

# Dreams come true in baseball league

By Connie L. Sheehan  
Senior Editor

Four years ago, Kirk Lehl joined the ranks of about 100,000 other baseball enthusiasts across the United States who own and manage their own major league baseball teams.

After hearing of a friend's experiences, Lehl decided to form his own Fantasy Baseball League, an imaginary league with fantasy teams.

"It's also known as Rotisserie Leagues — named after a restaurant in New York where the (imaginary) drafts first started," he explained.

Lehl said he came up with a league system that works well, although variations of the hobby exist all over the states.

The league starts with a player's draft, Lehl said.

Lehl said nine participants (owner/managers) draft from real American and National League baseball players, choosing 30 as members for their fantasy team.

One of the major variations between our league and the Rotisserie Leagues is that the Rotisseries usually bid for their players during the draft, he said. In the league the winner of last season has the choice to go first in the draft, then teams take turns.

"Whatever happens to that player in the regular leagues happens to the player on your team," he said. If a player hits a home run, then he is credited with a home run for the fantasy team.

Each play is worth so many points, Lehl explained. A home run might be worth three points, a single worth one point and a strike-out worth so many points.

The season is divided into 13 rotations, a rotation being equal to two weeks, Lehl said. Points are accumulated during each rotation and the team that wins the most rotations also wins the season.

Lehl said that later in the "season," a few more players are added to each roster and the managers can trade players like the regular leagues.

"If both your first-base players are injured, the manager can trade for a healthy one," Lehl said.

Lehl said he used to accumulate the players' statistics during the season by hand.

"Now I use the USA Today computers," he said, explaining how he phones the computer service by modem. "It does cost but it's 1,000 percent easier."

Basically, there is no cash reward for winning the season, he said, but the winner does get to join the league for free the next season while the runner-up pays half price.

Lehl said the \$55 fee covers the cost of computer time, postage and his time to process the information for the teams.

Lehl calls his Fantasy league the "Baseball Fanatics League," which consists of three separate leagues. The "Ernie Banks League"

met Tuesday night for their draft. Walking into the Lehl basement, the managers were greeted by the Tuesday night ESPN baseball game on the big screen television. Waiting for the managers were Xerox copies of baseball statistics, a list of eligible players and other baseball publications.

Manager Wayne Westin arrives decked appropriately in a Cub's

See DREAM on 13



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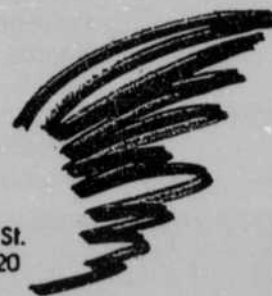
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