



The Line Up

Jan Burch, Editor | Article submissions always welcome. | March, 2022

We're Going to Play!



Tired of the cold and snow? Starting to think about baseball? Well, after approval from the KML Board of Directors, we are going to play this spring! Your players committee is excited to be moving forward with plans, anticipating a return to regular league play and teams.

Our goal, however, is to play when safe and should pandemic-related statistics/issues reverse from the current downward trend, we are prepared to review our plans and do whatever seems right at that time.

Our season will begin Saturday, May 7th and continue for eight Saturdays through June 25.

Players can register at:

<https://kiwanismiracleleague.sportngin.com/register/form/342662811>

your uniform ordered and on hand by as close to opening day as possible.

Coaches Needed



Coach Robin Kadner helps a young player.



Coach Scott Decker looks on while Phillies player shows a great batting stance!

And we're going to need coaches as well! Whether you might be a returning coach or a new coach, you are welcome! The requirements? Enjoy being outdoors. Enjoy the smell of popcorn at the ball park. Enjoy being around kids. Enjoy the love of baseball. Enjoy smiles all around.

Two things are required: 1) a clear background check and 2) registering!

Here's the link to register:

<https://kiwanismiracleleague.sportngin.com/register/form/917743010>

After we receive your registration, we'll be in touch about the required background check.

And be sure to register by April 1st. This will help to ensure that we can get your uniform ordered and on hand by as close to opening day as possible.

In Memory of Al Knudsen



It was a sad day for all of us when our long-time "PA Guy" passed away in January after suffering a massive stroke. Yes, **Al Knudsen, our announcer** won't be around anymore to welcome every player by name to bat, introduce our buddy groups and upcoming events, celebrate our home runs, and bring about smiles and pure joy to our many KML players.

Al, 64, was active in many community activities but especially Make-a-Wish Iowa. He helped change the lives of over 200 children and their families during their hardest battles as a volunteer wish granter. His name is no doubt written on the hearts of those families forever. He was also instrumental in establishing Jolly Holiday Lights, a fundraiser for Make-a-Wish that has become a holiday tradition for families in central Iowa.

Al was a member of the Des Moines Kiwanis Club for nearly 30 years serving as president in 1998-99. He was influential in the formation of our Miracle League and was a charter member of its board of directors. He truly believed that "every child deserves a chance to play baseball" and he helped make it happen.

When not volunteering for Make-a-Wish and our Kiwanis Miracle League, Al could be found on the golf course, cheering on the Iowa Hawkeyes and the St. Louis Cardinals, traveling, and just having fun with his many friends.

We will all miss him greatly.



Al Knudsen at the Kiwanis Miracle League in 2021

And Now In Memory of Al...



Intertwined with Al's passing is your board of directors agreeing to what will Phase III of our Ten-Year Anniversary Capital Improvement campaign start in 2018.

- **Phase I** was replacement of our playing field, building a pergola in our Kiwanis Memory Garden, and resurfacing our concession stand floor.
- **Phase II** (during the pandemic) included topping off our bleachers with steel blue roofing. Spectators will really enjoy this improvement!
- **Phase III** will be enhancing our player experience by upgrading our digital scoreboard to an interactive video board with new audio capabilities.

Fundraising for the video board has begun. Should you wish to contribute to this project in Al's memory, please mail your checks payable to Kiwanis Miracle League, 505 5th Ave, Ste 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.



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A Very Welcome Gift

Officers of the Kiwanis Miracle League were more than surprised to receive most unexpected donation from the Iowa Cubs on January 3rd. Sam Bernak general manager of the Iowa Cubs, along with Randy Wehofer, VP/Assistant General Manager, discussed one of the outcomes of the recent sale to DBH Iowa, LLC,--the club's charitable trust must be liquidated.

The management team of the Iowa Cubs determined that the Kiwanis Miracle League should receive all funds from the 501c3 trust and presented a check the Miracle League for **\$39,807.14**.

This contribution will be applied to our new digital video board.



Sam Bernabe, Iowa Cubs GM, presents check for \$39,807.14 to Kiwanis Miracle League president, Jan Burch, with Bob Mitchell, KML treasurer, and Randy Wehofer Asst. GM, looking on.

Calendar of Events

March	No KML Board Meeting
April 16	1st Date to "Unwinterize" Our Ball Park
April 21	KML Board Meeting
April 30	2nd Date to "Unwinterize" Our Ball Park
May 7	OPENING DAY
May 14	League Play ALL DAY
May 19	KML Board Meeting
May 21	League Play ALL DAY
May 28	League Play ALL DAY
June	League Play Each Saturday in June
Sept. 2	Vision Financial Golf Tourney Benefitting Area Miracle Leagues

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