



ALTERNATIVE BASEBALL



**PLAYING FOR INTEGRATION
YEARBOOK 2023**



PLAYING FOR COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

June 24, 2023 @ Rome High School, Rome, Georgia

Alternative Baseball athletes participated in the first event of the year in Rome, Georgia; playing alongside and against local community ‘celebrities’ to promote awareness and acceptance for people with disabilities. Local ‘celebrities’ included Floyd County Sherriff Dave Roberson, Rome softball coach Trevor Proctor, WRGA radio host Tony McIntosh, front office members of the Rome Braves minor league baseball team, and Rome Braves’ mascot Roman. Locals from the disability community in Floyd County also participated and displayed a strong desire to grow a long-standing Alternative Baseball program for those in the community.

ROME





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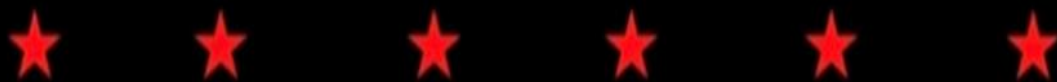
PLAYING FOR COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

July 15, 2023 @ The Heritage School, Newnan, Ga.

The second event of the year took place at the Heritage School in Newnan, Georgia to promote the return of the Newnan Braves to ABO. Former Atlanta Braves catcher Johnny Estrada assisted ABO with curating the event. Local community celebrities who participated included members of the City of Newnan's Police and Fire Departments alongside representatives from the Coweta County Sheriff's Department. Sharpsburg, Georgia mayor Blue Cole and former Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets pitcher Tim Gustafson also participated. This is the first event in which Alternative Baseball athletes from Auburn, Alabama participated. The next iteration will take place in 2024.

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PLAYING FOR COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

July 24, 2023 @ Boyd Buchanan School, Chattanooga, TN.

The third event of the year took place at Boyd Buchanan School in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Baseball coach of the BBS Baseball team and former Seattle Mariners pitcher Stephen Pryor assisted Alternative Baseball by providing the field space to make this event a success! ‘Celebrity’ participants included ESPN Chattanooga radio host Greg Larnerd, wrestling promoter Scott Hensley, former San Diego Padres relief pitcher Paul Clemens, front office members of the Chattanooga Lookouts, and members of the Boyd Buchanan School baseball team. It is believed by parents, players, and supporters alike that attendance was as great as it possibly could have been for an outside event that took place in humid 102-degree Fahrenheit weather. This is also the first event in which Alternative Baseball athletes were given opportunities to coach and serve in leadership positions for the first time.

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IT'S ALTERNATIVE BASEBALL DAY!

Special Proclamation from the City of Columbus, Ga.

Ahead of the return of Alternative Baseball events to Golden Park baseball stadium in Columbus, Georgia, Mayor Skip Henderson commemorated Alternative Baseball CEO Taylor Duncan, Columbus Cobras manager Jerry Ammons, and Alternative Baseball athletes for their hard work and continued success in the Fountain City; proclaiming September 2nd as Alternative Baseball and Disability Sports Empowerment Day in the City of Columbus and Muscogee County! Everyone with ABO was so excited that upon taking their picture outside the City Council hall, security respectfully told all of us to be quiet! Mayor Skip Henderson would then commit to throwing out the first pitch and reading the Proclamation to everyone in attendance at the Golden Park event!

COLGA.



PLAYING FOR COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

September 2, 2023 @ Golden Park, Columbus, Ga.

While other events featured mixed teams of Alternative Baseball athletes from different regions, this was the first event of the year to feature two Alternative Baseball teams; the Columbus Cobras of Columbus, Georgia, and a mixed team of athletes from the Cobb County Blue Devils in Powder Springs, Georgia and Auburn Pilots in Auburn, Alabama. Participants included WTVM-TV Channel 9 sports anchor Tony Reese, Columbus Chatt-A-Hoots pitcher Bryton Trepainer, and representatives from the Columbus River Dragons professional ice hockey team. Mayor Skip Henderson threw out the first pitch and read the Proclamation for Alternative Baseball Day to everyone in attendance.

COLGA.

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PLAYING FOR COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

October 7, 2023 @ Luther Williams Field, Macon, Ga.

Alternative Baseball hosted Playing for Community Integration in a venue well known for movies utilizing the subject of integration in professional baseball; Luther Williams Field in Macon, Georgia! The Macon Bacon sponsored this event starring athletes with disabilities, local celebrities, and Kevin, the Bacon's famed mascot. The manager of the Greenville Joes, Jackson Yearick, drove from South Carolina to manage one team while an Alternative Baseball athlete managed the other team. This was the final ABO event to utilize no time limit. CEO Taylor Duncan and Auburn Pilots' Samuel Barrett did an interview with WMAZ-TV to promote the game three days before. Local 'celebrities' included Survivor castaway Rick Devens, Forsyth, Ga. Mayor Eric Wilson, alongside representation from the Macon Bacon and the Macon Mayhem professional ice hockey team.

MACON



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THE BIG DOUBLE HEADER

October 21, 2023 @ Paulding County High School, Dallas, Ga.

The largest event of the year featured ABO athletes from Illinois, Maine, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama who played alongside local/regional celebrities and former Major League Baseball players. Former professional baseball players included Anthony Lerew, Vladimir Nunez, and Xavier Avery. The Paulding County Rotary Club is a great sponsor of Alternative Baseball and promoted this throughout the community. Representation from West Ridge Church, WSB-TV in Atlanta, Board of Commissioners, Paulding County Fire Department, Paulding County Sheriff's Office, Superior Court, and Hardy Chevrolet participated in an excellent classic of an exhibition! This event was the first to employ a 2 hr. 30 minute time limit and the first event to complete 7 innings in less than the allotted time limit. Volunteers from student clubs across Metro Atlanta and the Civitan Club of Metro Atlanta also participated in the success of the event!

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THE GRAND MARSHAL

City of Dallas Invitational Christmas Parade, 2023

The Rotary Club of Paulding County called on Alternative Baseball CEO and Founder Taylor Duncan to be one of the “Community Champion” Grand Marshals of the yearly Invitational City of Dallas Christmas Parade. Duncan stated, “I had above and beyond the time of my life. I didn’t really have time to wave to people. I think the kids aged from 1 to 92 love the idea of me throwing candy from the vehicle much better. I was one of those kids years ago who attended and adored the parade and the sensation of raining candy from the floats and vehicles. It was truly a blessing and an honor to be asked to participate. I dreamt about being the Grand Marshal since I was a kid. What an opportunity of a lifetime!”

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