

# El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

## Dr. Dwayne Aboud

Nominee

UTEP Head Team Physician | Coach | President EPBYAA

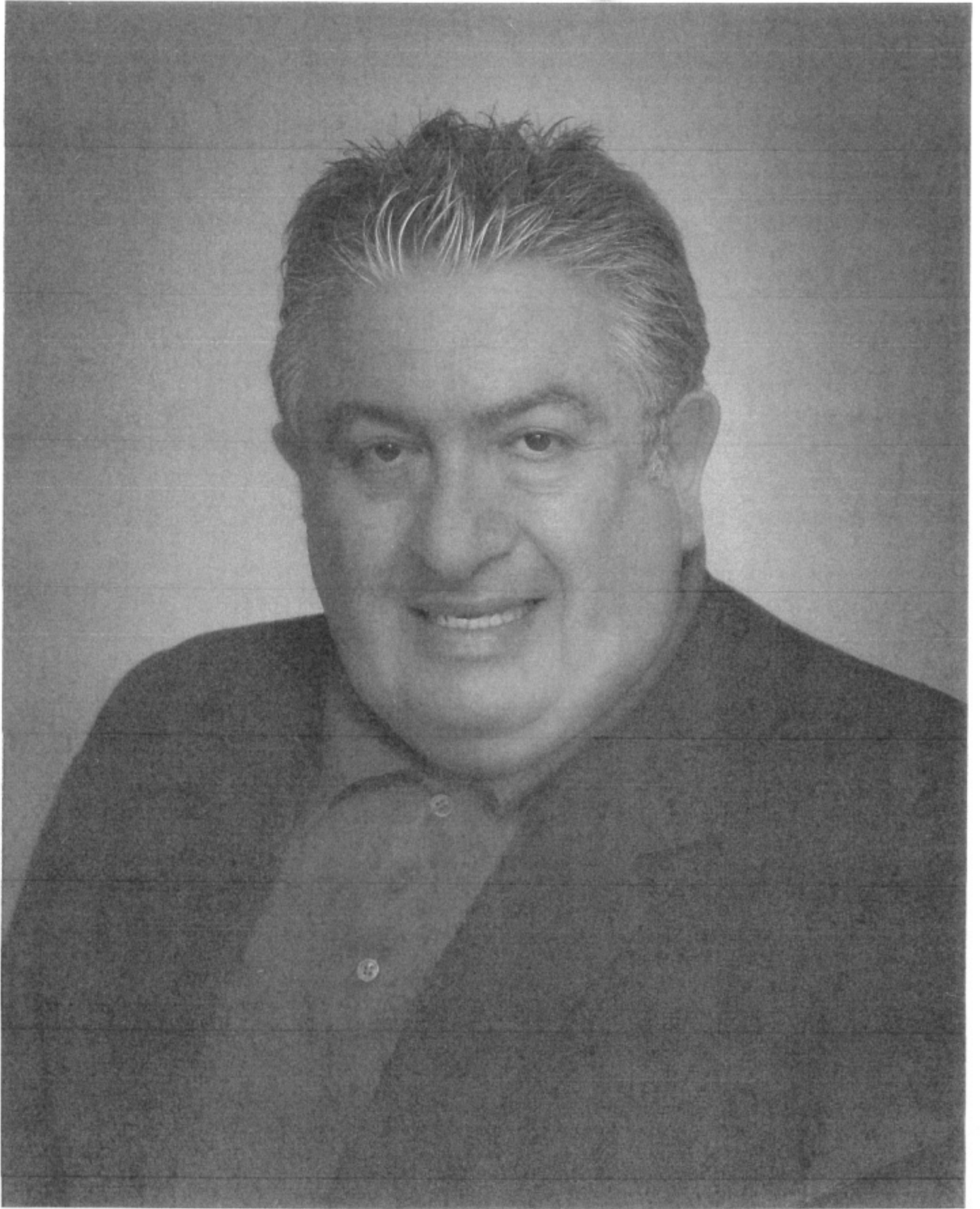
2/25/2018

Bio:

Dr. Dwayne Aboud is a native Texan, born in El Paso, TX. He attended the University of Texas at El Paso for undergraduate education in biology and chemistry. After earning his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, he then completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at New York University College of Medicine at Booth Memorial Medical Center in New York, New York. In 1979, he returned to his hometown of El Paso to start his private practice in Internal Medicine and is Board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Aboud has also voluntarily served the UTEP student athletes as head team physician for more than thirty (30) years.

Outside of the medical arena, Dr. Aboud has always had a passion to give back to the El Paso community serving many civic organizations over the past thirty years. However his biggest passion is providing educational opportunities for our youth here in El Paso. He has dedicated the last fifty (50) years to the growth of youth baseball and softball. He has been a coach of youth baseball since he was 16 years of age until he stopped in 2009. However, he still maintains his passion for Baseball by serving as a major league scout since 2009 and is the founder of El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association; a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to providing life opportunities to the youth of the El Paso community through baseball and softball. Examples of some of his programming include: BasePlay RBI, Chihuahua's Next and a 14,000 sq. ft. state of the art indoor sports facility. His personal interests include model railroading, major league baseball and ballroom dancing.

Dr. Aboud is married to Michele Aboud and remains in private practice and is an MDVIP Affiliated physician.





**DWAYNE MITCHELL ABOUD, M.D.**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

- Employment:** Dwayne M. Aboud, M.D., P.A.  
154 N. Festival Drive, Villa G  
El Paso, Texas 79912  
1979-Present  
**Private Practice**  
**MDVIP Affiliated Physician**
- Research Affiliation:** Summit Research Solutions  
6409 Quail Hollow Road  
Memphis, TN 38120  
March 2002-Present
- Medical Licensure:** Texas State Medical License #F5137
- Board Certification:** American Board of Internal Medicine Board Certification  
September 1984
- Professional Affiliations:** The Hospitals of Providence-Memorial Campus  
The Hospitals of Providence-Sierra Campus  
Las Palmas Medical Center  
El Paso Specialty Hospital
- Education and Training:** New York University  
Booth Memorial Medical Center  
New York, New York  
**Residency PGY 1,2, and 3**  
1976-1979
- University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Allentown Sacred Heart Hospital  
Allentown, Pennsylvania  
**Advanced Clinical Year and Doctor of Medicine**  
1975-1976
- Autonomous University of Guadalajara  
Guadalajara, Mexico  
**Physician and Surgeon**  
1971-1975
- University of Texas at El Paso  
El Paso, Texas  
**Graduate Studies**  
1970-1971

