

Hello, Missouri American Legion Baseball enthusiasts. I am Tom Rhoads, your Missouri American Legion Baseball Chairman. Even though the baseball season is over, our State Baseball Commissioners have been working very hard on improving the program. I want to personally thank all our commissioners for their efforts!!!

- **Mission Statement.**

- I am very proud to announce that our State Baseball commission has selected this mission statement to lead our baseball program into the future:
 - Our mission is to expand the reach and impact of American Legion Baseball in Missouri by fostering growth in the number of teams while delivering a high-quality and enriching baseball program. We are committed to nurturing a culture of sportsmanship, skill development, and community engagement. Through our dedication to excellence, we aim to provide opportunities for more young athletes to participate, learn, and thrive in a competitive and supportive environment. Our goal is to continually elevate the standard of our baseball program, enabling players to develop both as skilled athletes and as responsible, well-rounded individuals, preparing them for success on and off the field.

- **New Initiatives for 2024.**

- Our State Baseball Commission has selected the following new initiatives for the upcoming 2024 season:
 - Offering our players, a PBR (Prep Baseball Report) special event where players are independently evaluated and ranked; so, recruiters can easily access trusted player stats and our players have more opportunities to participate learn and thrive in a competitive and supportive environment.
 - Starting a grade school level Missouri American Legion Baseball League, to expand the reach and impact of Missouri American Legion Baseball.
 - Supporting the Washington Post 218 host the 2024 Regional AAA Tournament next August to provide a high-quality event.
 - Playing a showcase game next summer, in front of college recruiters with those players that participated in the Prep Baseball Report (PBR). Our opponent will be the Illinois legion players who also participated in the PBR event.

- **Continuing initiatives from 2023.**

- Our State Baseball Commission has decided to continue the following these 2023 initiatives:
 - Strengthen our brand awareness and improve our baseball program communications such as bulk email to reach out to alumni, members,

coaches, and players by working with our social media firm, Red Earth Productions.

- Continue expanding the D2 league throughout the entire state.
- Showcase our top players in an all-star game against the all-stars from Illinois at Busch Stadium this summer.
- Launching players to the next level by having a team in the Metro Collegiate League.
- Developing more donors, especially at the American Legion Post level, and utilizing our 50/50 online raffle.
- Continue discussing the RBI program with the St. Louis Cardinals to see how Legion Baseball can help them develop their program by joining ours.

Thank you for taking the time to read my post. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about our Missouri American Legion Baseball program and have a wonderful Christmas Holiday!

Tom Rhoads – Missouri American Legion Baseball State Chairman

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