. Another such movie that I have not seen for a while, but that came to mind this past week is *Angels in the Outfield*. A series of events in my family's lives over the past week or so not only brought back the memories, but literally caused it to play out before our very eyes – not as it did in the movie, but close enough to change my whole thinking about angels among us.

My daughter, Megan, began dating a friend from college, Ryan Blackstone, about 2 ½ years ago. Ryan was the type of young man that any father would wish for his daughter to bring home and meet her family. A huge smile, an engaging personality, and a deep level of caring and affection for my daughter – what more could a father ask for? Oh, and did I mention he loved the game of baseball and was a huge White Sox fan – what a young man! Megan was very happy and we were thrilled.

Ever since her brothers became Silver Hawks, Megan has been an active Silver Hawk supporter, always inviting several friends to the annual fundraiser and actively helping with the patients at the annual Central DuPage Hospital's Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Christmas party. Although Ryan had been diagnosed with stage 3 cancer and had a partial removal of his larynx and a series of radiation treatments in early 2005, the cancer was seemingly behind him - and so he had additional motivation to join with Megan and the Silver Hawk players in assisting pediatric cancer patients at the hospital's Christmas party.

During the summer of 2006, Ryan's cancer returned, resulting in a total removal of his larynx and thyroid as well as the loss of his voice. Following the surgery with intensive radiation and chemo treatments, his doctors felt they had removed all signs of the cancer.

After announcing their engagement in the spring of 2007, a follow-up visit with the doctor found that Ryan's cancer had returned and had invaded his chest cavity and lungs. Refusing to let the cancer dampen their plans, they moved their wedding date up by several months and were married on September 1, 2007. Having experienced heavy storms and humidity every weekend in August, the weather welcomed them for a beautiful outdoor wedding on their most special of days.

With his doctors ruling out surgery as an option, Ryan and Megan pursued multiple alternative treatments, but with no appreciable successes. In the meanwhile Ryan's focus on the cancer turned to managing the pain and maintaining his strength. He refused to give in and showed great courage in the toughest battle of his life. Watching their determination and concern for each other during this battle is when it dawned on me that there were clearly angels in our presence – Ryan through his strength, inspiration, and dignity in continuing his battle with this horrible disease and Megan through her unwavering love and support. Both of them had an unmistakably positive and strengthening influence on every one that knew and loved them. They were an inspiration in every sense of the word.



Ryan and Megan

As Ryan's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday approached last week, we had difficulty coming up with a suitable gift idea for him due to the nature of his condition. Our thoughts turned to one of Ryan's passions – his favorite team, the White Sox. Making calls to Ken Smith and Dave Buddle of the Silver Hawks and to Jim Stancl and Cary Wick of The Hitting Zone, as my wife Judy describes it, through the grace of God, a miracle of sorts occurred. Never expecting to get a response, I received a call from Ron Kittle, White Sox AL 1983 Rookie of the Year, the next morning and he simply asked, "How can I help?" (Cont. on page 5)



Ron Kittle Surprises Ryan with visit

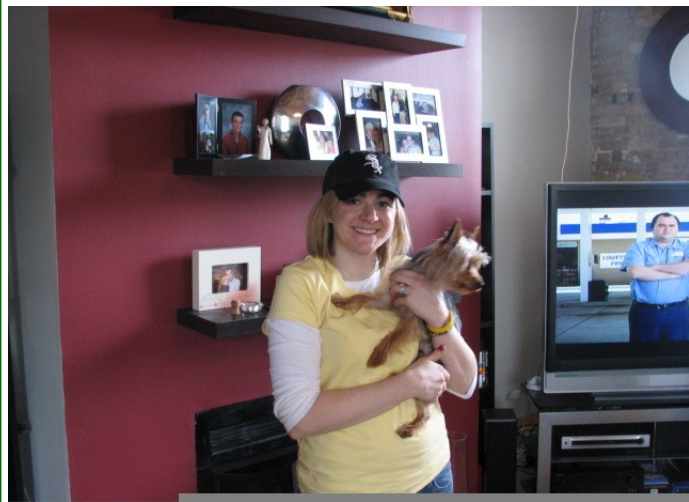


Ryan and Ron (and White Sox hat cake!)

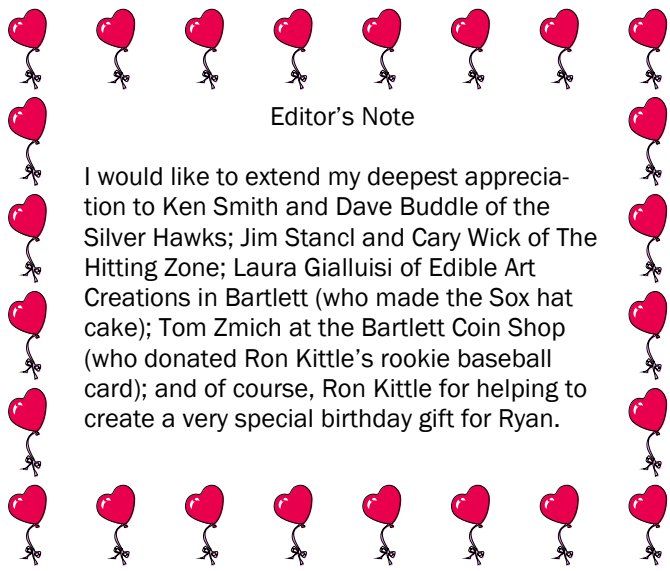
Enter another angel – this one was 6’4” and 225 lbs. of compassion and down to earth humor. On the day prior to Ryan’s birthday, Ron Kittle surprised Ryan with a visit to his home in Chicago. Not only was the look on Ryan’s face one of total disbelief, but his huge smile that had been so difficult to muster in recent weeks was back – and it beamed for the entire 2 hours that Ron spent with Ryan and his family. Along with some autographs and Sox keepsakes, most importantly, Ron brought some great stories, humor, and compassion to Ryan at a time that he needed it the most. The timing of his visit could not have been better.

