



September 9, 2016

Greetings Friends of Bend Senior High School Baseball,

We hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year. Fall sports are in full swing at Bend Senior High School, and as a baseball program, supporting our fall sports teams is our primary focus right now.

We had a successful 2016 youth baseball season. Our program sponsored over 30 kids and 3 teams, at the 11U, 12U and 13U level.

Our 13U team, coached by Sal Del Pozzo, played over 40 games and competed in 9 total tournaments; including a double header that was played at Goss Stadium, home of the OSU Beavers. They were the Silver Bracket Champions of the Wild River Spring Classic and the Champions of the Hoodview Saturday Showdown Tournament. These boys played baseball all the way until the first week of August. They practiced exclusively on the Bend High School Varsity Field and enjoyed a memorable season.

The 12U team was coached by Tony Simmonds. The team played in nearly 30 games and participated in 6 tournaments. They finished in the Final Four of both the Bend Elks Memorial Day Tournament and the Medford Bigfoot Bash. They also took second place in The Dalles Cherry Festival Tournament.

The 11U team was coached by Steve Gillespie. This team played in 29 games and participated in 6 tournaments. They had an overall record 17-12. They were the Silver Division Champions in the Triple Crown Bend Elks Tournament and Champions of Medford Big Foot Bash Tournament.

Our program was also successful off the field. Our 13U team GPA increased 1.62 points over the course of the season. Our players and families participated in events and helped raise funds for the foundation while giving back to the community. All in all, a fantastic season.

Lava Bear Youth Sports Foundation and Bend Senior High Baseball plan to provide the following this coming year:

- The 3rd Annual Lava Bear Hitting Camp will be held during Winter Break at Bend Senior High School. Over 140 campers were in attendance last year. We expect even more this year. The Hitting Camp flier will be sent out in the coming weeks. Space will be limited, so be sure to sign up as soon as you can.

- Once again we will offer “Lava Bear Youth Sports Foundation Nights” at the Bend Fieldhouse over Winter Break. These are great opportunities for kids to work on their baseball skills and prepare for try-outs and the upcoming season. Lava Bear Youth Nights are run by the Bend Senior High Baseball Coaching Staff and players.
- Try-outs for Lava Bear Youth Sports Foundation Baseball will be held during the month of January at the Bend Fieldhouse. Please note that LBYS will not have any organized activities this fall to encourage student athletes to participate in a fall and winter sport or activity. This is consistent with Bend High Schools philosophy to encourage multiple program participation. Please visit our website or follow us on Facebook for more information on tryouts.
- Lava Bear Youth Sports Foundation WILL be sponsoring youth baseball teams at the 10U, 12U, 13U and 14U level at this time. Sponsorship of other teams is welcomed, however, additional teams are subject to availability of players, quality coaches and facilities. LBYS and Bend High Baseball will not sponsor additional teams unless we are able to ensure that each team has quality coaching that reflects the values and traditions of Bend High School and has the proper facilities to conduct regular practices and games. Bend High School has an amazing tradition and culture; these Lava Bear Youth Sports Foundation teams are a direct reflection of Bend High School. If you are interested in coaching a Lava Bear Youth Sports team, please contact John Weisner or Adam Randall to schedule a meeting.

In addition, Bend Senior High School Baseball coaches and players will be available for ANY team or group of coaches to help with running better practices, ideas for baseball drills, or any other baseball team needs. Bottom line, we LOVE baseball and we LOVE kids. We will do anything to promote the wonderful experience that youth baseball can be.

We look forward to the upcoming baseball season as we improve our program and continue our mission of “Enhancing Opportunities for Future Lava Bears”.

Go Lava Bears...and “The Long Blue Line”



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