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Sports

Marion Babe Ruth League enjoying early success

By Sean Douglas

Since bringing back summer baseball and softball to Marion two summers ago, Tino Mitchener’s Marion Babe Ruth League has been nothing short of a success. And year three is no different.

Not only is the league up 12 players from a season ago, they also added another softball team, getting more girls involved. Additionally, while there is no 10u division this season, Mitchener combined the 10u and 12u division to create a league of seven teams, all of whom are evenly matched in talent and skill.

“We lost a lot of [talented] 12-year-olds, but I tell you what, combining 9-12, I have seen a lot of 9 and 10 years old really shine,” Mitchener said. “We are seeing a lot of the little guys [playing] fearless... and they are doing well. The teams are really even.

Having to combine them, it works out really well.”

Additionally, coaches pitch is also flourishing in the league’s third summer,

likewise boasting seven teams.

Last year, there was a lot of emphasis on safety, making sure that all COVID-19 regulations were followed and that all coaches and players were kept healthy.

This year, the focus has returned to baseball and softball, and for Mitchener, it has certainly taken a load off his mind.

“It’s been a breath of fresh air,” Mitchener said. “This year, it’s almost back to what we consider normal.”

This summer, the league began handing out a Player of the Week award, featuring the recipient on Facebook and recognizing his talent. Furthermore, Mitchener plans to put together a free baseball and softball camp in early July.

“We are constantly working on the aesthetics of the park,” Mitchener said. “We are trying to do things that make everybody’s experience out here better – the parents, the coaches, and the players.”

As the summer progresses, Mitchener hopes to see all the players not only hone their craft, but continue to enjoy, and fall in love, with the game.

“I want to see kids progress quicker,” Mitchener said. “For example, don’t hang around in coach pitch if you don’t need to. If you are a good coach pitch player, and you are ready to move on, get up into the live arm pitching. If you are a five-year old that is a good tee ball player, move up to coach pitch a year early. I think it’s important for these kids to progress. I think they can have fun and progress at the same time.”

Not only that, Mitchener hopes that parents will learn more about the game, too.

“I want parents to understand the game. I want parents to learn the game,” Mitchener said. “Baseball is very complex. It’s a lot different than basketball or football. There are a lot of rules, and we are trying to not only educate the players, but we are trying to educate the parents to the finer points of the game so they can teach it. We are trying to coach them as much as we are the kids.”

The Marion Babe Ruth League will continue throughout the summer, with the tournament running from July 26-28.