**Education and Training  
Continued**

**Professional Positions/**

**Medical Director**

CIMA Hospice of El Paso, LP  
June 2006 – Present

**Clinical Instructor**

University of Texas Medical Branch- Galveston, Texas  
1999—Present

**Faculty Advisor, Team Physician and Clinic Coordinator for Athletes**

University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas  
1991-Present

**Regional Medical Director**

Texas Community Care/Arcadian Health Plan-Medicare Product  
El Paso, Texas and Austin, Texas  
2005-2011

**Medical Director**

Center for Diabetes and Nutrition Management  
1999-2001

**Program Chair, Diabetes Update**

1982-1994

**Medical Director, Diabetes Care Unit**

Sierra Medical Center  
1986-1990

**Secretary, Medical Staff**

Providence Memorial Hospital  
1987-1989

**Member, Medical Executive Committee**

Sierra Medical Center  
1984-1987

**Professional Positions/  
Appointments:**

**Member, Medical Executive Committee**

Providence Memorial Hospital  
1984-1987

**Chairman, Emergency Room Committee**

Providence Memorial Hospital  
1984-1987

**Chief, Department of Internal Medicine**  
Sierra Medical Center  
1985-1986

**Chief, Department of Internal Medicine**  
Providence Memorial Hospital  
1981-1982

**Civic Positions: Board Chairman, Paso Del Norte Health Foundation**  
May 2005 to May 2006

**Board Member, Paso Del Norte Health Foundation**  
1999-2006

**Founder and Board President, El Paso Border Youth Athletic Asso.**  
1999-Present

**Commissioner, Summer and Fall Boys Baseball**  
El Paso Area High Schools  
1998-1999

**President, El Paso Ballet, Inc.**  
1997-1999

**President, El Paso Diabetes Association**  
1985-1987

**Board Member, El Paso Diabetes Association**  
1982-1999

### Addendum to Resume for Dwayne Aboud

- Began coaching Boys Baseball of El Paso at age 16 - 19 for ages 10 – 12
- Coached for American Baseball Coaches Association at age 19 – 22 for ages 16 – 18 (For Cincinnati Reds head scout)
- 1974 - 1975 Coached American High School in Guadalajara, Mexico
- 1993 – 2009 Coached and managed teams 12-18 years of age.  
Managed National Wood Bat Championship team
- 2009 Attended MLB Scout School sponsored by and under contract to the Washington Nationals
- 2009 – Present: Contract picked up by the Minnesota Twins
- 2000 – Present: Founder and president of El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association.  
A 501c3 non-profit organization focused on using sports as incentive for education.

#### Sponsors of:

- Base Play a community outreach sports educational partnership with Clint ISD
- The Base an indoor baseball softball facility
- Chihuahua's Next a high school baseball and softball program geared to promote excellence in athletics and education
- Chihuahuas Next Compliance Seminars for Aspiring Student- Athletes



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## Slape, Hernaiz highlight All-Star affair

Felix F. Chávez, El Paso Times Published 2:34 p.m. MT July 28, 2017 | Updated 3:34 p.m. MT July 28, 2017



(Photo: MARK LAMBIE / EL PASO TIMES)

John Slape and Darell Hernaiz both have long had a passion for the game of baseball and both have a goal of playing baseball for many years to come.

Both also happen to be two of El Paso's top high school baseball players.

Hernaiz is a talented shortstop at Americas, where he will be a junior next season, while Slape will be a senior pitcher/infielder at Bel Air.

Both played in inaugural city-wide instructional league put on the by the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association. More than 300 players from throughout the city participated in the league and to recognize their efforts, Hernaiz and Slape will be among several players will compete in an All-Star game at Southwest University Park at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

The El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association partnered with the El Paso Chihuahuas to recognize the top high school players who participated in the instructional league.

"It was a a great league," Hernaiz said. "It really kept us busy with games and practices. It helped make me better as a player."

Read: [High school All-Star game to take place Saturday \(http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/sports/baseball/2017/07/25/high-school-all-star-game-take-place-saturday/509495001/\)](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/sports/baseball/2017/07/25/high-school-all-star-game-take-place-saturday/509495001/)

Hernaiz was born in Puerto Rico and lived there for several years before moving to the United States. He has been in El Paso for five years. His father Juan Hernaiz played professional baseball for eight years and played for the Cleveland Indians, Detroit Tigers and Los Angeles Dodgers organizations. He reached as high as Double-A baseball.

"I've learned so much from my father," Hernaiz said. "He's taught me so much about the game. He still lives in Puerto Rico and we are in constant contact. He played right field as a player and he's had a big impact on my career."

Hernaiz is one of El Paso's best prospects and helped lead Americas to the playoffs this past spring. He has already verbally committed to **Fullscreen** TexasTech, which is where former Americas standout Orlando Garcia played his college ball.

Americas tops Montwood 4-2 to

Meanwhile, Slape helped Bel Air reach the state playoffs as well. He is being recruited for the next level **WinasSISD** well. He **tourney** has had a busy summer playing and will take a visit to Wayland Baptist.

"Baseball has been a great deal to me and I just love the competition of it," Slape said. "I've tried other sports but baseball was always the one sport I've loved the most. This summer has been great and I've learned a lot from the instructional league. And to get a chance to play in Southwest University Park is a great opportunity. I've just tried to use this summer to continue to get better. We had a great season at Bel Air and we want to continue to make the program better."



Read: [Cubs rally to edge Chihuahuas \(http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/sports/2017/07/28/cubs-rally-edge-chihuahuas/519126001/\)](http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/sports/2017/07/28/cubs-rally-edge-chihuahuas/519126001/)

Tickets for Saturday's game are \$2 and children 12 and under will be admitted free.

"It's a great event and it's a great reward for the baseball players to earn a spot on the All-Star team," said Brad Taylor, the Vice President and General Manager of the El Paso Chihuahuas. "The El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association did a great thing to get the summer league going. They had great participation and it's great for kids. It gives them an opportunity to learn about the game and continue to stay active. We're glad to showcase the game and the great young players."

El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association is a non-profit organization serving El Paso for over 16 years. The mission of EPBYAA is to create educational and developmental opportunities through athletics, advancing youth baseball and softball to it' high potential. Mission is carried out through various programs in the community (Base Play RBI and Chihuahua NeXt), and at The Base, El Paso's premier (14,000 sq. feet+) indoor baseball and softball training facility.

