

## **Little North Attleboro League - North Attleboro, Massachusetts Little Mason Field**

North Attleboro is a town rich in baseball history. We can point back to such moments as Babe Ruth playing a semi pro game at Columbia Field, Ted Williams visiting Community Field for a semi pro game, and Hugh Mulcahy playing a semi pro game at Mason Field one week before signing with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Founded in 1951, The Little North Attleboro League (LNAL) is in its 57<sup>th</sup> year of existence. The league has annual participation in excess of 1,000 players, from age 6 (T-Ball) through 18 (Sr. Babe Ruth). In keeping with our long standing practice of making baseball available to every child, in 2006 we started a "Challenger Division" for those children with special needs and/or disabilities.

On average LNAL spends between \$15,000 and \$20,000 per year on field maintenance and improvements. Recent improvements include; five new backstops, a complete overhaul of the high school field, construction of Ruth Rhind field, new bleachers, and new batting cages. One Hundred percent of the money used to fund these projects comes from registration fees, sponsor fees, and fund raising. In addition LNAL gives back to the community in the form of annual donations averaging \$10,000 directly to the North Attleboro Park & Recreation Department to help maintain and expand their facilities and youth programs.

Our complex at Mason Field dates back to the early 1920's and includes three fields. Named after the Mason Box Company, this complex accounts for approximately 35% of our total field space in the town. Mason Field also plays host to North Attleboro's annual Kids Day Weekend which helps raise money for the less fortunate children in the community, as well as providing a base for the many North Attleboro Park & Recreation activities.

The field pictured is Little Mason Field. Little Mason Field is used by the 9, 10, 11, and 12 year olds. The field is complete with dug outs that are below ground level and fully enclosed. Ask any child that has been through the league about their favorite memory of playing baseball in North Attleboro, and the majority will say the feeling they got the first time they got to play on Little Mason Field.

Our growing town faces a field space crisis. We are at capacity on our fields and hope to extend baseball to more children and save our summer league program by lighting some of the existing fields thereby extending the available playing hours. By lighting this field we could expand the number of games played at the field by 30% in the spring and by 40% in the summer. At the same time we could offer a quality "under the lights" experience for our players and visiting players from other towns as well. Our summer league program includes teams in neighboring towns including Attleboro, Plainville, Norton, Mansfield, Easton, Sharon, Stoughton, Norton, Norfolk, Raynham, ...etc.

Certain sports related memories stand the test of time. The first hit, first trophy, first homerun, and first time playing on a real baseball field. Certainly "playing under the lights" is something that every child holds high on their list of special memories. Playing under the lights takes the baseball experience to a whole new level. To a child it brings forth dreams of playing baseball for their home town hero Red Sox under the lights at Fenway Park.

Although we know that this will never be much more than a dream, it is just this sort of experience we try to provide every day at our fields. It is our sincere hope that you find Little Mason Field worthy of your most gracious donation, and thus allow even more kids the chance to play on what we hope will be their field of dreams.

