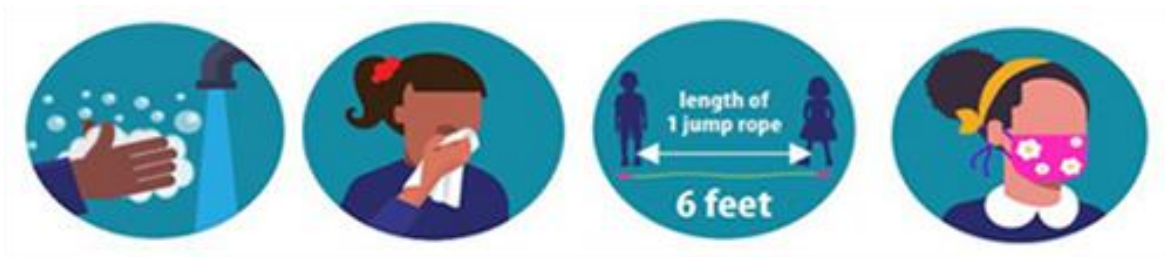




Ⓞ KML NEWS! Ⓞ

Jan Burch, Editor | Article submissions always welcome. | July, 2021



WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU HAVE REMAINED SAFE AND HEALTHY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. ALL OF US ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LIFE SAVING VACCINATIONS AND ARE ALSO HOPING THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF THOSE RECEIVING THE VACCINATION WILL CONTINUE TO RISE. BECAUSE OF THIS, WE HOPE TO BE RETURNING TO SOME SEMBLANCE OF "NORMAL".

Fall Ball? It's All Up to You!

We were extra cautious as we planned our June "pop up" games and are now focused on how we might structure play this fall. Because we are leaning toward a return to "team based" play, we need your help!

- We will be COVID "cautious" but not to the extent of our June games
- We anticipate playing five Saturdays (August 28 – September 25)
- We may or may not have buddies
- Our teams will need coaches
- We hope to organize by teams



Having not had teams for such a long time, we need to know how many are interested in fall ball.

So, we are asking each of you to register for FALL BALL. This obviously will help us determine if we have enough players to support a team-based approach. And we need you to register by July 31 so that we can begin planning.

Here's the sportsengine link:

<https://kiwanismiracleleague.sportngin.com/register/form/580804278>

2021 FALL SEASON - REGISTER HERE

Pop-Up Games Deemed a Success!



We did it! Even Mother Nature cooperated for our four Saturdays of KML “pop up” games. While we didn’t use buddies, we were able to pull off four games each Saturday in June with a good number of adult volunteers. We followed CDC guidelines as closely as possible in order to assure the health and safety of players, volunteers, and spectators. Each day’s game roster was full—six players per dugout. And, my goodness, what a great number of home runs! The hot dogs were scrumptious! And, gosh, it was good to smell the popcorn again.

All were delighted to return to the KML ballpark for some fun and baseball.

And we were especially pleased to have a group of Kiwanis Key Club members join us on June 19 to help make the games successful.



Miracle League Association All-Star Weekend



The Sioux City Miracle League hosted the 2019 ALL STAR ML Weekend. Great planning, lots of fun, and a fabulous facility.



(left) Isaac Baldus represented the KML at the 2018 event in Findley, Ohio, and had such a good time there that he wanted to attend the Sioux City event, too! Also pictured are Ian Krohn, Hanah Phillips, and Sophie Fox. Not pictured: Owen McDaniel.

As a Miracle League, we belong to the Miracle League Association. As a dues paying member, this allows us to use the Miracle League name and logo, make use of many corporate partnerships, and engage in various activities that the League sponsors.

One such activity is the annual Miracle League ALL STAR Weekend. Leagues from all over the country are invited to send two or three players and/or directors to the event. For the first one, held in Findlay, Ohio, Issac Baldus (Twins) and his parents, coach Rob and Bonnie, represented us. In 2019, we sent four players and families—Sophie Fox (Red Sox), Owen McDaniel (Twins), Hanah Phillips (Cubs), and Ian Krohn (Pirates) to Sioux City, Iowa. This year the event will be held in Houston, Texas. We will be sponsoring two players for the November 5-7 event—Andy Decker (Mets) and Toby Givler (Cubs). They will undoubtedly have many good stories to share with us when they return in November.



Toby Givler



Andy Decker

Bleacher Project Completed



Our long-awaited bleacher project is now complete. Spectators are enjoying the steel canopies over our bleachers. We're delighted with the "look" as well as the shade that the covers provide. One player grandmother said, "you've done a lot of improvements to the ballpark, but this one is the best so far!"

KML Get the Ballpark Ready!



Getting ready for ANY play each spring is a challenge and takes lots of volunteers. This spring was especially challenging since we closed the ballpark to all during the 2020 pandemic. Planting, mulching, trimming, weeding, cleaning, dusting, and organizing...we got it done! Thanks to the MANY volunteers who helped get the ballpark ready for play.

And a special thanks to a great group of students from Ankeny Centennial High School who did an amazing job cleaning up two years of shrubbery growth and mulching (40 bags!) around our flag poles and scoreboard. It now looks like a group of professional landscapers had lent a hand!

And It Wouldn't Be Summer without Golf!



We're pleased to have been chosen by the LEXI STILES GOLF TOURNAMENT in COLO Iowa as a recipient of funds raised from the group's annual golf tourney/auction. Held June 26 at the Twin Anchors Golf Course in Colo, the event attracts dozens of golfers and spectators who enjoy barbeque and place their bids on some unique auction items. While the Children's Cancer Connection is the primary beneficiary, our KML will be the recipient of proceeds from the auction. Thanks to coach Rob Baldus and player Isaac (Twins) for representing us at the noon luncheon. As they say, "a good time was had by all."

And on September 3, the Vision Financial Group will again be sponsoring a golf tournament with the three local Miracle Leagues as beneficiaries—Ankeny Miracle League, Urbandale Miracle League, and Kiwanis Miracle League at Principal Park. This is the Group's 7th annual event and we're so proud to be a part of it.

Copper Creek Golf Course, Pleasant Hill
Friday, September 3
7 AM registration, 8 AM shotgun start
Lunch, prizes included

Sponsorships also available at \$100@
\$100/golfer before 8/1/21; \$110 after
Lunch only--\$15@

Come join the fun AND support our local Miracle Leagues!

Bob Mitchell will be putting together foursomes representing our KML. Please contact him at bmitchellhr@aol.com or 515.991.1896.



Calendar of events

- August 19 - KML Board of Directors Meeting
- August 21 - Ball park clean up (tentative)
- August 28 - First Saturday of KML Fall Ball
- Sept 3 - Annual Vision Financial Golf Tourney benefiting KML and Ankeny and Urbandale ML's, Copper Creek
- Sept 4 - Regular season games (tentative)
- Sept 11 - Regular season games (tentative)
- Sept 16 - KML Board of Directors Meeting
- Sept 18 - Regular season games (tentative)
- Sept 25 - Regular season games (tentative)
- Nov 5-7 - Miracle League Association All Star Games, Houston, TX (tentative)

