



OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS  
LEVELED AT THE NOVEMBER 18, 2019 MEDINA CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

November 19, 2019

On November 18, 2019, the Medina City School Board (“School Board”) held its monthly meeting. During the public participation portion of the meeting, several Medina residents were allowed to speak and expressed support for Nick Kaplack, the Medina High School varsity baseball head coach. It is MYBA’s understanding that Mr. Kaplack is involved in an employment issue with the Medina School District that may affect his status as the high school head coach.

During this meeting, one of the Medina residents that spoke, David Hartmann, leveled serious allegations against MYBA that this organization cannot let go unchallenged, as these allegations have resulted in a negative portrayal of our organization. The most serious of Mr. Hartmann’s allegations are as follows:

- MYBA organized and held a “fake tryout” for a 2020 Medina all-star team to send to Cooperstown;
- MYBA had no intention of sending any all-star team to Cooperstown;
- MYBA lied to the people of the [Medina] community regarding this tryout;
- MYBA turned over a Cooperstown Bid to Olmstead Falls seven (7) months before receiving the bid in July, instead of sending a Medina baseball team to Cooperstown;
- MYBA board members took “corrupt actions” over seven (7) months which has helped to ruin Mr. Kaplack’s reputation;

For nearly the past decade, MYBA, through its travel baseball program, Sting Travel Baseball (“Sting”), has attempted each year to send two 12U baseball teams to the Cooperstown Dreams Park (“Cooperstown”) located in Cooperstown, New York for an exclusive week long baseball tournament. This tournament has proved to be an incredible and invaluable experience for players, coaches and parents over the years. The total cost to a 12U team alone for this one week experience approaches \$15,000 for just the players and coaches, the majority of which is funded by the parents of the players themselves. At the end of each tournament, participating teams are delivered the following year’s *Grandfather Certificate Registration* (“Cooperstown Bid”). If a Cooperstown Bid is not used by an organization the next year, that organization loses the “grandfathered” status and loses the bid.

In past years, upon receiving the Cooperstown Bid when leaving the tournament, the head coach of an affiliated MYBA/Sting baseball team would immediately turn the Cooperstown Bid over to the MYBA President or Sting Director.

This past summer, Mr. Kaplack coached a 12U Sting team and took that team to the Cooperstown tournament which ended June 21, 2019. Upon his team's return, the Sting Director, Chad Frazier asked to meet with Mr. Kaplack on June 24, 2019 in order to retrieve the 2020 Cooperstown Bid as had been the customary practice. In a two (2) hour meeting, Mr. Kaplack laid out several changes he demanded to be made which included the overhauling the process for selecting players for the Sting teams. Mr. Kaplack also demanded an overhaul of how a Cooperstown Bid should be handled if there are not two 12U Sting teams available to attend the Cooperstown tournament the following year.

Mr. Kaplack ended the meeting with the Sting director by indicating he would only turn over the Cooperstown Bid to the Sting Director once the demanded changes were put in writing and approved by the MYBA board. MYBA President, Bob Jacobs immediately suspended Mr. Kaplack in the MYBA organization for his refusal to turn over the Cooperstown Bid. Prior to Mr. Kaplack's suspension, neither Mr. Kaplack, nor Mr. Hartmann (an assistant coach to Mr. Kaplack's team) ever indicated that they intended to turn over the Cooperstown Bid at the July MYBA Meeting, as alleged by Mr. Hartmann at the School Board meeting.

On July 14, 2019, the MYBA President and Sting Director filed a report with the Medina Police Department in efforts to retrieve the Cooperstown Bid. On July 17, 2019, Mr. Kaplack returned the Cooperstown Bid to an MYBA board member. The MYBA President then contacted the police department to notify the Cooperstown Bid had been returned.

MYBA/Sting held tryouts for the 2020 12U Sting baseball teams at the end of this past July/early August. At the conclusion of the tryouts, only one 12U team was formed based on the number of Medina players that tried out. In efforts to send Medina players to the 2020 Cooperstown Tournament, MYBA offered the second Cooperstown Bid to two separate Medina Swarm teams (semi-travel/Hotstove baseball); neither team accepted the Cooperstown Bid.

On August 18, 2019, MYBA sent out an email notifying all eligible MYBA 12U players about a tryout being held on August 28, 2019 in efforts to form a 12U All-star team to send to Cooperstown. By August 27, 2019, as only one player signed up for the tryout (which player was already on the only 12U Sting team going to Cooperstown), MYBA canceled the tryout.

With only one team going to the 2020 Cooperstown tournament, and with the threat of losing the second Cooperstown Bid, MYBA made the decision to loan the Cooperstown Bid to Olmstead Falls, which is under contract (signed on September 6, 2019) to return the 2021 Cooperstown Bid to MYBA upon their return from the Cooperstown tournament next summer. MYBA believes this action was necessary to keep two Cooperstown Bids for Medina residents in the future.

Despite the serious allegations leveled by Mr. Hartmann at the School Board meeting, MYBA **did not conspire** for seven (7) months **nor do any corrupt act** in order to give Olmstead Falls a Cooperstown Bid. The allegation that MYBA decided to give away the Cooperstown Bid seven months prior to Mr. Kaplack receiving the bid **is a completely false statement by Mr. Hartmann.** MYBA and Sting strives to have two 12U Sting teams every year so giving a Cooperstown Bid away in January is a ridiculous statement. Mr. Hartmann's statement that Cooperstown Dreams Park received MYBA's Cooperstown Bid in Olmstead Falls' name this past January **is a completely false statement** and impossible as MYBA/Sting doesn't receive the bids until *after* the summer tournament is over.

Mr. Hartmann's allegation that MYBA held a "fake tryout" and MYBA lied to the people and community of Medina **is also a completely false statement.** MYBA attempted to hold a tryout and canceled it when no players signed up. MYBA believes Mr. Hartmann's false allegations and lies in efforts to support Mr. Kaplack at the School Board is ruining Mr. Kaplack's reputation.

Each year MYBA strives to hold all of its volunteers and volunteer coaches to the highest standards possible. Disciplinary actions/suspensions were taken against Mr. Kaplack due to misconduct during the 2019 MYBA season and suspended again for his additional action for failing to return the Cooperstown Bid. Mr. Hartmann also received disciplinary action/suspension for his misconduct during the 2019 season and was asked not to return as a coach for MYBA/Sting. MYBA believes Mr. Hartmann's completely false allegations are an attempt from a disgruntled former volunteer coach to divide the MYBA organization and Medina baseball community.

Finally, despite the allegations by Mr. Hartmann, MYBA controls and will continue to control two Cooperstown Bids in the years moving forward.

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Bob Jacobs  
President

Medina Youth Baseball Association

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