Early the following morning of April 30, on his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ryan lost his battle with cancer. Although arguably cheated of many years of life, the life he led was one of fullness of purpose, a lot of shared love, and of positive influence – he was a true angel in our presence. Megan, their family, and their many friends are better people for being blessed with his love and presence in their lives.

Though I have this tendency to put much of what I say, see, and do in terms of baseball jargon, you can pick whatever metaphor best suits your own lives. For me, however, Ryan, Megan, and Ron will always be angels in my outfield and all will bat leadoff for me, for they will help me put my best foot forward in whatever I do and with whomever I should meet.



Megan, New Hat, and Tobie



Editor’s Note

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to Ken Smith and Dave Buddle of the Silver Hawks; Jim Stancl and Cary Wick of The Hitting Zone; Laura Gialluisi of Edible Art Creations in Bartlett (who made the Sox hat cake); Tom Zmich at the Bartlett Coin Shop (who donated Ron Kittle’s rookie baseball card); and of course, Ron Kittle for helping to create a very special birthday gift for Ryan.

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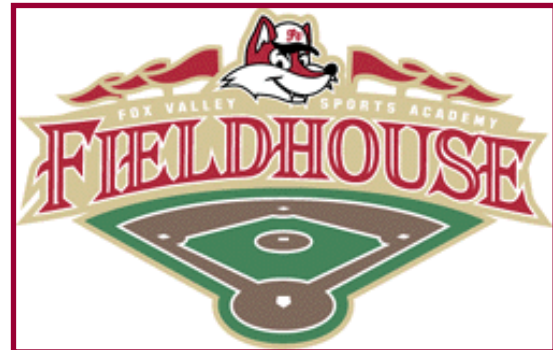
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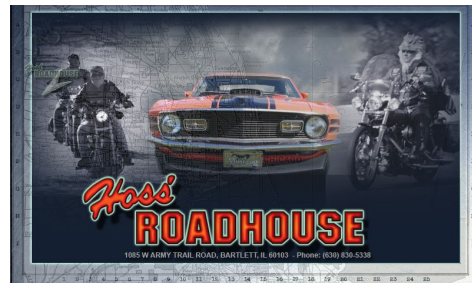
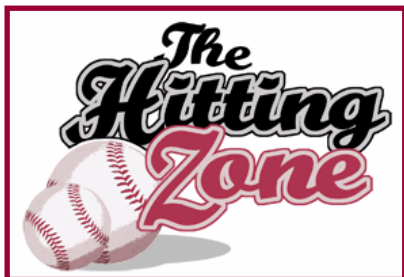
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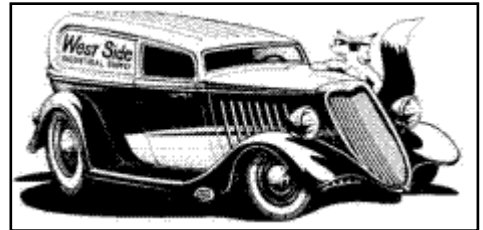
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# May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Noteworthy Dates in May

- May 1 - Mother Goose Day
- May 10 - Clean Up Your Room Day
- May 12 - Mother's Day
- May 14 - Dance Like a Chicken Day
- May 17 - Armed Forces Day
- May 21 - Lindbergh Flight Day
- May 25 - National Missing Children's Day
- May 26 - Memorial Day
- May 29 - 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary Conquers Mt. Everest
- May 29 - 1948, 1st Ice Cream Freezer Patented

## Baseball 11's

The Silver Hawks traveled to Sycamore on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to face the Sycamore Sidewinders in their second game of the KCBL baseball season.

The Silver Hawks won the game 11 to 0.

The boys had 14 hits in the game. **Jordan Flint** led the way with 3 hits, **Jason Foy, Nick Menken & Christian Fischer** each had 2 hits. **Michael Koss, Evan Warder, Danny Asa, Matt Swing & Antonio Danesi** each had 1 hit.

Christian Fischer started and pitched the first 3 innings. He gave up 1 hit, 3 walks & 5 strike outs.

Matt Swing pitched the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> inning. He gave 2 hits, no walks & 3 strike outs.

Defensive play of the game: **Casey Mack** had a couple of outstanding plays. The big play was made early in the game with the bases loaded and the infield in. Casey took a short hop ground ball and fired it home to the catcher Jordan Flint who also made a great play catching the short hop for the force at home.

The 11 year old Silver Hawks record is now 2 & 0 to start the KCBL season.

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### Editor's Note

*The Silver Hawk Pride* is a publication for and about the Silver Hawk organization and all the entities that make it work – the players, their teams, coaches, parents and our sponsors. Your ideas and opinions to help make this a useful publication are welcomed, so please feel free to contact us by e-mail at [ricknewton@att.net](mailto:ricknewton@att.net).



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 Bless  
 America!