

Harada, Patricia

Subject: FW: El Segundo Little League and ESHS Baseball Program

From: Steven J. Sutherland <sutherford@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 10:19 AM

To: Boyles, Drew (Mayor) <dboyles@elsegundo.org>; Pirsztuk, Carol (Council Member) <cpirsztuk@elsegundo.org>; Pimentel, Chris (Mayor Pro Tem) <cpimentel@elsegundo.org>; Giroux, Lance (Council Member) <lgiroux@elsegundo.org>; Baldino, Ryan <rbaldino@elsegundo.org>; Robinson, Matthew <mrobinson@elsegundo.org>; Weaver, Tracy (City Clerk) <tweaver@elsegundo.org>; Mancini, Aly <amancini@elsegundo.org>; Green, Shawn <SGreen@elsegundo.org>

Subject: El Segundo Little League and ESHS Baseball Program

I am writing in need of support for our high school baseball program. With the success of the El Segundo Little League us coaches are constantly getting the question "What are we going to do to keep these kids in town?" In fact Danny Boehle told me he got the question from the mayor.

We are still a strong program yet the perception in the youth levels is different. We compete in one of the toughest baseball leagues in Southern California and have been in the running for the league championship almost every year. We are consistently producing athletes that move on to the next level with two more of our seniors this year committed to top D1 Programs. We have recent grads who are the head coach at El Camino College and an assistant at UCLA with the Palmer boys and of course Lars Nootbar.

For those of you around long enough you know this is the norm. The difference I see now is the youth level is no longer controlled from the top down. Club teams have a heavy influence on the kids and when you have Mira Costa coaches running some of our El Segundo travel teams, the all star's team brother being a coach for Loyola, as well as several Babe Ruth coaches with ties to Bosco the kids and parents are being hit hard about leaving El Segundo.

What bothers me the most is the parents and youth levels simply don't know the facts. I have close friends running both Loyola and St. John Bosco baseball programs. They struggle. Both were 10-18 last year and they play in leagues where they rarely have a chance to win league or make the CIF playoffs.

We need to do a better job of sticking up for our program. The other high school coaches always ask why we don't hang our banners of championships and professional players. This relates to the Babe Ruth Program as well. No one knows that we have won the World Series several times. No one knows that our head coach Billy Traber was a 1st team All American at LMU, 1st round pick and pitched for 7 season in the MLB. No one knows Craig Cousins has won more games as an assistant coach than anyone else in California history as well as played for the Dodgers. We need to show off our past and present champions if we hope to change the tide.

I know Stevenson field is in the Rec Park but it has been home to a legendary history for both the Babe Ruth and ESHS Programs. Our D1 commits come from Westchester as well as over half of our starters. One of them's older brother played for Harvard-Westlake with a scholarship. The parents chose to send their younger son here and talk about that chose to everyone. They brag about how

they get to play for a first round pick who never yells at him, treats him fairly and allowed him to play other sport and still produced a Ivy League scholarship.

I know the grass is greener on the other side of the fence so for what the west side kids think is heaven are own are looking elsewhere. But it's only because they don't know the truth. Loyola and St. John Bosco are not better programs and never have been. Not in baseball then or now. Please let me know what can be done to showcase our history at Stevenson Field. I know Danny Boehle responded the Mayor Boyles that better facilities would help keep the kids in town. A few upgrades their as well would bring that place back to being the showcase field in the South Bay.

Go Gundo,

Steve Sutherland