*Felix F. Chávez may be reached at 546-6167; [fchavez@elpasotimes.com](mailto:fchavez@elpasotimes.com) (mailto:fchavez@elpasotimes.com); @Fchavezetimes on Twitter.*

#### All-Star teams

Chihuahua Next National Team: Isaiah Hernandez (Chapin), Josh Romo (Riverside), Tony Rodriguez (Burgess), Jr. Melero (Bel Air), Enrique Adrian Carrejo (Andress), Michael Salas (Chapin), John Slape (Bel Air), Lawrence MacNeill (Coronado), Ryan Dunn (Santa Teresa), Sebastian Hernandez (Bel Air), Bryan Vasquez (Riverside), Arron Arroyo (Coronado), Brian Ramirez (Eastwood), Joey Arellano (Burgess), Adrian Perez (Andress), Sonny Garcia (Santa Teresa), Alex Martinez (Eastwood), Joseph Goad (Parkland), Ryan Heassler (Parkland), Mario Andrade (Riverside). Coaches: Angel Esparza (Riverside), Mario Lopez (Burgess), and John Slape (Bel Air).

Chihuahua Next American Team: Julian Galindo (Americas), Adrian Talavera (Eastlake), Ivan Soto (Clint), Anthony Eli Rios (Hanks), Jesus Magallanes (Horizon), Gabino Cortez (Montwood), Isiah Garcia (Hanks), Esteban Ramos (El Dorado), Jousha Powell (Montwood), Darell Hernaiz (Americas), Andrew Garcia (Montwood), Eugene Chavira (El Dorado), Kristian Garnica (El Dorado), Kevin Gomez (Eastlake), Justin Sanchez (Hanks), Nathan Madrid (Horizon), Josue Bustillos (Clint), John Cedillo (Horizon), Adrian Torres (Americas), and Mike Nevarez (Eastlake).. Coaches: Gabino Cortez (Montwood) and Robert Rios (Hanks).



CHEECH & CHONG



## MLB helps bring softball, baseball to area youth

*Victor R. Martinez, El Paso Times*

*Published 3:41 p.m. MT April 13, 2017 | Updated 4:57 p.m. MT April 13, 2017*



*(Photo: RUDY GUTIERREZ/EL PASO TIMES)*

*In the middle of the dusty brown desert in far East El Paso sit lush, green patches of grass.*

*You might have to look a little harder to spot them, but what you will find are hundreds of elementary-age children from the Clint Independent School District playing baseball and softball on those fields of dreams.*

*They are part of a league called BASE Play, a free softball and baseball program offered by the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association.*

*This week, David James, the vice president of youth programs for Major League Baseball, was in the Montana Vista area touring the fields and to announce a partnership with the Border Youth Athletic Association and*

*MLB's Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities program.*

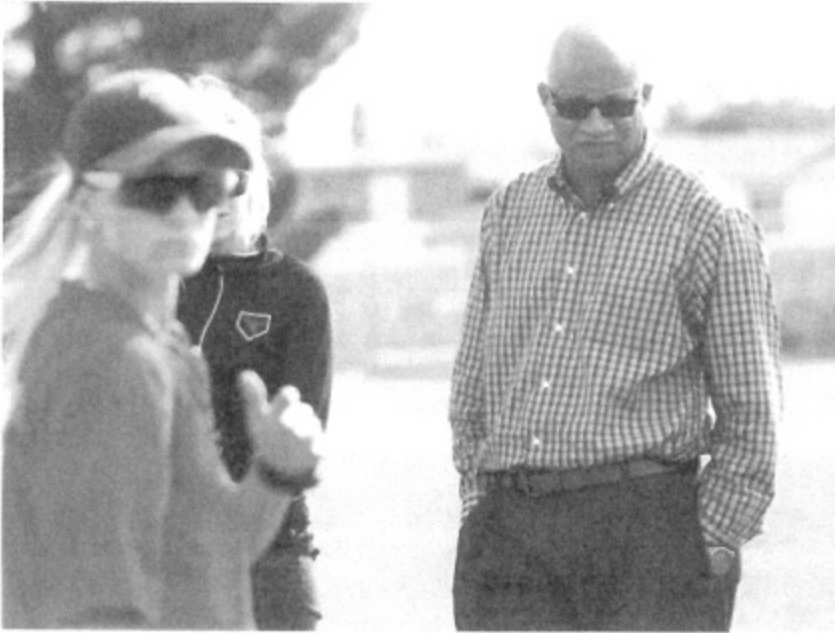
*"Our effort and focus is to make sure we come into communities that are looking for resources in order for kids to play," James said while watching a group of fifth-graders practice at Montana Vista Elementary. "We are an appropriate partner with the major league clubs and their minor league clubs because it is in their vested interest that kids come out and enjoy the game and become fans."*

*The RBI program is designed to increase participation in baseball and softball in undeserved communities and promote greater inclusion of minorities in the sport.*

*"Our support is in the form of tangible items," James said. "We will look to provide equipment and uniforms through Major League Baseball partners. We are very fortunate to get RBI-preferred pricing for our leagues so we can get things at a discount."*

*The BASE Play free after-school program (</story/life/2016/06/15/base-play-offers-fun-education-el-paso-county/85266208/>) has served students in the Clint school district in the communities of Clint, Montana Vista and Horizon City for four years. (</story/life/2016/06/15/base-play-offers-fun-education-el-paso-county/85266208/>)*

*"We are thrilled to be part of the RBI program," said Kristi Borden, director of development for the youth association. "It's a huge validation for the work we've done for the past four years. This has been a grass-roots effort from the start. We've worked really hard with each individual school, players and families. We've spent a lot of time loving this program." (</story/life/2016/06/15/base-play-offers-fun-education-el-paso-county/85266208/>)*



David James, right, vice president for youth programs for Major League Baseball, watches a session of youth baseball instruction Tuesday at Montana Vista Elementary School in far East El Paso. (Photo: RUDY GUTIERREZ/EL PASO TIMES)

BASE Play (<http://www.baseballsoftballel Paso.com/epbyaa.html>) began with seven teams and 75 players. Now the program has 250 players with 18 teams: 10 baseball and eight softball.

"We have three schools waiting to come on board," Borden said. "We are looking for sponsors to help us bring those schools on board. We have a sponsor who is underwriting an event to approach the Canutillo school district to expand the program to the other side of town to the colonia communities, economically distressed areas and Title I schools."

