

Angel League opens 11th season with record number of players

The gloves were oiled, the infield was raked and smooth, the cleats clacked on the concrete and three diamonds at Tuttle Field saw baseball at its finest on Monday evening as more than 60 ball players took that first pitch of the Fall 2009 Angel League season.

Now in its 11th season in Rockwall, the Angel League, sponsored by the Rockwall Kiwanis Club, is a baseball league for special needs youth ages four to 15 and adults.

The rules are simple – there are no strikes, no outs, every hit is a base hit, no one keeps score and everyone plays no matter the disability. Parents and aids are on hand to assist the younger children with batting and base run-

ning. All games are coach-pitch using “soft” softballs. And there is no louder cheering section at the ballpark than the families and fans of the undefeated Angels.

The Monday opener saw three teams take to the fields, more players that the Rockwall League has ever had, according to Pat Turner, Kiwanian and organizer of the Angel League. The first field hosted the youngest players in a rousing game of T-Ball. The middle field held the elementary and teen aged players. The third field saw play by the over-18 Angels. The adult League was organized just last year to continue to offer baseball to Angels who had aged out of the original program.

The League plays a nine-game

season each fall and spring. The program is provided at no charge to participants.

Coaches for the Angel League are Robert Harris and Kevin Lawson for T-Ball, Rich Lostritta and Bill Woods for the teens and Ron Rich and Randy Perry for the adult team. Ron Rich and Randy Perry have been with the Angel League since it began 11 years ago and began coaching the adult team after their children aged out of the youth program, Turner said.

After the last game, the teams will celebrate the season with a banquet and trophies.

The Angel League plays at 6:30 p.m. each Monday night during the season at Tuttle Field in Rockwall.



Louis Zavala watches as his son, Jordan, takes his turn at bat at the Angel League season opener last Monday at Tuttle Field.

Staff Photo by Kathy Williams/Rockwall County News



After hitting a line drive up the middle, adult Angel League team member Lauryn heads for first to beat the throw at Monday's season opener at Tuttle Field.

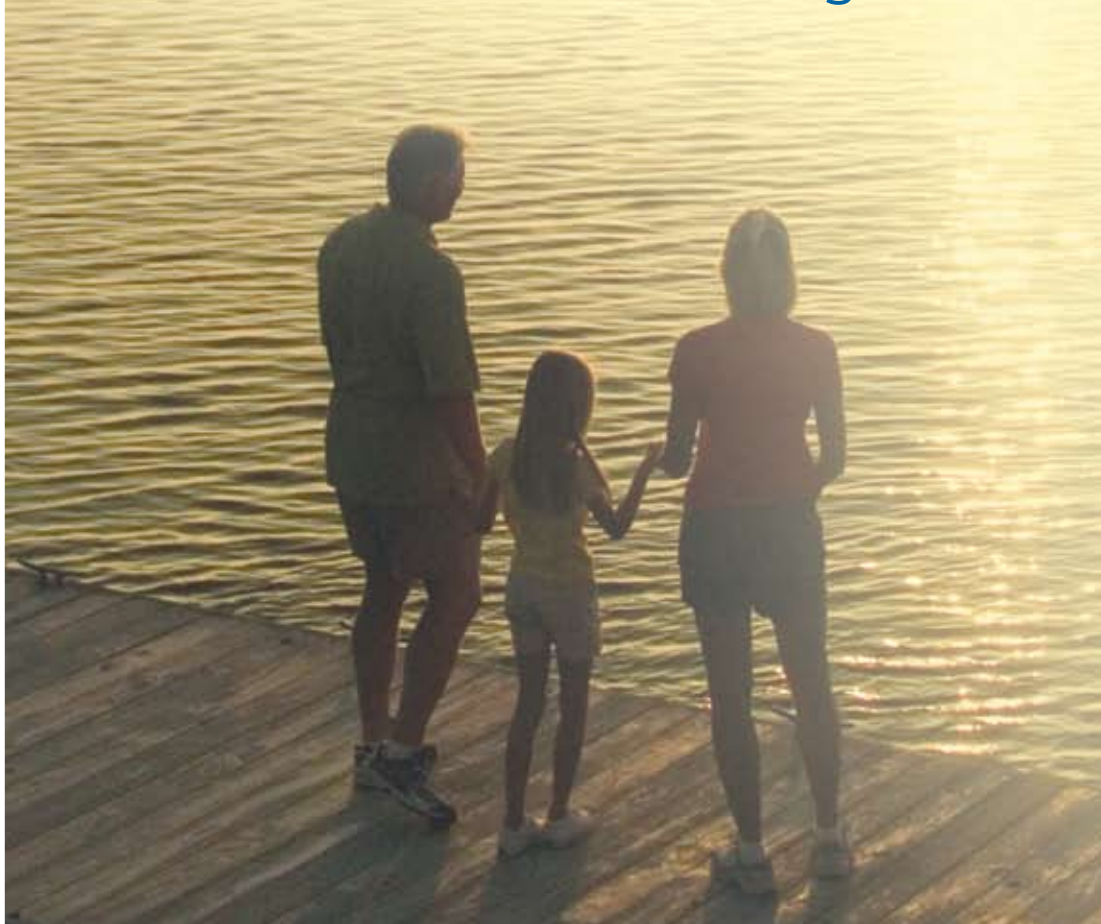
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Joey Casper, a member of the adult Angel League team, hits one to center field at last Monday's Angel League season opener at Tuttle Field.

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Rockwall County News

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