GATORS WRAP UP BANNER SEASON AS CHAMPIONS

Go Burger Manhattan—The GATORS are the CHAMPIONS. With as much deliberation, conversation and consternation (sorry ***Clyde***) as the 2000 presidential election. We did not need a Supreme Court ruling but came damn near close to playing in the 106th street Target Parking Garage—don't ask. With the unending rain and that got ***Noah*** busy and the unavailability of dry land to play on it was determined to heed the words of ***Porky Pig*** "THAAATS ALL FOLKS". The GATORS did not back into anything though. Having the best record and winning two of three from their nemeses, and the number 2 seed, The SHARKS, gives all the cred The GATORS need to legitimize their CHAMPIONSHIP—so cue up some ***Freddy Mercury*** "***BECAUSE WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS***".

The Wrap-Up—With their season officially and finally over The GATORS went about the important business of celebrating. Scheduling their celebration and awards dinner was almost as hard as trying to reschedule the final game but it was pulled off and The GATORS and their fans descended on Go Burger on the upper eastside for Trophies and Game Balls. The Championship Banner was also unveiled (for the 'Fall Ball' Champs—thanks for pointing that out **Rufus**—we have since been able to fix that). The Championship Banner has since been raised to the rafters and is on permanent display in the **Jack Zgodny Hall of Fame & Sports Bar Man Cave.**

The agenda for the evening went something like this:
Before the Trophies and Game Balls were distributed there were a few remarks to thank the Coaches, Parents, Families and Fans.

Then the presentations began.

1. The first GATOR GAMEBALL goes to the newest member of the team **Isamu Sims** for his efforts in his pitching debut on 5/4/2013. Pitcher maybe the toughest position –standing out there all alone waiting to make your throw with everyone watching. Isamu started the game and struck out his very first batter. Isamu also showed his excellent fielding, and base running skills throughout the season and was a welcome addition in The GATORS infield as a reliable glove at 3B, SS and 1B.

2. GATOR GAMEBALL #2 to **Dean Hauser**. Hauser returns to The GATORS after a season in Japan. Hauser's Crucial, record-tying 2 hit-by-pitch in one inning was instrumental in the rally that closed out The GATORS big win against The SHARKS on 6/1/2013. The Win eventually locked up the Championship for The GATORS, Scoring both times after adhering to the **Walter Matthau** playbook in that wild last inning of the last regular season game. Dean led the team in HBP and wins the ***Take one for the team*** Rudy Stein Award.

3. GATOR GAMEBALL #3 to another GATORS newcomer and our second ever Josh, **Josh Luo**. Luo working every week in practice and clinics steadily advanced his game and became a reliable arm on the pitching staff and working effectively as a setup man. Luo gets a game ball for getting the Win in middle relief in the last regular season game against The SHARKS 6/1/2013.

4. **Cameron Drew** was another new pickup this year. Also a gritty competitor who made the most of his chances finishing with 2 putouts and 1 assist on defense. Working hard and gaining the coaches confidence as the season moved on we are giving Drew The GATOR GAMEBALL from 4/13/2013—

game 1 Cameron's best offensive game of the season. Cameron's line 3-1-2-1 with a SB. More good things are expected to come from this player. One to watch!

5. Returning veteran **Gideon Glick** gets GATOR GAMEBALL #5 for his play in game 3, 4/27/2013. Gideon had 1 hit but on defense made a big play on a grounder up the middle throwing out the runner at first to help keep The GATORS close in a game they eventually won against the Demons 8-6.

6. **Harlan Auerbach** had literally one of the hugest hits of the regular season, queued the rally that eventually put away The SHARKS and left The GATORS alone in first place. On 6/1/2013 with a full count he drove a clean triple that scored Hauser in one of the biggest rallies of the year. Auerbach later hit again in the inning and finished 3-3-2-2 with that triple on the day. Another memorable play on defense was the tag at third base to get a runner caught stealing in game 6. Auerbach gets GATOR GAMEBALL #6 for 6/1/2013.

7. Number 7 a number that means a lot to Coach personally goes to a player that is close to Coach and is probably as close to a second son he will get. **Bodee Bacal**. Bodee has been with Coach and this group since the beginning and will do anything Coach tells him except when Coach *tells him!!* Coach probably gets on him more than any other player at least twice as much because he also has him for football but Bodee can take it. Coach says Bodee Pitch he pitches, Coach says Bodee Catch he catches first base out field QB etc.
   Bodee had some noteworthy moments both on Offense 6 RBI's to go along with an incredible 6 SB?! And on defense throwing out a base runner trying to steal and tagging out numerous runners at home—if only the ump had seen it. They were outs. But The GATOR GAMEBALL is for game #3 4/27/2013when Bodee was forced into a start with a short bullpen and did a fabulous job. Recording 4 strikeouts and keeping it close until The GATORS could get it going and win the game.

