

October 28, 2020,

Players of Hoosier Adult Baseball,

I wanted to take a moment to personally thank all of you for participating in the 3<sup>rd</sup> season of Hoosier Adult Baseball. I also want to thank you for your efforts in making this season as safe as possible in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to the season, the board of directors set forth recommendations and guidelines to do our best to ensure the safety of all players, and you all did a tremendous job adhering to them. Without your cooperation and concern for others, we may not have been able to successfully complete the schedule.

I also want to thank you all for embracing what our league is about. Clearly, we all love baseball. We love to compete, and I for one feel lucky to be able to play at our age. While we all like to win, I saw countless examples this season, where winning took a back seat to sportsmanship and celebrating the spirit of why we are out there. To me that is what sets our league apart. There is a high level of play, but not at the expense of a win at all cost attitude. We have a terrific mix of players in our league. People who played in college, high school, and some who haven't played since they were 12 or 13 years old. My primary focus as League President is to ensure that everyone our age who wants to play baseball has a home to do so, and is made to feel welcome.

I want to congratulate everyone who played this season, and be the first to ask you to come back in 2021. We moved from 4 teams to 5 this year, welcoming the Reds as a new franchise. Next year we will likely be expanding to anywhere from 6 to 8 teams. Expansion will present challenges, but challenges we will meet together as a board, and as a league. My goals for next year are simple:

- 1) To maintain a fun environment in which to play baseball.
- 2) To cultivate a competitive balance amongst all teams.
- 3) To expand in a manner that is an extension of, not a departure from, what we have done in the first 3 seasons.

We have some very talented people working to make this league what it is. I would like to thank Vice president Tom Weesner for his help and support throughout the season. When I assumed the role of League President from Dwight Podgurski earlier this year, Tom was there to offer any and all help, and he delivered. Andre Simoneau from the Fusion is also owed a great deal of thanks. Andre updated the web-site, and continues to use his talents to make it more engaging and informative. He has spent a lot of his time helping the league in that regard and in many others. Robert Newton has been an active Board member for 2 seasons, and has been a great voice for the league in planning and development. Tim Berry has been a great help in very much the same manner, and our contact in charge of player development. Tom Hayes, a member of the board for 2 seasons, has also been instrumental in assisting with decisions and implementation. I would also like to say a very special thank you to Chris Kania of the Fusion. Chris has served on the board since it was formed in late 2018. He acted as treasurer up until he had to step away back in January. In spite of that, it has been impossible to keep Chris from helping in any way he could think to help. It also turned out to be impossible to keep him off the field. He demonstrates true courage, strength, and an unsurpassed love of the game. We are a better league because of Chris. I would be remiss to ignore the help and guidance of former President Dwight

Podgurski. As most know, Dwight and Todd Eschmann started this league in 2018. Todd stepped away after season one, but had the vision to start what we do now. Dwight served the league more than anyone I can point to these past 3 years, before moving back to Colorado in August. He showed us the path, and now it is up to all of us to keep moving forward.

I have a great passion for this league and the people involved, and I want all of you to know that in my time as League President, I will always listen, I will always keep the best interests of the players and league in mind, and I will work with the board members to accomplish what we collectively set out to do. I truly consider it an honor to serve in this capacity. I encourage everyone to reach out to myself, or any board member, or coach, with any ideas you have for our league big or small. This winter, we will start planning for 2021, and will provide updates as information becomes available. Stay safe, have a terrific off-season, and please contact me if you care to talk. Thanks again to all of you for being the very best part of Hoosier Adult Baseball. Even you dastardly back to back league champion Monarchs.

With gratitude,

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