Men’s Senior Baseball League and the American Legion Partnership Report

Troy McBride, Lacey Eldridge, Megan Hurley

Professor Gary Bender

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Math for AAS Empacts 2012
Men’s Senior Baseball League and the American Legion Partnership Proposal

**Introduction**

Every year players in the Northwest Arkansas Men’s Senior Baseball League (NWAMSBL) struggle to get proper practice and game fields. Starting in the spring there are many different teams fighting to get time on a limited number of fields here in the Northwest Arkansas Area. The high school students have priority for their fields and the Babe Ruth kids have priority with the city fields. The men in the NWAMSBL do not have a specific field or ballpark complex to hold practices and games.

This is a major inconvenience for the players in the league and their families. When the acceptable fields are being used by youth and city leagues the NWAMSBL players have to find alternative options. They are more likely to get injured for playing on poor fields conditions, spend gas money due to traveling to further fields, and pay for batting cages. Players try to meet for practice only to show up to the practice to see the field is already being used. The players have to decide to wait until the team is done with the field, go try and find another field, or maybe go to a business with batting cages. This is a cost burden to the members of the NWAMSBL. The lack of designated practice and game field(s) cause player’s family and friends to rearrange plans, or even cancel them because the venue changed at the last minute due to a scheduling conflict.

My goal is to form a partnership between the NWAMSBL and the American Legion for specific use of two of their baseball fields. The proposal will include background information and history of the organizations involved followed by the proposed scope of work, costs.
associated with the project, and an S.W.O.T (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis). The proposal finishes with the conclusion and reference page.

**Organizations Information and History**

**MSBL**

The Northwest Arkansas Men’s Senior Baseball League was officially established in 1991. The NWA chapter consists of members from the River Valley, Southwest Missouri, Northeast Oklahoma, and Southeastern Kansas. Consisting of age based divisions to accommodate players from 18 years of age and older. Currently the NWAMSBL has an 18+ MABL division, a 25 and older division. Players from all walks of life and ability levels make up the league. Manual laborers, corporate executives, former semi-pro, collegiate, high school players, and people that have never played in their life keep the NWA chapter growing and successful. (Boudreaux)

On a national level the MSBL/MABL provides an outlet for many people to continue to enjoy the game they have loved for years and still love! Established in 1988 the MSBL/MABL has been providing men 18 years and over, of any skill level a professional environment to play competitive on the baseball. (League, 2012)

The MABL/MSBL has established itself as a creditable not for profit organization committed to providing service to the community and a healthy activity for many residents in the area to enjoy.
The American Legion

The American Legion has a long standing history of community involvement and loyalty to the United States. The American Legion is an advocate for Veterans and their rights. They help Veterans apply or re-apply for the benefits they have earned. The Legion has been mentoring and guiding Americans since 1919. As the largest wartime veteran’s organization the American Legion has a reputation as a committed and dedicated community volunteer organization. One way the Legion gives back to the community is by sponsoring a youth baseball program. (The American Legion, 2012)

The Legion takes those same values mentioned above and applied them to forming a baseball league for 17 and 18 year olds. American Legion Baseball has been promoting equality, sportsmanship, and being active since its inception in 1925. Legion Baseball has played an important part of millions of young men’s lives by providing some traditional values, and an opportunity to play competitive baseball. For Over 87 years, American Legion Baseball continues to be a beacon to young ball players. (The American Legion/Baseball, 2012)

Both organizations are dedicated to baseball and the community, as you can see from the previous sections and paragraphs. I believe a partnership between the American Legion and NWAMSBL is a win-win.

The NWAMSBL would like to designate two fields use for games and practices. One of the fields is located in Fayetteville, Arkansas on Curtis Street. The second American Legion field is located in Rogers, Arkansas. The NWAMSBL consists of players from many cities, towns,
and even states. The main thoroughfare for players and residents in NWA is the 540 bypass which stretches from interstate 40 starting near Alma, Arkansas and heads north toward Bella Vista, Arkansas where is merges into highway 71. This is important due the amount of time the MSBL players use the 540 bypass driving to games, and practices. However, the majority of these players live in Benton and Washington County. The Fayetteville field would be beneficial for the entire league, but more convenient for the players that live close to this field. The same ideology is used for the Rogers field.

**Proposal**

We will propose that the Men’s Senior Baseball League be allowed specific use of two American Legion baseball fields (mentioned previously) in Northwest Arkansas. The NWAMSBL is requesting these two fields that have been neglected, run-down, and not properly maintained over the years. The players in the NWAMSBL will first renovate and repair the fields. Once the fields have been repaired and deemed ready and suitable for play. The teams in the league will be responsible for the care and maintenance of these fields for the duration of the relationship. Once the agreement has been made, the members of the NWAMSBL will begin the renovating and repair portion of the project to prepare the fields for the upcoming season.

Once completed the American Legion and NWAMSBL will have an astatically pleasing, safe, and fixed location to enjoy playing baseball for many seasons to come. The members of the communities can be proud to drive past nice looking fields on their way to work, home; grocery shopping, or whenever. The NWAMSBL also has many veterans on teams. I was on a team with four veterans a few years ago, but no one was a member of the American Legion. This partnership gives Veterans, playing in the league, exposure to the American Legion, which can
increase Legion membership. The more members the American Legion has, the more prepared they can be to provide community service projects.

