



Hey Blue! Online

Superclinic on the Horizon

We are just weeks away from the always popular Superclinic, this year being held in Surrey on February 14-15 weekend.

International Baseball Federation umpire supervisor Dick Runchey from the United States will be on hand once again to pass along his expertise and knowledge and will act as our Lead Instructor.

We are also very privileged to welcome back an old friend, Ian Lamplugh, who will be joining us as our Special Guest Instructor. Ian, a native of Victoria, spent several seasons

in the Major Leagues and by far is BCBUA's most successful product to date.

Joining these fellows will be BC's finest instructors and umpire educators.

We are also pleased to announce that newly elected Baseball Canada National Supervisor of Officials, Corrie Davis, of Edmonton, will be on hand to address the group and participate in discussions on the Sunday. Corrie has previously been a Guest Instructor and we are pleased to welcome him back to BC.

Additionally, there will be plenty of fun and games as usual. Door prizes, a gift giveaway, social events on both Friday and Saturday nights, and lunch on Saturday will be provided to everyone. Of course your \$50 BCBUA level 2 or 3 membership dues will be included in the very reasonable registration fee of \$165. You can pay by cheque (payable to BCBUA) or by credit card.

Registration is limited but there are still spots available. Contact the registrar Rob Allan at rob.allan@umpire.ca if you are interested.

Instructors and Evaluators Education

On November 29-30 weekend, BCBUA sponsored our first Instructor training seminar in eight years. Obviously this long awaited clinic was well overdue. With this clinic, 22 additional instructors have been certified to teach level 1-2 clinics in BC. Hopefully we are able to identify several of these people who may in turn become Baseball Canada certified through the Caravan process.

Brian Cargnelli provided a tremendous training program for the classroom sessions

and Rob Allan put the group of student instructors through their paces in the gym.

Troy Carmont, Richard Christie, and Don Hass assisted ably and offered a lot of additional information to the students.

The feedback was excellent and the goal will be to hold



Arne Pederson supervising the Summer Games in Kelowna last summer

this event again in two years time. Also, during our National umpire training weekend in March, BCBUA will further certify Nationally-rated umpires as evaluators for the BCBUA level 3 program. These efforts will bolster our evaluator numbers so that we may offer the level 3 evaluations each year as promised at the November Annual General Meeting.

Calendar of Events:

- January 24 BCBUA Board of Directors Meeting - New Westminster, BC
- February 14-15 Superclinic 2009 - Surrey, BC
- March 20-22 National members umpire clinic and Evaluator training Langley, BC
- July 16-26 World Baseball Challenge - Prince George, BC
- August 6-9 Junior National Championships - Trois Rivieres, PQ
- August 6-9 Baseball Canada Cup - Kindersely, SK
- August 13-16 Midget National Championships - Fredericton, NB
- August 20-23 Pee wee National Championships - TBA
- August 20-23 Bantam National Championships - TBA
- August 20-23 Bantam Girls National Championships - TBA
- August 20-23 Sr. Men's National Championships - Dartmouth, NS
- August 22-30 Canada Summer Games - PEI

Junior Umpires Honored

The following individuals were honoured by the BCBUA as our Pro Image Jr. Umpires of the Year for their respective areas.

- Area 1 – Vancouver Island South: Ryan Kramer – Victoria
- Area 2 – Vancouver Island North: Sean Austin – Parksville
- Area 3 – Lower Mainland East: Troy Murray – Ridge Meadows
- Area 4 – Lower Mainland West: Greg Kelley – Gibsons
Sean Weatherill – Richmond
- Area 5 – Lower Mainland South: Charles Duhamel – Ladner
- Area 6 – Thompson-Okanagan: Danielle Durette – Kamloops
- Area 7 – South Okanagan: Cody Fortin – Rutland
- Area 8 – The Kootenays: Liam Putinta – Fruitvale
- Area 9 – Northern BC: Jeremy Kral – Prince George



Andre Jene working the plate at the 2008 Midget AAA Provincials

BCBUA Library Expanding

The BCBUA is pleased to announce that funding will continue for the BCBUA Loan Library. Despite not garnering any Gaming Grant monies in 2008, the Board of Directors has approved the spending of monies that will provide many of your favourite titles and educational materials. More of the same vid-

eos such as “Jim Evans Balk” and “Rules Made Easy” will be made available in order to cut wait times that have been common with these products. Our Librarian Jerry Tregaskis indicates that it has

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been common for folks to wait several weeks for these products and so it was decided to increase the volume of these materials. The same loan procedures will apply for 2009.

