

American Legion Baseball Comes to Local Area

by Al Roberts

Ellenville's *American Legion Cook-Taylor Post 111* is sponsoring an American Legion baseball team for the first time. March 15th was our 80th anniversary at *Cook-Taylor Post 111*.

American Legion baseball is America's oldest nationwide amateur baseball program. In 1925, in the small town of Milbank, South Dakota American Legion baseball was proposed. Legion baseball has come a long way since 1925. Since its beginning, over ten million young men have played and enjoyed Legion baseball. Many Legion players have become major league players and coaches.

American Legions throughout the nation offer many scholarships, some on a local level, some on a national level. Scholarships are not only given for scholastic achievement but for different sports activities as well. The goals for American Legion baseball are the development of team discipline, individual character, and leadership qualities in the youth of America today, and to promote and perpetuate Americanism in today's youth.

Any boy age 16 to 18 years old (born on or after Jan. 1, 1984) is eligible to try out for the team. Come join the fun. For information call Al Baker at **626-7252**, Al Roberts at **985-7383** or aacar@catskill.net, or *Post 111* at **646-6420**.

At *Cook Taylor Post 111* we are always looking for veterans and sons of veterans to become new members. Wives and daughters of veterans are also welcome to join the Ladies Auxiliary Unit. Give us a call at **647-6420** or come in for a visit at the Legion Post on **South Main Street, Ellenville**. We open every afternoon at **3:30 PM**. On Sundays, we open at **1:00 PM**. 

Ellenville Little League News; New Website Announced

by Linda Yerkes

There have been many changes as we begin our 51st year serving the youth of the Ellenville area. Among the most notable is the departure of John Burns as League President. John, and wife Sue, spent countless hours working for the league during John's tenure.

Taking over as president is Lynne Yerkes. She is assisted by some wonderful people who have been with the league a number of years and also by some newcomers. Ann Raimondo brings her Little League Board experience to her new position as vice-president. Allison Persell is our new secretary; Sandra Simmons has volunteered to be the treasurer; and Larry Lutz has graciously agreed to take the sometimes-thankless job of head umpire.

Many of our managers and coaches are seasoned veterans who are joined by a number of rookies. We welcome those who have offered to spend their precious time to enrich the lives of our children.

The *Ellenville Little League* currently has 219 registered players in four major baseball teams, seven minor baseball teams, and six t-ball teams, and we are continuing to develop the softball program. Children who are interested in baseball must be at least five years of age and no older than twelve. Softball is available for girls up to age 16.

Long time coaches Nick Raimondo, Merrill Conner, and Ken Baxter conducted a successful clinic in the *Ellenville High School* gym to help sharpen the skills of those players fortunate enough to participate. Many parents have also assisted in teaching the fundamentals.

You may go online to log on to our new web site at <http://www.ourleaguesite.com/ellenville> throughout the season to view standings, team rosters, upcoming events and Little League news.

A special thanks to Sandra Simmons for maintaining the website and to MacGregor Sports for providing free web space. MacGregor will also donate 5% of any purchase made through the website to our league. Volunteers are always welcome.

For information, call Lynne Yerkes at **647-5452** or e-mail lynny86@aol.com, or write: **Ellenville Little League**, P.O. Box 249, Ellenville, New York 12428. 

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