Borden contacted Major League Baseball about the association's mission to create developmental and educational opportunities through athletics and the creation of the Chihuahuas NeXt program (<http://www.baseballsoftballel Paso.com/chihuahuas-next.html>). She received an invitation to attend the RBI Institute in February.



A runner reaches third base safely as the third baseman tries to catch a high throw

"To have reached out to RBI and having them feel that we merited a visit and to have them come out here to see firsthand what we are doing is huge," Borden said. "It's the start of a beautiful partnership to benefit the underserved kids in the outlining areas who are isolated from access, who have barriers like transportation and who have socioeconomic barriers. It's really terrific for us to be able to partner with RBI to serve more kids in El Paso County."

Another component of the RBI program is the Play Ball initiative. (<http://playball.org>)

"It's Major League Baseball's initiative in partnership with USA Baseball and USA Softball to make sure that kids who aren't involved in the game have an opportunity to engage in a game and hopefully that leads to them participating in some sort of league play," James said.

The focus of the 2-year-old program is to find nontraditional, simpler ways of introducing the game to young Buy Photo players, such as playing catch, stick ball or wiffle ball.

Tuesday. (Photo: RUDY  
GUTIERREZ/EL PASO TIMES)



Baseball instructor Courtney Graf explains the next set of drills to a group of fifth-grade students Tuesday at Montana Vista Elementary School. (Photo: RUDY  
GUTIERREZ/EL PASO TIMES)

"We'll come into a market and do a Play Ball event, which is 90 minutes of what we like to call recess with a home run derby, running the bases, games of pickle, informal games with plastic bats and balls," James said. "We play the music really loud for the kids so they run around, they sweat and they have fun for 90 minutes in an informal setting."

James and Borden said they envision a Play Ball event at Southwest University Park, home of the El Paso Chihuahuas, the San Diego Padres Triple-A affiliate.

"Everything that I have seen tells me this is the right type of partner for RBI and I'm thinking there's a potential for a lot more," James said. "We've had some meetings with the Chihuahuas, so I think they will be a big player in this. These are the type of communities we want to work in."

Victor R. Martinez may be reached at 546-6128; [vmartinez@elpasotimes.com](mailto:vmartinez@elpasotimes.com) (<http://vmartinez@elpasotimes.com>); @vrmart on Twitter.

Read or Share this story: <http://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/2017/04/13/mlb-helps-bring-softball-baseball-area-youth/100328848/>

# Youth baseball academy next on deck for El Paso

Mar 21, 2016



For years, Dr. Dwayne Aboud has been advocating for a youth baseball academy in El Paso. Now that dream is becoming a reality.

On March 15, Aboud and others announced the Pat Murphy Baseball and Softball Academy, called Chihuahuas NeXt. The academy will consist of an indoor facility next to an eight-field baseball and softball complex.

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The program was created in association with Pat Murphy, the former El Paso Chihuahuas manager and current Milwaukee Brewers coach; Gary Sotir, executive director of the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association; and Steve Sotir, the association's director of baseball operations.

"I absolutely love El Paso and the chance to remain connected to a city and professional baseball organization that means so much to me," said Murphy, the Brewers bench coach.

**Rudolph**  
**I-10 & Redd Rd.**



2/26/2018

Youth baseball academy next on deck for El Paso | Local Features | elpasoinc.com

The academy will offer membership programs for all skill levels under the name Chihuahuas NeXt, highlighting its association with the El Paso Chihuahuas. It will offer camps, clinics, team and individual instruction, tournament hosting and individual recreational usage. Plans call for the academy and fields to be built in Northeast El Paso near Cohen Stadium.

# **Rudolph**

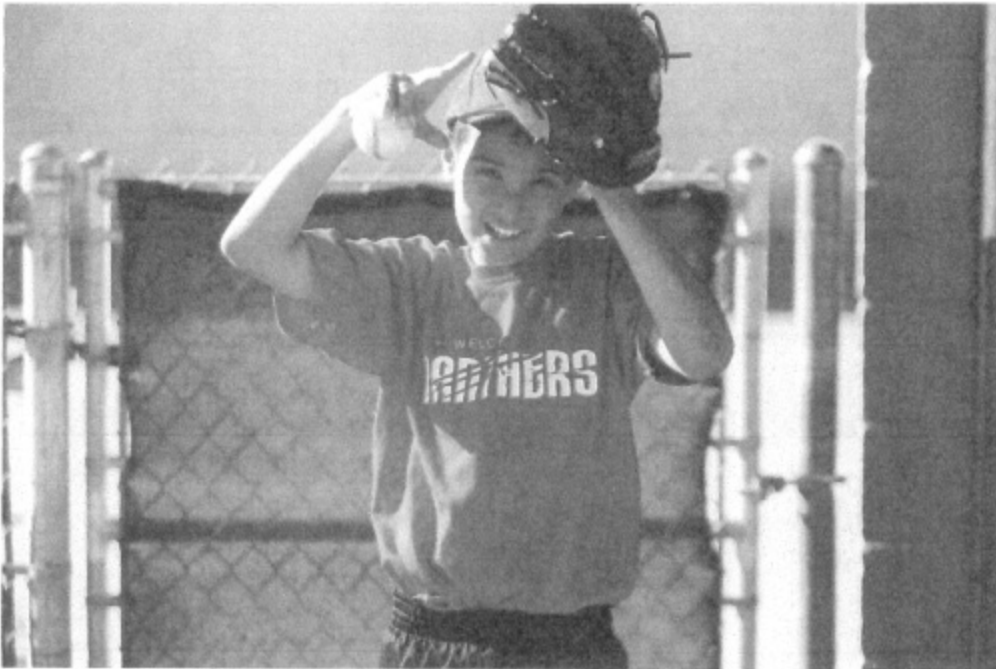
## **I-10 & Redd Rd.**



# Border Youth Athletic Association adds academy

## Plans for baseball, softball

By Steve Kaplowitz Apr 29, 2016



Photos by Kristi Borden/EPBYAA

In 2000, longtime El Paso physician Dr. Dwayne About formed the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association with the purpose of furthering the education of boys and girls through baseball and softball.

"We want kids to realize their full potential, including how to respect the game and life in general," the association's executive director Gary Sotir said. In the last 15 years, the EPBYAA has grown to include "The Base," an indoor baseball and softball training facility that offers personal instruction as well as cages and tunnels for individual members and teams. Despite its success, Dr. About was aware that an indoor training facility was just one piece of the puzzle. Last month, however, he received the break that he's been waiting years for.