Stump the Ump Answer from Issue 1

Hope you folks enjoyed thinking about this situation from the first issue. To make sure everyone is on the same page, the score is 2-1 going into the top of the 6th inning. During the top of the 6th, the visitors actually are able to score a tying run and then the umpires decide that the game is unplayable any further because of poor weather conditions. So what happens here? Is the score tied and the game is over? Does the score revert to 2-1 with the home team winning? Or does the game become a suspended game with the score tied? All of these maybe correct except which one is correct?

According to rule 4.11 (d), : If the game is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed, the game becomes a SUSPENDED game in each of the following situations:

(1) The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score and the home team has not scored

So what to do? Lets break it down.

1. Did the visiting team score run a run to tie the game? a. YUP.
2. Did the umpire stop the game AFTER the visiting team had tied the score and before the home team can complete their half inning? a. YUP.

3. Is the inning still in progress? a. YUP, we’re only half way through a complete inning here with all of the bottom half of the inning to go folks.

So according to rule 4.11 we have a suspended game. This means that the teams have to complete the rest of the game from the point that it was suspended. The umpires have to make sure that they keep all game records (line up cards with the batting order and any substitution or ejections listed) as all normal baseball substitutions and changes are still in effect when the game continues.

BCBUA Turns 35 Years Old... or Young

In November of 2009, the BCBUA will turn 35 years old! The association was started in the fall of 1974.

Supervisor Richard Christie recently went to Victoria to meet with the 4 other remaining original members of our association to detail some of the history of our association. You can rest assured that the cobwebs were dusted off with these fellows who are now an average age of 63 years old!

Joining Richard was our original President Doug Hudlin, Past president

Chuck Blaikie, Howard Chapman, and Bill Murphy. Other long time members were also present for

reminiscing and cajoling.

Check out HeyBlue! in print for Richard's complete report.



5 Original Members of the BCBUA (L-R), Bill Murphy, Ricahrd Christie, Doug Hudlin, Chuck Blaie and Howard Chapman

To commemorate this anniversary season of the association, BCBUA has produced an attractive crest which will be made available to each umpire at no charge. This anniversary crest will be available for the first time at Superclinic 2009! Umpires all throughout the province will be asked to wear the crest on their left shirt sleeve during the season.

Stump the Ump January 2009

With runners at first and second base and two out, the batter hits a line drive straight back at the runner at second who is standing completely on his base when he is struck by the line drive. The pitcher made an attempt at catching the ball, but he missed it completely and no other infielders had a chance to make an attempt. What is the correct call. Is R2 out for being hit by a live batted ball or is he okay since he was stand-

ing in the base at the time he was hit or does the act of the pitcher trying to field the ball negate any further interference on the play by R2?

Go onto the BCBUA web site, click on the link for the online forums to post your answer. You may have to regis-

Remember to check the BCBUA web site often for late breaking information and more news articles.

ter to post the answer, but this is a quick and easy thing to do. Once on the forum read all of the other posts and see what they have to say before making your decision. All correct answers will be put into a random draw and the winner will receive a new ball bag courtesy of your association. Winners will be announced in the next edition of Hey Bue! On-Line

BC Gains a new Professional Ball Team in 2009

There is a new Professional Baseball League setting up shop the BC capital of Victoria. The Golden Baseball League, based in California, has awarded Victoria a franchise and they will begin play this spring. The club will be known as the Victoria Seals and will play out of Royal Athletic Park starting this May. The Golden Baseball League is a 10 team circuit with a 90 game schedule



starting in May and running until mid September.

