

Queens Voc Baseball

Baseball . . . As It Ought to Be !

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Moving on...

Welcome to the 2013-14 school year. Last year we were forced into the A-division by PSAL, and finished 4 & 12, with 8 of the 12 losses by 10-run rule. Further, we missed the playoffs for the first time in 12 years.

The team also had internal issues that arose out of a sense of frustration and a feeling of entitlement.

We had few non-league games, conducted no winter workouts through the fitness club, cancelled our pool tournament for the first time, and did not have team dinner. It was a rather unsuccessful and unpleasant year for the team.

It's time to move forward. Perhaps this year everything comes together again. It's up to the team members. A positive sign is the amount of support we have had at the beginning of this year. The season is going to be as good as we make it.

...to Tryouts

Tryouts were held on Columbus Day, from 8:30am to 2:30pm at Flushing Meadows Park. Forty-five boys tried-out for the school's varsity and junior varsity teams.

The tryouts ran well, and we saw some good talent that will allow both the varsity team to continue to rebuild and the JV team to do well.

Thanks to **Jose Alvarez** ('11), **Oscar Alzate** ('04), **Armando Avila** ('11), **Ronnie Carrasco** ('08), **Steve D'Elena** ('08), **Larry Lebeau** ('11), **Javier Pasarin** ('12), and **Manny Portorreal** ('08) for running tryouts. We even had guest appearances from **David Pena** ('13) and **Mr. Reynoso**, Queens Voc's Spanish teacher.

Tigers Trek to Philly

Eight varsity veterans left the driving to Greyhound on their trip to Philadelphia on Saturday, Sept. 21, for Action Team training. The students who attended were the varsity veterans who attended freshman orientation.

William De Los Angeles, **Chris Fnu**, **Kevin Hernandez**, **Hamza Naseer**, **Dolapo Oyekanmi**, **Oswaldo Nunez**, **Jhon Reynoso**, and **Jason Seino**, along with the coach, also got to see the Mets play the Phillies before heading back to New York. Among the MLB players the Tigers met were NY Mets players were **Eric Young, Jr.** and **LaTroy Hawkins**. See our website, QVTigers.org, for photos.



Congratulations

The boys selected for varsity are:

Nelson Batista, **Mauricio Bustamante**, **William Callanan**, **Benedetto Caraballo**, **William De Los Angeles**, **Johan Diaz**, **Jorge Estrada**, **Carlos Fernandez**, **Jeffrey Guevara**, **Guillermo Guzman**, **Kevin Hernandez**, **Miguel Marrero**, **Kaden Mejia**, **Hamza Naseer**, **Oswaldo Nunez**, **Kevin Olivares**, **Dolapo Oyekanmi**, **Jordi Perez**, **Dario Rodriguez**, **Christopher Ruiz**, **Mario Salcedo**, **Jason Seino**, **Brandon Taveras**, and **Anthony Ventimiglia**.

Upcoming Activities

- Wednesday, Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Dinner, 5pm at Queens Voc.
- Friday, Dec. 6: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm
- Friday, Dec. 13: Pool Tournament, see info below
- Friday, Jan. 3: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm
- Friday, January 10: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm
- Friday, January 24: Conditioning Club, 4:30pm

Giving Thanks

At the beginning of the 2006-07 season, **Elbel Estrella**, **Dio Gonzalez**, and **Dan Medina**, who would later become the team's captains, secretly planned a team Thanksgiving Dinner. It was a huge success. It brought together the newly assembled team and numerous former players. It was the beginning of a great season. **Elbel** remarked that "we wanted to start our own tradition."

The tradition continues on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 5pm. We are limiting the number of former players invited; only baseball players who receive this mailed invitation from us are invited.

Pool Tournament

Our eighth Queens Voc baseball team pool tournament will be held on Friday, December 13, at Steinway Café Billiards, 35-25 Steinway Street, Astoria, NY 11102. The tournaments are a fun way to get to know each other better. Current and past baseball players are invited. Advance notice is appreciated. Call the coach, or e-mail him at Coach@QVTigers.org. The cost is \$10 for each pool player. The tournament will run from 4pm to 7:30pm.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Wed., November 27

School, Baseball, and...

School should be the team members' number one priority. Students are expected to attend school each day and pass all their classes. But keep in mind that Tigers baseball comes second. Team members are expected to do what is best for the team. Attending team events, staying out of trouble, and maintaining eligibility are all part of each team members' responsibility to the team.

PSAL Fall Showcases

While most of the Queens Voc boys who want to play baseball this year were at tryouts in Flushing Meadows Park on Columbus Day, two veterans, **Dolapo Oyekanmi** and **William De Los Angeles**, were at MCU Park, participating in PSAL's 10th Annual Junior Showcase. Seniors **William Callanan** and **Kevin Hernandez** were selected to participate in PSAL's Senior Showcase, which took place on Saturday, October 19. Congratulations to the four Tigers on their selection.

Tee Shirts

We are hoping to continue our baseball tee shirt fundraiser this year, but we do not yet have a design. We will send out a separate flyer if we develop and select a design in time to order and distribute by the Christmas break. We will also put the design and ordering information on our website. Anyone interested in ordering a shirt can do so by contacting the coach at Coach@QVTigers.org. The cost will remain \$10.

QVTigers.org

Our team website is a great source of up-to-date information about our team. Our schedule of activities is posted, and we recently updated it with more pictures from the late '90s. We have also posted pictures of tryouts and our community service activities at Flushing Meadows Park and the Poppenhusen Institute. There are also many pictures from past events, a history of uniform numbers, past newsletters, and awards from previous years. Have ideas for improvement? Let us know. You can email us at Team@QVTigers.org.

Schedules

Our PSAL schedules have already been posted, and we are now in the process of scheduling non-league games. Our game schedule will be posted at QVTigers.org, but keep in mind it is tentative and subject to change.

Cleaning up and Helping Out

Queens Voc baseball again participated in the "It's My Park! Fall Cleanup Day" at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Nearly 40 Queens Voc students—many of who had tried out for baseball—participated in the park cleanup on Saturday, October 19. The students and varsity coach were joined by **Ms. Rejalaga**, Queens Voc English teacher.

This has become a regular event for Queens Voc students and the Tigers. It allows us to work together to help keep our home park clean, develop bonds among fellow baseball players, and gain for our team recognition among park administrators.

Help on the Way!

Preparing for the upcoming season doesn't start in March. Since we returned to the school in September for orientation, a lot of work has already been done. Some players have come by consistently to help. **Kevin Hernandez** was a freshman captain in 2011, and was a captain again last season, 2013. Kevin has been there to help get us moving forward.

And Kevin is not the only one helping. Freshman **Guillermo Guzman** has been invaluable, and freshman **Dario Rodriguez** has been very helpful, too.

There is still a lot to do. We have tee shirts to design and sell, Thanksgiving dinner to prepare for, a pool tournament to plan, and duffle bags, uniforms, and jackets to order. All team members can do more. The help we get will make our team better.

Scholarships Available

Varsity team members who help as Action Team captains—leaders of our community service activities are eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship from the MLB Players Association and Volunteers of America for "outstanding community service work." Last year, we had two winners, Kevin Hernandez and Nathaniel Rodriguez. We have had at least one winner each year since we have become an Action Team. See the coach for an application.

We also have a huge list of scholarship opportunities on the wiki.



Wristbands

We have gotten a new shipment of Queens Voc Tigers wristbands, which we are selling for \$1 each. Players will be selling them in school.

Pool Tournament: Fri., December 13