The EPBYAA partnered with former El Paso Chihuahuas manager Pat Murphy and MountainStar Sports Group to announce the formation of Pat Murphy's Baseball and Softball Academy. In addition, the Chihuahuas NeXt program will include camps and clinics to benefit thousands of area baseball and softball players. How did this idea become a reality? It is a great story that began last year as the Chihuahuas were starting their second season.

**Rudolph**  
**I-10 & Redd Rd.**



Last summer, Sotir began a friendship with Murphy that continued as the first ever skipper was promoted midseason to take over the Padres managerial duties. Murphy, who has an extensive background as a Division 1 college baseball coach and has hosted hundreds of clinics over the years, listened to Sotir's pitch for an academy in El Paso. Gary's brother Steve also coached high school and college baseball at the University of Florida and Georgia Southern. He moved to El Paso to help his brother as the Director of Baseball Operations. Once the two baseball lifers agreed to help out, the next step was getting a corporate sponsor. The Chihuahuas were the logical partner and suddenly everything fell into place.

The Pat Murphy Baseball and Softball Academy and Chihuahuas NeXt are planning to break ground in the next 60-75 days in Northeast El Paso. They are close to acquiring the land needed to build both an indoor and outdoor facility near Cohen Stadium. First, the indoor facility will be built, which will contain offices as well as the training facility. Once that is finalized, The Base will move its operations to the new Northeast El Paso complex. Then, they



will start building up to eight full-size outdoor baseball and softball fields.

The benefits of the new indoor and outdoor facilities are obvious. El Paso would finally be able to field first class teams and leagues. They would also be able to host tournaments throughout the year, which would cut down on the enormous travel costs for many local teams that play out of town each year. Instead of travelling to Phoenix, Dallas, Las Vegas, and countless other cities to play against the best teams in the country, El Pasoans would be able to participate in premier baseball and softball tournaments in their own backyard. There are also plans in the works to transform Cohen Stadium back into a first class facility like it was for so many years when it housed the Diablos.

# Rudolph I-10 & Redd Rd.



While the EPBYAA gets ready for the big move, they are already involved in a very successful after school program. Base Play RBI is affiliated with Major League Baseball and allows 165 fourth and fifth graders in the Clint School District an opportunity to have two practices and one game each week. Following practices, kids are fed and bused to their homes from ballfields on school grounds. The EPBYAA pays for their uniforms, equipment, and registration fees while the Clint School District covers their meals and transportation. Base Play RBI targets kids in the Clint ISD who are struggling with their grades or behavior. After those youngsters are recruited, registration is opened up for the rest of the students. Seventy-two percent of the kids with the greatest challenges finish the season passing their classes. The program will be adding sixth graders in September. Once it expands, the number of participants will double in size. Other school districts are interested in following the model started by Clint ISD and the EPBYAA. Once the new outdoor ballfields in Northeast are complete, after school baseball could take on a whole new meaning for thousands of El Paso youngsters

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# BASE Play offers fun, education in El Paso County

Victor R. Martinez, El Paso Times

Published 12:07 p.m. MT June 15, 2016



*(Photo: Victor Calzada/El Paso Times)*

HORIZON — Analisa Landeros can see herself playing high school softball one day.

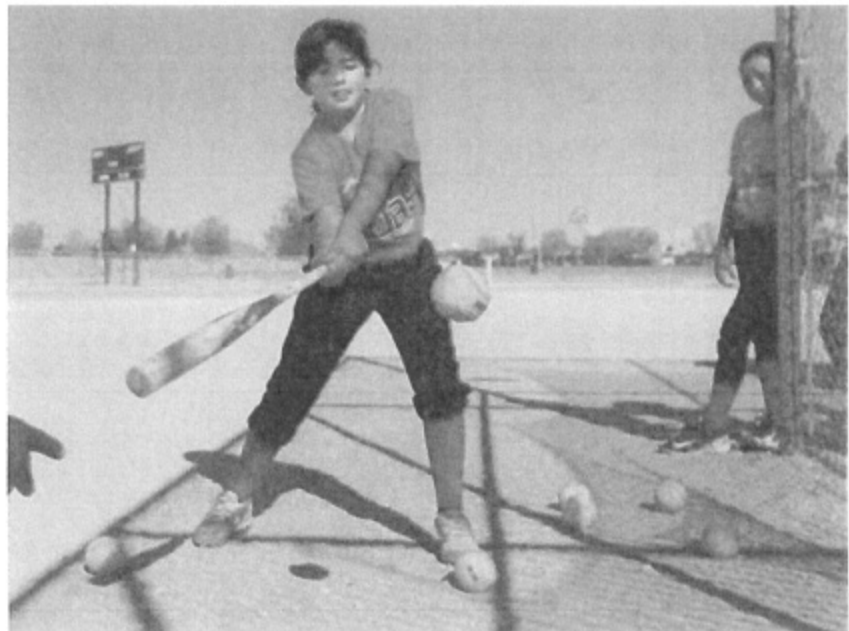
It's something the 10-year-old fourth-grader from W.D. Surratt Elementary School in Clint would not have considered a few months ago.

"It's fun being here with my teammates," she said on a hot and dusty Saturday morning at Horizon Middle School. "We practice twice a week and play on Saturdays, so it's a lot of work. I like playing against other schools, but sometimes I get nervous. I played soccer when I was in kinder but I like softball a lot more. This is a lot more fun."

Landeros is part of BASE Play, a free after-school program offered by the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association for elementary school children in the Clint Independent School District.

The baseball and softball leagues also will be offered in the summer, starting June 28.

"We have been out in the communities of Clint, Montana Vista and Horizon for four seasons," said Kristi Borden, director of development for the youth association. "We're starting our third year in the fall. We do two seasons each academic year, a fall and a spring, so we're on the field with the kids 24 weeks in a scholastic year."



*(Photo: Victor Calzada / El Paso Times)*

Fourth- and fifth-grade students from Montana Vista, W.D. Surratt and Carroll T. Welch play in the league, with games rotating each week from Horizon Middle, East Montana Middle and Clint Junior High.

The goal by fall is to expand to four Clint school district schools – East Montana Middle, Clint Junior High, Horizon Middle and Ricardo Estrada Middle – which will put the league at seven schools with more than 300 players.

"It's really fun for them," said Letty Martinez, the area coordinator of the league. "A lot of them are distressed in academics, so being out there at practice brings up their grades and self-esteem. We check their grades ... and we see a lot of improvement throughout the season."

The players practice twice a week and have game on Saturdays.