The GBL features former Major leaguers, and Minor leaguers who are still looking for their big break. Each year a number of players are signed to professional contracts. Former Montreal Expo Gary Carter was the manager of the league champions last year.

It is likely that a number of top BC umpires will be used to fill in the 3 man

crews that will be used to umpire games in Victoria.

Got an interesting idea for an article or some great action pictures of BCBUA umpires? Send your stories and pictures to either of the editors and we'll try and get it into future editions of Hey Blue! On-Line

Tip of the Month - Your 1st game of the season: A primer for a great 2009 by Brian Cargnelli

Whether you are veteran of many years or walking on the diamond for the first time, “*your first game of the year*” requires preparation. Obviously the place to really start your season off on a good start is attending a BCBUA sponsored Umpire Clinic. This is when you will get some great training and find out about any new rules or interpretations. After that clinic is done, now it’s time to get some real work done at Home several weeks before that first pitch is even thrown.

1. **Get in some sort of game shape:** That couch has been a great place to watch a lot of hockey games over the winter months, but it’s a lousy way to stay in game shape for officiating a baseball game. So a few weeks before that first pitch is the time to get in some sort of game shape. Trust me, your body will thank you after that first game if you actually do some of these simple things.

(a.) Do some deep knee bends a few times a day for a couple of weeks prior to your first game. 20-30 a day is all that you really need to do here to get your legs ready.

(b.) Ride a stationary bike to strengthen your legs for few minutes a day. Better yet, get out and ride a bike to school or work. Not only will you be getting ready for a baseball game, but you’ll be helping the environment.

(c.) Start a stretching routine: Let’s face it, we all need to stretch more and keep those muscles flexible.

(d.) Start a simple walking regime a few weeks before your first game. Running not required here folks, some

simple movement and walking goes a long way. And if you have a dog, great exercise for them too.

2. **Get your equipment ready:**

(a.) Check all straps and buckles for signs of wear

(b.) Look closely at your mask for any signs of wear. Hey it’s only your face behind those bars right!

(c.) Have a check of the laces on your shoes. You’d be surprised how often these things wear out magically in the closet over the winter and what a terrible feeling you’ll have as you lace up for that first game only to have those laces break in half ten minutes before game time.

(d.) Order new equipment early since it may not be available at the last minute.

(e.) Try on all of your uniforms and order any new stuff if some of your older shirts or pants have somehow “Shrunk” over the winter months.

3. **Start reading the rule book or go online and read some of the online rule forums.**

The BCBUA web site has an online forum and several links to other forums that have active rules discussions.

(a.) Some people actually read a different page of the rule book each day over the course of the entire season. Others just read one rule a day and really try to understand what that rule means to the game. Either one will get you to the result you want,

total knowledge of the games rules.

(b.) Some of you umpire more than one league that have different rules. In this case you have even more of a challenge remembering all of these different rules. I find that writing the different rules down and then reading them a few minutes before the game helps me out.

4. **Get your schedule**

(a.) Knowing your schedule and being prepared will create a positive environment for your first game

(b.) Review the schedule and know the proper start time and your assignment (plate or base).

(c.) Arrive early (at least 30 minutes before game time). This will allow you to be relaxed and have a pre-game discussion with your partner.

(d.) Walk on the diamond with your partner 5 minutes before game time even if you have umpired at this field a 100 times before. Remember this is your first game of the season and things may have changed since last year. This is also a good way to show that your “into” the game that is about to happen. !

With some of these steps completed you’ll be a lot more prepared to have a great first game and a fantastic 2009 Baseball season.

Extra Innings— with Provincial Supervisor Richard Christie

Extra Innings will feature a prominent member of the baseball community each month. It may be someone from BCBUA or it could be someone else from the baseball world. This is intended to be a fun feature so don't be surprised if the answers fool you!

This month's special guest is BCBUA Provincial Supervisor Richard Christie.

