

# West Coast Fantasy Baseball Association

Board Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2013 (phone meeting)

Present: Keith DaCosta, Mark Gemello (Treasurer), John Haines, Rob Lanterman, Matthew Schmuck, and Rob Weber (Non-Voting Chairman and Tournament Director)

Not Present : Scott Lueders (gave opinions prior to meeting)

## Potential Early Season Tournament in San Diego

As you know, our annual January tournament in Arizona has been cancelled. Pete Lopez, our long-time umpire for Arizona, Palm Desert, and San Diego, has proposed running a tournament in San Diego at Mesa College. Pete says he will acquire the use of the field, set up the hotel, and put on the banquet. He will need some help from WCFBA (mostly me) to publicize the event to the different camps. He is hoping to get six teams and run a standard Friday through Sunday event. I asked him for multiple weekends to choose from and he provided the following:

- January 10-12
- January 17-19
- January 24-26
- February 7-9
- March 14-16 (field will be in its best condition due to seeding)

I asked about the weather and he says it is fairly nice in San Diego year round. It can be overcast, but rain is not likely. Pete also says the field is top notch. He says the Padres are already 'in' if this happens.

I have already bounced the idea off of Mike Weir who runs our June Pt. Loma tournament and he has no objection to a second tournament because he does not believe it will affect the attendance at his tournament.

I have no idea how popular this event will be with our distribution list, but as it stands, the 2014 schedule has no tournaments until mid-May (Palm Desert).

I believe the true choices for this item are as follows:

- a. Say yes and push for 1/24-26
- b. Say yes and push for 2/7-9
- c. Say yes and push for 3/14-16
- d. Say no for 2014

## Decision :

After discussion, the board voted to support Pete's tournament idea using the March 14-16 dates (option 'c'). Using these dates, Rob Weber will determine the level of interest amongst

WCFBA members (both A's and Giants) as well as outside teams from the Dodgers, Padres, Tigers, Cubs, Mariners, and DBacks.

### **Is Monterey a Tournament Event or is it the League-Ending Weekend?**

At our last board meeting, we agreed that Glendale will not happen in 2014 and that Keith DaCosta should pursue a weekend event in Monterey in late September. Keith has moved forward with arrangements and has learned that hotel rates are significantly less if we bump the weekend into October so he has begun lining up the event for the weekend of October 3-5. He has reached out to Denis Horn and Mike Furutani for local support.

The question is should Monterey be a new tournament on our schedule or should it be the new home for league-ending weekend.

Napa / Yountville has been the home to the league-ending weekend for the last few years. The good news is the games continue to be well attended and we now have a firm relationship with the Napa Valley Baseball Club for future play dates. The bad news is that less than half the full-time league players are attending the banquet. The banquet was the reason we put the league-ending event together, but it isn't drawing as it should. Reasons I have heard for the low attendance range from the high cost to stay overnight in Napa to folks preferring to drive home instead. Maybe most folks aren't interested in spending one night a year together, but I hope I'm wrong.

With the new relationship with Napa Valley Baseball in place, it is possible for us to play 2-3 Sundays a year in Yountville each year. This can happen with or without a league-ending weekend.

If we keep the league-ending weekend in Napa / Yountville and make Monterey a tournament, they will likely be on back to back weekends (or very close) hurting attendance at one or both events.

Choices are as follows:

- a. Keep the league-ending weekend in Napa and make Monterey a new tournament
- b. Bump the play dates in Yountville from one weekend to three Sundays, but move the league-ending weekend to Monterey in early October.

### **Decision :**

The board engaged in a long discussion about options 'a' and 'b' and decided to go with neither. First off, Monterey will be a tournament event and will take place on the weekend of October 3-5.

Second, the league-ending weekend concept has been abandoned for now. WCFBA will play two to three league games in Napa during the season, but no banquet event will accompany them. Instead, the league will revert to a banquet ONLY event after the conclusion of the season. Mark Gemello has volunteered to organize this event which will be designed to draw as

many league members as possible. Awards of recognition and prizes will be included in the event again.

### **The A's Want to Host a Tournament in Lake Tahoe**

Mike Mello has made contact with some folks in Lake Tahoe about playing on their field. Mike has seen the field and puts it above Albert Field in terms of quality. He would like the help of the WCFBA in putting on a tournament run by the A's campers in our association. They would take on most duties associated with a tournament with help from a few tournament veterans.

Obviously this tournament needs to be played during the summer and Mike has proposed August. I told him that his attendance could be hurt by the Lodi event as well as what we have planned for late September and early October. He understands and is willing to move things around the current schedule. Any way you slice it, this makes for a cramped calendar in 2014.

If we do put this tournament on the schedule, we would potentially be trying to launch three brand new events in 2014 (new SD, Monterey, and Lake Tahoe).

Choices are as follows:

- a. Find a weekend and attempt to get a tournament in place for the A's in Lake Tahoe.
- b. Defer this idea until 2015.

### **Decision :**

The board was excited to hear that Mike and the A's want to put on an event. Lake Tahoe is a new venue we haven't tried before. However, the board agreed the 2014 schedule was cramped. The idea was broached that Monterey and Lake Tahoe could be one revolving tournament. If 2014 is in Monterey, then 2015 is in Lake Tahoe. We may have to move play dates a little to avoid poor weather, but the board agreed with this idea. Rob Weber will inform Mike Mello that he can begin planning a 2015 Lake Tahoe tournament.