"They look forward to going to practice," Martinez said. "We do homework checks daily, so they get their homework done so they can go out there and practice."



The league, with the school district's permission, checks the students grades every three weeks, and if they are failing classes, they are put on a homework watch list, meaning no completed homework, no practice.

If the student has failing grades over consecutive grade collection periods, the league and the student advocate work with them at school to understand the problem, then steer them toward a solution.

Sublasky, who played first base, middle infielder and pitcher at Horizon, said he had to start from the ground up.

"When we first got them, they didn't know how to throw a ball or anything, so we had to teach them a lot," he said. "We knew it was going to be a project, but we decided we would make this group of kids into a good baseball team, and that's what we did."

He said it has been amazing watching his players improve with every practice.

"I am so proud of them," he said. "I get to see these kids every day in practice, getting better and better. Every time, we show them the correct form and the correct way of doing things. These kids are developing skills that are going to help them become something special later in life and achieve great things."

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(Photo: Victor Calzada / El Paso Times)

Connie Loya, the principal at Carroll T. Welch, said the children at her school look forward to playing.

"We started two years ago with the fourth grade and they did really well. Then, the following year, we added the fifth grade," she said. "We keep getting more and more students interested in the program. It's helping our students academically, so we keep them in the classroom doing really well so they can continue playing on the field."

Loya said the league has great community impact. "It actually has brought parents in, ensuring that the students participate in outside school activities," she said. "The kids find a purpose and parents are supportive in that manner, and it allows parents to come together as well to work together as a community."

The idea of the league started several years ago when Mary Sernas, a fourth-grade teacher at W.D. Surratt, was worried about her students who were coming in from Juárez or the colonias.

"She approached Dr. Dwayne Aboud, our board president, and we found a grant opportunity for the program. But, we did not get the grant," Borden said. "We ended up with \$10,000 in seed money from a private donor out of California, and we approached the Clint district, and we did our pilot program in the fall of 2014."

Sernas was killed in November 2014.

"We lost her, but that galvanized us around the program," Borden said. "We were determined to do something in her memory that would be befitting of her concern for the kids. It started from a really true place."

The league is funded through several sources, locally and nationally.

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(Photo: Victor Calzada / El Paso Times)

Juan and Erika Garcia have two daughters in the program, Jasmine, 12, and Miranda, 11, both students at W.D. Surratt.

"They really like coming out here," Erika said. "I've noticed since they've been playing softball, they've actually been doing better in the classroom. It's helped them big time academically and that's very important to me. This gives them that little push, so this is the best program they could have."

Mom said softball also has been a welcomed distraction.

"I've been fighting breast cancer, so this has helped them deal with that a little," she said. "Having practice twice a week and games every Saturday has been a good distraction for them, so they don't stress about it."

Jasmine, who plays second base, shortstop and pitcher has never played sports before.

"It's awesome being out here," she said. "It doesn't matter if we win or lose, we're going to have fun. It's all about the game."

Victor R. Martinez may be reached at 546-6128; [vmartinez@elpasotimes.com](mailto:vmartinez@elpasotimes.com); @vrmart on Twitter.

## Step up to the plate

What: BASE Play is a free after-school baseball and softball program offered by the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association for the elementary school children in the Clint Independent School District.

When: Summer baseball and softball leagues will get underway June 28.

Information: 585-7838; [elpasoborderyouth.org](http://elpasoborderyouth.org).

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# El Paso Border Youth Team to play in MLB's All-Star Youth Classic

By: Beau Bagley (mailto:bbagley@elpasoproud.com)

Posted: Jun 06, 2017 02:53 PM MST

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El Paso, TX - El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association's BASE Play RBI will be one of twelve youth organizations and one of four softball teams in the U.S., to participate in the ninth annual 'All-Star Youth Classic,' a friendly tournament hosted against the backdrop of MLB All-Star Week in Miami Florida. The All-Star Youth Classic will feature approximately 140 young baseball and softball players, aged 11-12, participating in games and attending MLB All-Star Week events. This year's All-Star Youth Classic will run from Friday, July 7th through Monday, July 10th in Miami, the host city of the 88th MLB All-Star Game presented by Mastercard.

BASE Play RBI is an afterschool program serving economically distressed communities in El Paso County since 2014. Last year the program became affiliated with MLB's Youth Program, RBI. The RBI program is designed to increase participation in baseball and softball in underserved communities and promote greater inclusion of minorities in the sport. In April of this year, BASE Play RBI was visited by David James, the Vice President of Youth Programs for MLB, "Our focus is to make sure we come into communities that are looking for resources in order for kids to play," James said while watching a group of fifth-graders practice at Montana Vista Elementary. The MLB Youth Program's interest in BASE Play RBI led to its inclusion in the All-Star Youth Classic. The following are the cities (and national youth leagues) playing in the 2017 All-Star Youth Classic:

- Lajas, Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico RBI) – Softball
- El Paso, Texas (Base Play RBI) – Softball
- Jersey City, New Jersey (Roberto Clemente RBI) – Softball
- Miami, Florida (Miami Marlins RBI) – Softball

- Evansville, Indiana (Mattingly Charities RBI) – Baseball
- Columbia, South Carolina (Columbia RBI) – Baseball
- Flint, Michigan (Jackson Park RBI) – Baseball
- Hawthorne, California (Holly Park Little League) – Baseball
- Miami, Florida (Miami Marlins RBI) – Baseball
- Oxford, Alabama (Oxford Dixie Youth Baseball) – Baseball
- Stamford, Connecticut (Stamford Sluggers) – Girls Baseball
- Tampa, Florida (Wellswood Sports Association PONY) – Baseball

Twelve 6th grade girls from low-income communities in Horizon City, Montana Vista and Clint will form the ASYC team. "The invitation by Major League Baseball is a gratifying affirmation of the hard work being done by BASE Play RBI and its parent organization, El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association. This opportunity is such a positive demonstration of their commitment to EPBYAA and the El Paso area," said Dwayne Aboud, M.D., founder and president of EPBYAA's board of directors, "We are thrilled." In addition to the games, the team will have the opportunity to attend All-Star Week events. These include MLB All-Star FanFest at the Miami Beach Convention Center, All-Star Sunday including the SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game and All-Star Legends & Celebrity Softball Game, Gatorade All-Star Workout Day featuring the T-Mobile Home Run Derby at Marlins Park, and various PLAY BALL-related events. Additionally, participants will be exposed to a variety of off-field life experiences, including rooming on campus at the University of Miami and a community service activity.

