

Apple Valley Travel Baseball Board Meeting

October 25, 2021 at 8:00

Board Members Present: Brian Ames, Ann Chamberlain, Chris Halgren, Jess Hodgson, Jeremy Jackson, Katie Jackson, Mac Noland, Lonnie Provencher, Ryan Tauer, Alli Weaver, Brad Willis

Co-op Follow Up

- Eastview
 - Mac met with them on Monday, October 11th
 - Shared content in our deck
 - They are “warm” to the idea. Admit that they have the same numbers challenge we do.
 - Asked their commissioner Nick to form a small working group. Waiting to hear back
 - Nick and Mac met October 25th
 - Voting Thursday but early indication is 80% of the group wants to try and figure out a co-op
 - Didn't get into the details of “why” but had the following two asks
 - Run a single registration through EV.
 - Katie is on the Fusion board. 6-8 years the program has been around. Eastview has taken over a majority of the operations.
 - Why this could cause issues:
 - The families lose access to VAA communications.
 - Worried about transparency on financials.
 - AV = all up front. EV = base fee, tryout fee, tournament fee.
 - Operation and Insurance fees.
 - Follow up questions
 - Can they allocate on why they would want this.
 - Use Eastview branding the first year. Then re-brand in year 2.
 - High School baseball program will have an issue with this. VAA baseball night and everyone shows up in EV gear.
 - Need a way to make AV families feel included.
 - Feels like this is a deal breaker. Eastview has refused to rebrand in the past.
 - There should be a 50/50 split on uniforms costs. It will be hard to ask AV families to buy new uniforms and EV families keep their own. There needs to be some give and take. How would EV families feel if they were to play under AV logo and uniforms?
 - Need to build a program that ties back to the highschool.
 - High school has been getting more involved with the traveling program. They help score tryouts and hosting camps.
 - Need to bring Sam Firpo (AVHS Baseball Coach) into the discussion.
 - Mac to reach out.
 - Reach out to Shaun Linquist (AVHS Softball coach) to talk about Fusion from his side to see how fusion has impacted AV softball at high school level.
 - Has it hurt the program and what would we have done differently?
 - Jess to reach out.
 - Burnsville
 - Meeting tomorrow morning with them for coffee.

Tryouts

- Need to get alignment on co-op or not before booking
 - Savage dome is still open on Friday, March 11th. No refund on rental fee so we are waiting to reserve until co-op decision made
- Eastview tryouts scheduled March 14th-16th at The Cages
- Burnsville tryout dates and location - Mac to verify

Playbook

- Mac created and shared a playbook document to all board members. Board members will add their own sections and instructions. Best way to create a timeline and instructions for future board members.

Ryan

- Zach Hendrickson from The Cages / IGH
 - Tips and tricks for traveling baseball programs. E.g. off season training programs, how to battle club baseball, etc.
 - Guest speaker at our next board meeting.

Committee Updates

- Age Group Coordinator
 - Waiting on co-op plans to come together before registering teams for tournaments.
 - Start to plan in December.
 - End of season survey results. Jess to reach out to Jeremy.
- Treasure
 - Lonnie has early draft.
 - Mac to setup deep dive.
 -
- Secretary
 - Nothing to add
- Concessions
 - Depends on the tournament decision.
 - Rita's ice will cut you a check for a commission.
 - Cooperstown gives us labor but they take a 40% cut.
- Tournaments
 - Need to pay city invoices for tournaments. Alli will submit check request.
 - Suggestion is max of two big weekends.
 - Mother's day weekend mid-May last year had low competition. Has historically been our best tournament.
 - June has a lot of competition.
 - Father's day weekend is a good weekend to run a tournament.
 - Rochester is the only big tournament that weekend.
 - Can we do one big tournament. E.g. mother's day weekend.
 - Jess likes this from scheduling other tournaments.
 - Valley, Johnny Cake, Quarry.
 - Annie would need help running concessions across the three sites.
 - Alli will put together a plan to do a large one weekend tournament. Will present at next meeting
 - Alli watching MBT and Gopher State sites to request bids for our tournament(s)
- Website

- No updates
- Winter clinic dates.
- Tryouts updated on website. Can change if we need to.
- Cooperstown page has been created.
- Registration opens in December.
- Equipment
 - Mounds. 1200 bucks a piece. Long mounds. No metal spikes. How do we store them? 4800 bucks if we replace all four eggs.
 - Still waiting on a couple of bag to be returned.
 - Brian and Ryan to connect on the full equipment list that need replacing
- Tryouts
 - No updates.
- Volunteer
 - Chris likes the idea of a one weekend tournament.
 - Katie will connect with Chris and hand over any document and information
- Uniforms
 - Waiting on co-op decision.
 - Feedback on the yellow hats has been good.
- Fundraisers
 - Open position.
 - Cooperstown fundraising has been going well.
 - Possibility of hosting a bowling or golf tournament
 - Will look into how other programs have done these types of event and if they were successful

Next Meeting Nov 15th at 7:00 Location TBD.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36

Notes from Mac's meeting with Burnsville - board will discuss at November meeting

Here are my notes from meeting with Trevor Huss from BV this morning (Oct 16th).

Next steps are for Trevor to send over some registration projections so we can understand what kind of numbers we are looking at. I think with BV, we are the slightly larger entity and so probably have a more level playing field for negotiations. E.g. keep our registration separate, align on a neutral brand (Firehawks), etc.

- Mac met with Trevor Huss who is BV's assistant commissioner and assigned to be the point person to talk co-op.
- They are starting to lose kids to club, including Trevor's oldest.
- Very worried about the fate of their 11U, 10U and 9U program.
- Seems to indicate Firehawk and 11U, 10U and 9U is very doable. I asked about 15U, 14U, 13U and 12U. He said that he doesn't know those grades as well, but will start a dialog with them. Here is Mac's take
 - 12U - This is the commissioner's (Doug) team. He's been pretty committed to a BV team. Trevor feels he might be able to push him to Firehawk. Minimally though, he feels Doug would be open for accepting kids that we waver out to be part of their age level. E.g. basically the same thing Ryder did.
 - 13U - This is Ryan Henke's group. He's wanted to do a full co-op last year. Feels like he'd be open to the conversation. Plus he's Tauer's buddy!

- 14U - This is Seth's group. Feels like there are some detractors on this group so unsure on what we can do here. Oddly, this is the one age level that it feels like EV wants to go all in at.
- 15U - No insight into this group.
- Trevor has a projection of what they think registration will look like next year. He's sending that over to me.
- Trevor is open to even including EV into the mix. Though I didn't get a good feeling if that was just his opinion, or the entire organization. Unsure on what level of buy-in he'd get from a three-way.
- He is getting back to me, but thinks tryouts are the second weekend in March at the Savage Dome. I.e. 12th and 13th
- Next steps are for him to send over his roster projections and then meet to see if we wanted to bring things together.
- Mac's gut feeling is that we can make Firehawks happen at 11U, 10U and 9U if we want to push it. And I think we have options for the upper levels as well with BV.