8. GATOR GAMEBALL #8 goes to **Max Rievman**. The returning vet had a solid season With 5 hits in 11 at bats for a .455 avg. second on the team with 8 RBIs led the team with 4SACs and had 4 SB. The GATOR GAMEBALL is for game #2, 4/20/13 where he went 3-1-2-2 with that huge triple in the first GATOR/SHARK meeting.

9. This one is Coach's MVP. Starting the season on the DL because his sister dropped him on his head he did not join the team until game 2 on 4/20/2013. But he sure did make an impact that day. The GATOR GAMEBALL for **Jack Zgodny is** for going 3-0-1-2 that day with the walk off 2 RBI single that completed the comeback against The SHARKS. Even missing one game Jack finished second in runs scored with 6 to go along with his 6RBI's.

10. Now we get to the MVP's of this team. GATOR GAMEBALL#10 to **Nolan Beatty**. Nolan hit a solid 8 -10 .800 and was tied for second on the team in hits with 8 even while missing the final game with an injured arm. Nolan again was one of the best defensive players and second on the team with 6 putouts to go along with 2 assists. Game 3, 4/27/2013 Nolan went 3-0-3-2 and getting those RBIs in clutch 2 out situations. GATOR GAMEBALL for Nolan.

11. Another MVP. Another player who will give you what ever you need, play wherever do whatever and deliver in the clutch. GATOR GAMEBALL #11 to returning veteran **Christopher John**. Solid on defense with 3 assists including throwing out a base runner trying to steal and 2 putouts. Reliable as starting pitcher or out of the bullpen a kid who will play you in the parking lot in a blizzard. Christopher led the team with 10 hits, 11 stolen bases and 3rd in RBIs with 7, most of the clutch variety. His GATOR GAMEBALL is for the game 7 on 6/1/2013. He was 3-1-3-2 and those RBIs were big hits in a big game. When the game was still in doubt. Timely clutch hitting as he had done all year. Also had a nice play at third on a caught stealing defensively. Or the little maneuver in game 5 doubling and stealing third to score the go ahead run on a sac by Rufus Knuppel—honorable mention.

12. Now for the Aces. Also an MVP **Rufus Knuppel**. Offensively was solid hitting .500 and driving in 5 runs. But pitching and defense were excellent. Leading the team with 9 putouts and racking up 22 strikeouts. GATOR GAMEBALL -- pick one but lets say game 2 for the 3 strikeouts and 3 putouts on 4/20/2013 or how about 5/18/2013 game 5 a small 3-2 win where Rufus' Sac RBI was the go ahead run after Chris John Doubled and stole 3rd.

13. Our Fireman and MVP as well. Call him Sandman, Mariano or **Josh Lee** the kid does it all. Led The GATORS in Runs 8 and RBIs 13 tied for second in hits, 7 assists, 5 putouts, 20 Strikeouts. GATOR GAMEBALL?? How about for game 7 on 6/1/2013 4-2-3-6 and a walk. Plus the as always reliable pitching and defense that kept the game out of reach from The SHARKS.

Additionally the first ever MANNYVAN.com #1 FAN GATOR GAMEBALL was given out this year to **Keith Attard.** Keith was there helping out as the Bat Boy and biggest fan every week at the field. Congrats to Keith and we hope to see him soon out in the field earning a player's GATOR GAMEBALL!

One more email from our Instructor **Nick Ruggia** who could not be with us was

…I'd love to be there, but unfortunately I'm in Virginia right now at an art festival. If you could tell the kids that I loved working with them this year, and that I'm really proud of the effort that they brought to every practice and game, I'd really appreciate it. They're a really great group of kids and I was really lucky to have a chance to work with them, because so many of them care about the game and really want to learn how to play it the right way…. It was an absolute pleasure.
All best,
Nick

presented, and it was time for the pictures and final team break-up of the season.

Notes

- Registration is now ongoing for Fall Ball 2013. Most of the Team will be moving up to 10U…Too bad we already have the Banner printed—that one was for you Rufus.
- The Awards Dinner went so well it is expected to be a traditional season ending event possibly doing it **JUST WITH THE PARENTS…**stay tuned for that.
- Pictures and video from this season will be available on MANNYVAN.com
- Stats will be posted shortly as well