"We are looking forward to hosting these young men and women for the All-Star Youth Classic and All-Star Week festivities," said Tony Reagins, Senior Vice President of Youth Programs, Major League Baseball. "Providing opportunities for them to highlight their skills on the field is important, but we believe it is just as meaningful to give them a chance to build lifelong friendships and memories through this once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The 88th Midsummer Classic on Tuesday, July 11th will be televised nationally by FOX Sports and worldwide by partners in more than 160 countries. ESPN Radio and ESPN Radio Deportes will provide exclusive national radio coverage of the All-Star Game. MLB Network, MLB.com and Sirius XM also will provide comprehensive All-Star Week coverage.

For more information on El Paso Border Youth Athletics and its mission to create educational and developmental opportunities for El Paso youth through baseball and softball, visit [www.elpasoborderyouth.org](http://www.elpasoborderyouth.org) or look up EPBYAA on Facebook. For more MLB All-Star Week information and to purchase tickets, please visit [AllStarGame.com](http://AllStarGame.com), the All-Star Game presented by MasterCard Twitter account (@AllStarGame) and All-Star Game presented by MasterCard Facebook account ([Facebook.com/MLBAllStarGame](https://www.facebook.com/MLBAllStarGame)).

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## EL PASO BORDER YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

### MILESTONES

#### 2000-2014

- Recruited and ran 10 baseball teams, including 4 travel teams, assisting players in obtaining over 50 college level scholarships since inception.

#### 2012

- Opened THE BASE, a 14,000 square foot, indoor skills development and practice facility.

#### 2013

- Launched year-round skills and personal development programming at THE BASE.
- Held first annual NCAA Seminar, a free event to assist parents and students in the NCAA eligibility and recruitment process, designed to help improve scholarship outcomes for student athletes.

#### 2014

- Entered into partnership with Clint ISD to launch BASE Play RBI after school program, which will begin its 8th regular season in 2018 with over 250 players and 20 teams.

#### 2015

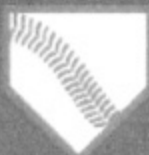
- Received endowment for construction of outdoor facility.
- Received 5-year grant from Hunt Family Foundation in support of BASE Play.

#### 2016

- Became an affiliate of Major League Baseball through its Youth Programs division.
- Partnered with Columbia School of Public Health to assess BASE Play RBI students and families.
- Presented to the 41st National Rural Social Workers Conference on the Columbia findings, speaking on the topic of Colonia Residency, Academics and Obesity.
- Partnered with El Paso Chihuahuas Triple-A baseball team to form Chihuahuas NeXt youth baseball and softball instructional leagues for elite players.
- Partnered with the Eastlake Key Club, a youth division of Kiwanis International, in Socorro Independent School District to complete a Thanksgiving food drive for over 200 BASE Play RBI families.

#### 2017

- Recognized through BASE Play RBI as one of four softball teams in the nation invited to the Miami Classic by MLB - a week of events around the 2017 All-Star game. Twelve 6th grade girls stayed on the grounds of Miami University for a week during the event, receiving programming from USA Softball professionals along with inspirational and educational lectures and tours of the University.
- The BASE Play RBI - Kiwanis Clubs of El Paso collaboration was featured in Kiwanis International Magazine and website. An article and three videos were produced by the magazine and subsequently circulated to 128,000 members.
- Chihuahuas NeXt was invited to send two high school softball players to the Elite Development Series, a week of intensive instruction with USA Softball coaches in Vero Beach, Florida. This was the first year of softball participation in MLB's Breaking Barriers Series.
- Hosted the first Chihuahuas NeXt high school instructional summer league, serving over 400 area baseball players and 75 softball players, culminating in the first Chihuahuas NeXt High School All-Star game at Southwest University Park that was attended by over 1,000 El Paso fans and supporters.
- Held the first annual "Field Day at BASE Play," which represented the second collaboration with El Paso Key Clubs to serve BASE Play students. Over 400 BASE Play students and family members attended.



**THE BASE**





## EL PASO BORDER YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

### WHO WE ARE – EDUCATION THROUGH ATHLETICS

El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association was founded in 2000, with the mission of creating educational and developmental opportunities for El Paso youth, and advancing youth baseball and softball talent to its highest potential.

Competitive athletic programs contribute significantly to the teaching and development of students, providing opportunities to understand the rewards that come from dedication to a larger purpose and to develop their personal, physical and intellectual skills.

Over 1,000 children a year receive academic support or structured physical activities through El Paso Border Youth, with over 50 area high school students ultimately receiving higher education scholarships through the work of EPBYAA.

#### WHO WE SERVE

The City of El Paso is the 18th largest in the U.S. and ranks 13th in the nation among cities with the highest concentration of children ages 2-18. Approximately 82% of El Paso residents are Hispanic, however, EPBYAA serves communities with up to 100% Hispanic population in the outlying areas of El Paso County.



With only 21% of the population holding a bachelor's degree or higher, El Paso residents have the lowest incomes among all major Texas cities. Improved educational attainment rates have long been a priority for El Paso and remain an urgent deliverable to support job creation and progress toward the goal of raising the per capita income in El Paso. The focus on academic achievement is present in all EPBYAA programs, from the elementary school level to higher education scholarship support.

**THE BASE** - our 14,000 square foot indoor skills development facility, works closely with El Paso, Socorro, Ysleta and Clint Independent School District administrators and coaches to elevate the level of baseball and softball play in the schools, with the intent of creating successful student athletes. All proceeds from THE BASE support EPBYAA's mission and programming goals.



**CHIHUAHUAS NEXT** – partners with the El Paso Chihuahuas Triple-A baseball team and all area school districts to craft and deliver skills development opportunities and elite league play. This includes special developmental opportunities through the MLB Youth Program, USA Baseball and USA Softball.

**BASE PLAY** – is offered in partnership with Clint Independent School District. An affiliate of Major League Baseball Youth Programs under the RBI program, BASE Play provides academic support and life changing experiences through baseball and softball to students in the economically distressed communities of El Paso County. Over 82% of students in the program who are struggling academically are able to transition to passing grades.

*"Every Player Who Gets An Education Wins!"*



**THE BASE**





February 27, 2018

Search Committee  
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
El Paso, TX

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this as my official letter of recommendation in support of Dr. Dwayne Aboud being inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I have certainly had the honor of working alongside Dr. Aboud for over 30 years. He has served as the head team physician of the UTEP Sports medicine department even before I came to UTEP in '88. His dedication to the athletes at UTEP is what has helped me grow as a professional and allowed me to do my job more effectively knowing that I can rely on his knowledge and expertise in the medical field. What makes his commitment to UTEP even more special is that in his thirty plus years of service, he has done it all completely on a volunteer basis.