PERSONAL :

Age: 56

Job: Air Traffic Controller

Home: White Rock, BC

Top of 1 – How many years have you been involved in baseball? **50 years in baseball and 38 of those years umpiring.**

Top of 2 – What has been your most memorable moment in your baseball career? **Working the Gold medal game at the National Sr's in Kentville, NS in 2001. My family was there. That was pretty nice.**

Bottom of 3 – If you could spend an hour with anyone in history, who would it be? **I would say Jesus.**

Bottom of 4 – Tell us something about

yourself that an ordinary person would not know? **I'm a private pilot. I haven't flown for about 10 years. I also wrote a book about flying called, "Confessions of a student pilot".**

Top of 5 – What is your favourite baseball team? **The Yankees.**



BC Provincial Supervisor of Officials

McQueen). I like to watch that every once in a while when I feel down. There was a bunch of good actors in there. I've probably watched it 50 times. My favourite tv series was Red Dwarf. (British Sci Fi comedy – 1988-1996)

It's the 7th Inning Stretch – Are you reach-

Top of 6 – Your Favourite Movie? **The Great Escape. (1963 - Steve**

ing for a Beer, wine, coffee, or soda? **Soda**

Bottom of 8 – Favourite ball park food? **hotdogs**

Bottom of 9 – How many National championships have you attended as an Umpire or Supervisor? **Oh boy. I'd have to guess. About 15.**

Extra Innings....

Top of 10 – Of all your Championship tournaments, what has been your favourite city/tournament? **It has to be Kindsley, Saskatchewan. World Youth in 1984. That's where I got my 5A International standing.**

Top of 11 – What is the single most important thing for you to accomplish as Provincial Supervisor? **To bring unity amongst the troops. To get all the BC umpires to work cohesively together for the same cause.**

Bottom of 12 – You're getting seriously long in the tooth.... J How much longer do you see yourself as an active umpire? **I would say probably another 10 years. Or as long as my health**

Crisis in Cuba— by Steve Boutang

I have been fortunate to have visited the country of Cuba on a number of occasions, but sadly none of which have included a trip to the baseball capital of the world in the capacity of an umpire. However, I umpired their National team in an International exhibition, and have seen their pro league games live in the Island capital of Havana. Cuba boasts a 16 team "professional league" that plays a 90 game schedule from December 1-Mid May. It is baseball in its purest form. There is no advertising, the fields are basic, uniforms are colourful and without the typical cleanliness of a Major League jersey and pants. Stadiums the size of Major league parks litter the country (14 in total) on the island of 8 million inhabitants and the geographical size of British Columbia. As a comparison, Canada has only 2 baseball parks of this size (Olympic Stadium and Skydome). It is truly a baseball crazy nation. The games are played 6 days per week (Monday's are always a travel or

rest day), and most of the games from Havana are broadcast live. This is a bit of an exaggeration. The broadcast is no better than local cable in Canada. The camera angles are few, camerawork is slow, production is mediocre at best by our standards, and the best part. No broadcast booth! The guys providing the play by play, the guys taking stats, and the guy doing the 1975 edition of the radar gun (no kidding) all sit in the first row behind home plate and do their jobs from there. It makes it all the more authentic. Of course the broadcast is in Spanish – and I speak none of it – but it is easy to understand what is going on.

So if you can imagine Cuba losing the Gold Medal at this past summer's Olympic Games, and settling for a Silver. The chaos it has caused in Cuba's baseball hierarchy.

The National team manager got fired, the league saw a complete overhaul with players suspended, club managers re-

moved or replaced, and a new "Minor league system" implemented. The reasoning.....Cuba is no longer clearly the best in the world and consequently major changes must be made. (Yikes!) The mentality there is similar to how Canada feels about hockey.

This "Minor League system" will feature rosters expanded from the usual 25 players to 40. These 'excess' players will form the Minor League portion of the club. These Minor Leaguers are eligible to play on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Additionally they played a 2 week schedule during the Christmas holidays and will play an expanded schedule during the 5 week break in February-March when the World Baseball Classic is ongoing and the regular players are representing their national team. In any event these are major change in Cuba's always interesting baseball circles.