



IT'S AIR FORCE VS. NAVY ... TEE BALL

President Bush invites Little League Tee Ball teams from McGuire Air Force Base and Naval Submarine Base New London (Conn.) to a friendly game at the White House

McGUIRE AIR FORCE BASE, N.J. (June 16, 2006) – A Little League Tee Ball team composed of children of McGuire Air Force Base personnel will square off against a team from a U.S. Navy submarine base in Groton, Conn., for the first Air Force-Navy “Tee Ball on the South Lawn” game on June 23, it was announced today in Washington, D.C., by White House Press Secretary Tony Snow.

In keeping with the tradition of Tee Ball on the South Lawn games, no score will be kept between the McGuire Air Force Base Little League Yankees and the Dolcom Little League Indians of Naval Submarine Base New London. Every player on both teams will play on defense and bat once in the one-inning game, to be followed by a picnic on the South Lawn for players and families. A baseball autographed by President George W. Bush will be presented – by the president himself – to each player, manager, and coach. Game time is 1:20 p.m.

The game is the 14th on the South Lawn of the White House since May 6, 2001, when President Bush began the initiative as a way to boost interest in baseball among children and parents. Little League Baseball and Softball, the largest youth sports program in the world, has seen registration numbers increase so far this year by more than 7,000 players. Final numbers for the year will not be available until August.

President Bush, the first former Little Leaguer to be elected to the nation’s highest office, played Little League Baseball at Central Little League in Midland, Texas, in the mid-1950s. He was on the Cubs, and was a catcher. In 2001, President Bush was enshrined in the Little League Museum Hall of Excellence when he visited the Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, Pa.

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The honorary commissioner for the game will be U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman, Marine Gen. Peter Pace. Gen. Pace also is a Little League graduate, having played in Teaneck, N.J. He also was enshrined in the Little League Museum Hall of Excellence when he visited the Little League Baseball World Series in 2003.

The honorary base coaches will be the two military installation commanders: Air Force Col. Rick Martin and Navy Capt. Sean Sullivan. The public address announcer will be ABC Sports personality Tim Brant, also a former Little Leaguer.

This will be the first game of 2006, and the third to feature teams composed largely of dependents of military personnel. On June 22, 2003, teams from Fort Belvoir (Va.) Little League and Naval Station Norfolk (Va.) played in the first Army-Navy Tee Ball on the South Lawn game. On June 13, 2004, teams from Bolling Air Force Base (Washington, D.C.) and Cherry Point (N.C.) Marine Corps Air Station played at the White House.

Little League Baseball and Softball is the world's largest youth sports organization, with nearly 2.7 million children participating in every U.S. state and dozens of other countries on six continents. Little League is the only youth sports organization to be chartered by the U.S. Congress.

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Note: Several high-resolution, downloadable photos from Little League Tee Ball on the South Lawn games are available to media for no charge at: www.littleleague.org/media/images/teeball.htm (All photos used must include this credit line: "Photo courtesy of Little League Baseball.") Additionally, a high-resolution copy of President Bush's 1955 Little League roster is here:

<http://www.littleleague.org/media/images/bush55roster.jpg>

For more information: Lance Van Auken, Little League International Senior Communications Executive - 570-326-192; Cell: 570-244-5383; E-mail: LVanauken@littleleague.org

Media personnel wishing to attend the game should contact Christie Parell at the White House, at 202-456-6238 for instructions on credentialing, where to report, etc.