4-H Fair Results

<b>2021 GRANT COUNTY 4-H PET SHOW</b> Best of Show Pets: Chloe Hawkins Runner-up Best of Show Pets: Heaven Lawrence	Reserve Champion Senior Cat Showmanship: Caleb Rocky	Junior Showmanship: (Grades 3 -5) Champion: Landon Killmon Reserve Champion: Ava Moorman Intermediate Showmanship: (Grades 6-8) Champion: Liz Winchester Reserve Champion: Addison Mc Vicker Senior Showmanship: (Grades 9-12) Champion: Abigail Robinson Reserve Champion: Shakira Collier	FOURTH OVERALL EWE: Suzanne Shields FIFTH OVERALL EWE: David Plummer NOVICE SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP CHAMPION: Madyson Gunning JUNIOR SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP CHAMPION: Brooklyn Hodupp JUNIOR RESERVE SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP CHAMPION: Jazmine Plummer SENIOR SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP CHAMPION: Suzanne Shields SENIOR RESERVE SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP CHAMPION: Dannika Horn	Reserve Champion: Gregory Lawrence SENIOR (Grades 9-10) Champion: Heaven Lawrence MASTER (Grades 11-12) Champion: Keagan Trout Reserve Champions: Haley Trout	Senior Dairy Showmanship Champion: Kristin Goff Senior Dairy Showmanship Reserve Champion: Kortney Goff
<b>2021 GRANT COUNTY 4-H CAT SHOW</b> Grand Champion Cat: Addison McVicker Reserve Grand Champion Cat: Chloe Hawkins Champion Longhaired Kitten: Chloe Hawkins Champion Shorthaired Kitten: Allison Mullinex Champion Longhaired Adult: Caleb Rocky Reserve Champion Longhaired Adult: Chloe Hawkins Champion Shorthaired Adult: Addison McVicker Reserve Champion Shorthaired Adult: Kaylee Poe Champion Longhaired Senior: Heaven Lawrence Champion Shorthaired Senior: Heaven Lawrence Champion Junior Cat Showmanship: Austin McVicker Champion Intermediate Cat Showmanship: Gregory Lawrence Reserve Champion Intermediate Cat Showmanship: Addison McVicker Champion Senior Cat Showmanship: Chloe Hawkins	<b>2021 GRANT COUNTY 4-H POULTRY SHOW RESULTS</b> Grand Champion Duck: Kietalynn (Katelynn) Garcia Reserve Grand Champion Duck: Landon Killmon Grand Champion Commercial Poultry: Addison McVicker Reserve Grand Champion Commercial Poultry: Austin McVicker Grand Champion Exhibition Poultry: Drew Combs Reserve Grand Champion Exhibition Poultry: Ethan Winchester Grand Champion Bantams: Abigail Robinson Reserve Grand Champion Bantams: Ethan Winchester Grand Champion Geese: Shakira Collier Reserve Grand Champion Geese: Shakira Collier Grand Champion Turkey: Patricia Van Matre Reserve Grand Champion Turkey: Liz Winchester Grand Champion Exotic Birds: Shakira Collier Reserve Grand Champion Exotic Birds: Kai Volmer <b>SHOWMANSHIP:</b>	<b>2021 GRANT COUNTY 4-H SHEEP SHOW</b> GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB: Brooklyn Hodupp RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION MARKET LAMB: Brooklyn Hodupp THIRD OVERALL MARKET LAMB: Madyson Gunning FOURTH OVERALL MARKET LAMB: Jazmine Plummer FIFTH OVERALL MARKET LAMB: Lilly Edwards GRAND CHAMPION EWE: Suzanne Shields RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION EWE: Brooklyn Hodupp THIRD OVERALL EWE: Suzanne Shields	<b>GRANT COUNTY 4-H RABBIT SHOW RESULTS</b> BEST OF SHOW: Haley Trout BEST 4 CLASS: William Ewer BEST 6 CLASS: Keagan Trout BEST MEAT PEN: Haley Trout	<b>2021 Grant County 4-H Dairy and Dairy Beef Show</b> Grand Champion Dairy Beef: Kortney Goff Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Beef: Kristin Goff Third Overall Dairy Steer: Carter Daugherty Fourth Overall Dairy Steer: Kristin Goff Grand Champion Dairy Female: Logan Jackson Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Female: Adalyn Kingseed Third Overall Dairy Female: Logan Jackson Fourth Overall Dairy Female: Wyatt Most Novice Dairy Showmanship Champion: Adalyn Kingseed Novice Dairy Showmanship Reserve Champion: Dawson Daugherty Junior Dairy Showmanship Champion: Carter Daugherty Junior Dairy Showmanship Reserve Champion: AJ Brenner	<b>2021 4-H GRANT COUNTY GOAT SHOW</b> Grand Champion Dairy Doe: Carter Daugherty Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Doe: Mallory Cheek Grand Champion Dairy Wether: Jayma Carender Reserve Grand Champion Dairy Wether: Devon Legg Grand Champion Meat Goat Does: Morgan Cates Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Does: Morgan Cates Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether: Ginger Zent Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether: Colton Lookabaugh Grand Champion Pygmy Goat Doe: Claire Templin Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy Goat Doe: Claire Templin Grand Champion Pygmy Goat Wether: Corey Templin Reserve Grand Champion Pygmy Goat Wether: Calvin Van Matre Novice Goat Showmanship Champion: Mason Cates