**Scope of work**

Field renovation will consist of the following:

- **Evaluate playing surface** - Field evaluation personnel will consist of the league president Stephen Boudreaux, American Legion representative, MSBL board members and landscape experts to develop an action plan and finalize projects plans.
- **Repair infield** - Over time areas in the infield develop depressions, ripples, holes, and dirt build up that prevents proper drainage and can cause injury to players.
- **Grass and Weed control** - We will kill weeds, reseed, fertilize, and mow grass
- **Rebuild the pitcher’s mound** - Pitchers mounds are one of the worst areas to develop holes. Some pitchers kick away the dirt in front of the pitchers rubber for better leverage. If dirt isn’t filled back the hole gets deeper and can become a hazard.
- **Paint dugouts** - Painting the dugouts will be aesthetically pleasing.
- **Repair holes in fences or structures** - Holes in fences can cause teams to lose or gain runs during a game if a ball in play roles through a hole in the fence.
- **Install sprinkler system** - When agreement is made, Mark Olson Director of Purchasing at Toro Inc will donate two sprinkler systems to install to keep the grass healthy throughout the summer.

The renovation work will be completed by volunteers from the MSBL, the American legion, and the community.
Jeff Patterson owner-operator of Patterson Construction will donate needed equipment for the project as we as our construction consultant for the project. Mr. Patterson has been a contractor in the northwest Arkansas area for over eight years. In those eight years Mr. Patterson has built valuable relationships with craftsman, retailers, and vendors that can provide services or materials at a discount or donation.

Costs for the renovation phase of the project are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sprinkler System</td>
<td>Donation per Toro Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed (bluegrass)</td>
<td>Donation per Grubbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirt</td>
<td>Donation per American Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint</td>
<td>Donation per Wal-Mart Stores Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>NO COST</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix-A

Timeframe for completion of project is four weekends or a month’s time. Work days will start at 0800 in the morning and finish for the day at 1600. Everyone will be welcomed to stay longer if they desire.

Projected start of project: Spring 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task by weekend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair Infield</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Math for AAS Empacts 2012
Once the field repairs have been complete and a maintenance and preparation schedule has been established for the league, a rotating schedule of the teams in the league will begin the care and maintenance of the fields. The designated team will be responsible for making sure that the field is prepared and ready for use prior to game start time.

**Pregame Preparation will consist of the following:**

- Mowing the grass
- Drag the field
- Water the infield
- Chalk foul lines
- Batter’s box
- On deck circles
- First base, third base coach boxes

**Cost for the weekly maintenance and game preparation are as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gas for mower</td>
<td>Donation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Math for AAS Empacts 2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Chalk</th>
<th>Donation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water for fields</td>
<td>Billed to American legion (per approval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>NO COST</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appendix-B  *Additional cost will be evaluated and added as need and opportunity arises.*

# Methodology

## Outfield grass:
- Outfield grass area is 60,000sqft
- Infield grass is 8,000sqft
- Total = 68,000sqft or 1.6 acres (43,580sqft per acre)
- 6 – 8lbs per 1000sqft
- \( \frac{8}{68000} = 68 \text{lbs of seed needed for all grass areas} \)
- 1 bag = 50lbs

\[
(A+B=C) \quad (C \times $92.80=D)
\]

\[
1 \text{(infield)} + 8 \text{(outfield)} = 9 \text{ total bags}
\]

\[
9 \times $92.80 = $835.20
\]

We will save $835.20 to plant new grass seed in the baseball field

## Infield dirt:
- Infield will need approx 11,550sqft of dirt assuming it will be a 1” thick.
- A legal truck is 20 tons, which covers approx. 16 yards.
- To resurface our infield we will need to cover 36 yards.
- \( \frac{36}{16} = 2.25 \) truck loads
- 20 tons x 2.25 truck loads = 45 tons
• Cost per truck of dirt = $100.00
• Savings of $225.00

Base paths:
• Starting from the point of home plate (not including black area)
• Home to First = 90’
• First to the CENTER of second base = 90’
• Center of second base back corner of third base = 90’
• Then back to our original point on home plate = 90’
• This a square and all side are equal and 90 degree angles

We can calculate the distance with the Pythagorean Theorem $A^2+B^2=C^2$. This should give 127 Feet 3 3/8” from home to second

$90^2+90^2= 16,200^2 = 127’.27”$

S.W.O.T Analysis

Strengths:

• Community involvement
• Costs (donated items)
• Sense of pride for MSBL
• Security of knowing where games and practices will be held
• Confidence that field conditions will be suitable
• Cost savings to league and players. Gas, field usage fees

Weakness:

• Location of fields
• Scope of work too large
• Legalities involved

**Opportunities:**

• Enough Volunteers
• Cooperation between individuals
• personality differences

**Threats:**

• Weather
• Finances
• Reliability of people
• Ego’s
• Politics

**Conclusion**

We are excited to begin the project upon the approval of the proposal. Once the fields have been renovated and ready for play, the members of the MSBL will have a safe, reliable, and fun facility to practice and play games on. The sense of security and pride accompanied by having a field specifically designated for MSBL members and approved guests is immeasurable. Family members of the ball players will know where their loved ones will be playing baseball and won’t have to worry about games or practices changing at the last minute. This is an important part of building the community. Families will be more likely to attend games if they know where to go and be confident that the location won’t change.

Math for AAS Empacts 2012
We appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing the proposal.

Troy McBride
7 Taransay Circle
Bella Vista, Arkansas 72715
Cell: (479)283-3403
Tibull177@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

- Troy McBride: Wrote the proposal, helped direct and explain the importance of this project, and showed the importance of the community service that needs to be approved to make baseball fields safer for our players.

- Lacey Eldrige: Researched the costs of seed, fertilizer, and baseball dirt. She did the math portion allowing us to know how much it will cost to completely renovate the baseball field.

- Megan Hurley: Edited and put all information together, making the power point. Edited proposal adding in the calculations of how much it will cost to renovate the baseball fields.

- Took pictures and discussed our roles in the project.
References

Bibliography

http://www.nwamsbl.com/NWAMSBL.htm


