

Mt. Olive Jr. Lacrosse Club

HONOR THE GAME!

MOJLC

PO BOX 743
FLANDERS NJ 07836

BOYS' DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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SPRINGING INTO ACTION

Although we are currently in the winter months, The Mt. Olive Jr. Lacrosse Club has ramped up for their spring registrations. The lacrosse registration months are traditionally November through January (due to team declaration and scheduling deadlines set forth by the league). We began our campaign on November 2nd, with school fliers publicizing our in-person registration dates. Most of you have already received your veteran letters and have hopefully responded in kind. There are still some veterans who have not returned. We hope this newsletter will be a reminder to do so. Please keep in mind that registration opportunities are limited to a first come, first serve basis. Don't let the opportunity lapse where you may forget and when the time comes and teams are closed due to roster limits, your child will be unable to participate this spring. Lacrosse is a growing sport and we want to offer everyone an opportunity to experience it. Unfortunately, due to league roster constraints and our small roster of experienced coaches, it is difficult to promise space will be available after a certain point.

Currently, we have 57 boys signed up and are looking to field four teams – a 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade, and combined 7/8th grade. We are also looking into the feasibility of providing a 3rd grade “clinic” level. More information on that will be provided as the details are confirmed.

As of January 1st, our registration fees have increased \$10 per registrant. Our fees are now as follows: \$140 per player/\$260 for two players/\$360 for three or more players.

Registration forms can be downloaded from our website: www.mojlc.org. You can send those forms to MOJLC, PO BOX 743, FLANDERS NJ 07836. We will distribute medical release forms at our parent/player orientations. A notary public will be present at that time. Our orientation is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 4th at the Mt. Olive Middle School cafeteria. Times will be determined once the date is confirmed.

If you have a friend who may be interested, please feel free to direct them to our website or have them call Boys' Registration Coordinator Chris Killian @ (973) 479-0990 or email him @ KillianC1@aol.com. Don't fiddle with your sticks too long – sign up before it becomes too late!

DECK THE HALL!

It was truly a Thanksgiving holiday this past November when our very own Brigitte Geiger was given thanks with the ultimate honor that a coach can obtain. Brigitte was recently inducted into the New Jersey Lacrosse Hall of Fame. The New Jersey chapter of US Lacrosse selected nine worthy recipients to be inducted in the New Jersey Lacrosse Hall of Fame in a ceremony and dinner that was held on November 20, just days before Thanksgiving.

Brigitte was honored for her involvement in the game of girls' lacrosse as a coach and long time official. We congratulate Brigitte and are proud to see her finally get the credit she has truly deserved. You can check out the article about her induction as well as a picture of the event in this month's US Lacrosse magazine – page 142.

CAUGHT IN THE WEB

Recently our Club website was updated by our very own Heather Merkle. We thank her for the very time consuming and difficult task of putting together a fresh new look for our website. Eventually, more will be added as we progress throughout the season. Please take the time to surf our website and take a peek at what our Club has to offer. We also have a new merchandise page that lists items you can purchase at discount prices. You can visit our web page: www.mojlc.org.

COACH WHO HONORED THE GAME GETS HIS HONOR

US Lacrosse and its Youth Council will honor nine individuals from around the country for their service to youth lacrosse as part of its annual Youth Lacrosse Awards program. The group will be honored at the fifth annual US Lacrosse Youth Council Awards Breakfast during the US Lacrosse National Convention from Jan. 12-15, 2006 in Philadelphia. One of the honorees is a gentleman that our Club has worked with in the past.

Donnie Brown of Baltimore Maryland has been one of the most integral figures in helping bring the US Lacrosse BRIDGE (Building Relationships to Initiate Diversity, Growth and Enrichment) initiative to life. His Baltimore-based program is one of the charter members of BRIDGE and Brown has been a member of the BRIDGE Executive Committee since its formation five years ago. In addition to his local work, Brown has consistently offered his talents, time and knowledge to other BRIDGE programs around the country. Most recently, he undertook all of the logistics for coordinating a national BRIDGE team, which participated the 2005 US Lacrosse Youth Festival in Binghamton, N.Y. A former Morgan State player who continues to play today, Brown has coached all age levels, has helped start numerous programs and has also officiated the game. The US Lacrosse Men's Division Coaches Council twice selected Donnie as the Baltimore County Man of the Year.

Our first ever out of state tournament, held two years ago, was at the invitation of Donnie Brown. Donnie hosted a tournament in Lutherville, Maryland and invited us to participate. Our 2004 Varsity team traveled to face teams from Stockport, England, Virginia Beach, Virginia, Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington DC. It was a memorable tournament to be a part of and it was due to the relationship Donnie Brown and our Boys' VP Garry Merkle have developed over the years.

Our congratulations go out to Donnie Brown and we are proud to have formed this special relationship with him.

MONEY MATTERS

As we head into our fourth season of existence, our Club is now officially a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Thanks to the diligence of our president Tim O'Connor, we will now be eligible to solicit corporate donations for the Club in a tax-exempt status, which eventually may allow us to lower registration fees, purchase more game and field equipment, build a larger inventory of player equipment, and help us to create a more self-sufficient Club for your child to participate in. We have set a standard in this Club not to burden our parents and players with mandatory fundraisers. You give enough of your time and financial backing through registration fees; merchandise purchases, and private donations.

With the future of township allotments in question, we can now look to find alternatives to provide financial assistance for our safety equipment, maintenance fees, league dues, referee fees, game and field equipment, and other costs incurred by the Club on an annual basis. We now may be able to achieve all of this without having to pass that burden along to the parents. This may also allow us to eventually lower our registration costs so that we may be more in line with other township sports organization fees. Thanks again to Tim for doing the legwork on what should allow our Club a prosperous future.

BIRTHDAY BALLERS!

The Club wishes to send out birthday greetings to the following registrants that will be celebrating their special day during the month of January:

Joseph Brown

Daniel Laratta

Frederick Sharnikow

Nicholas Verrone