Dr. Aboud really loves and cares not only for Athletics, but for this community as a whole. He is constantly trying to improve the quality of life for not only the athletes here at UTEP, but all over the city trying to create opportunity for kids through his non-profit organization.

I firmly believe that you may not find another person with a better working knowledge of athletics as a whole in El Paso. Dr. Aboud has seen it all from the coaching end when he was younger, as well as from the administrative and educational end though the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association, and as a professional scout for MLB.

Knowledge like this coupled with his expertise in sports medicine is why we have been able to work together for so long, and I feel like his induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of fame is well earned and deserved.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me with any further questions (915) 204-0652.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Hearn".

Dawn Hearn MS, ATC, LAT  
Head Athletic Trainer  
University of Texas-El Paso



Department of  
Sports Medicine

Larry K. Durham  
Center  
500 W. University  
El Paso, Texas  
79968-0579  
(915) 747-6801



## Los Angeles Dodgers

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of Dr. Dwayne Aboud's nomination into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I had the honor of meeting Dr. Aboud back in 2010 when he invited me and some of my colleagues to put on a Pro Style clinic here in El Paso for high school aged kids. It didn't take long after speaking with him to know and feel the passion and love that he has for baseball. However, his love is not only limited to the game itself, but to the actual development of youth baseball and softball, and for the El Paso community. In my eyes he is a great ambassador of youth sports in this region. Since that January in 2010, we have been back every year to put on the same clinic, as well as occasional coaching clinics to share our expertise here in El Paso.

The work he has done with the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association ranks second to none, and I feel like he is only scratching the surface. Developing programs like BASEplay RBI, Chihuahua NeXt baseball and softball academy, as well as The Base indoor hitting facility will only benefit the city and take his vision in the right direction. The most important part of all of this is that it is all geared towards education, and creating educational opportunities through baseball and softball.

In my 42 year with the Los Angeles Dodger organization, I have come across players and coaches from all walks of life. I have been exposed to great players, and very developmental players. Most importantly, I have had the honor of being around some true Hall of Famers in professional baseball, and in my eyes Dr. Dwayne Aboud belongs there right beside them for all the positive things he has given the El Paso community. He is truly worthy of this nomination and I will continue to help him in his vision to grow the EPBYAA and grow the sports of baseball and softball in the El Paso community.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Shoemaker".

John Shoemaker

"The Captain" of Player Development

Los Angeles Dodgers

1000 Elysian Park Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(866) 363-4377



El Paso Chihuahuas | 1 Ballpark Plaza | El Paso, TX 79901 | (915) 242-2000 | EPChihuahuas.com

March 1, 2018

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written in support of Dr. Dwayne Aboud and his nomination for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Aboud soon upon my arrival in June, 2013 as the GM of the El Paso Chihuahuas. It did not take long for me to learn about his interest in continuing to build productive youth athletic programs for the region.

A main reason that the Chihuahuas and Triple-A baseball were brought to El Paso was to enhance the quality of life for those that live in our Border region. Recognizing and supporting the initiatives of Dr. Aboud and the El Paso Border Youth Athletic Association felt like a natural fit.

As a board member for the El Paso BYAA, I have seen firsthand Dr. Aboud's commitment and pursuit of better programming, facilities and opportunities for children of all ages, both boys and girls. His vision and commitment to enhance youth athletic programs for El Paso is unmatched in this region. He has not just invested time and energy in this mission, he has invested his own money for the good of our community.

In addition to the BYAA, Dr. Aboud also operates The Base, BasePlay and other activities for young baseball and softball players – all while encouraging successful academic practices as well.

Our team is proud to be associated with Chihuahuas NeXt Baseball Softball Academy to teach baseball and softball skills to local players.

His current commitment and past involvement to area youth sports is enough to warrant this nomination, but Dr. Aboud has also taken his knowledge as a former coach and player to be a Major League Baseball scout.

He is truly worthy of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Best Regards,

Brad Taylor

Vice-President, MountainStar Sports Group  
General Manager, El Paso Chihuahuas

March 1st, 2018

Dear El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee,

It is with great honor and humility that I have the opportunity to recommend Dr. Dwayne Aboud to be inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I was first introduced to Dr. Aboud in 2011 because we share the same passion in creating hope and future success in our youth by combining the positive attributes learned when working hard in both academics and athletics. These attributes build character, discipline, resiliency, communication skills and great knowledge. UTEP student-athletes have the rare privilege in seeing these attributes reflected in their team physician because Dr. Aboud embodies them and more.

As a former UCLA student-athlete, and retired professional athlete, I cannot begin to express the importance of how an organization's physician touches the lives of the many student-athletes in their care. While at UCLA, I underwent two surgeries and the second surgery allowed for me to be healthy enough to be drafted and play professional baseball. During my time with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the arm surgery I underwent allowed for me to extend my career 4 years. At this young age in a student-athlete's life, thinking about health care and potential surgery is a very scary proposition. A great team doctor allows for student-athletes to feel confident about the direction of their health care and career. If this confidence lapses or doesn't exist, the performance on the field will definitely be affected. During the time I have known Dr. Aboud, he has been a dedicated member of the UTEP Athletics Medical Staff going above and beyond to care for the student-athletes that represent UTEP both on and off the playing fields/courts.

Since 2011, Dr. Aboud and I have been working together to expand the reach of a non-profit organization which is dedicated to serving the youth of El Paso and the El Paso community. Dr. Aboud founded this non-profit and now sits as the chairman of the board. The El Paso Boarder Youth Athletic Association has created programs to help the youth of El Paso attain better grades and test scores while participating in youth baseball or softball. This organization also works in partnership with the El Paso Chihuahuas to offer teaching clinics year a round for those El Paso youth interested in learning from professionals. EPBYAA also offers many programs dedicated to communicating the academic, athletic and NCAA requirements all the youth of El Paso need to become collegiate student-athletes. Dr. Aboud has worked tirelessly in the El Paso community for over 30 years to help kids (mostly in baseball and softball) attend showcases, tryouts, tournaments and making calls on their behalf so that these kids could have an opportunity to play at the collegiate level.



As a past member of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame committees, and as an inductee, I would ask the 2018 committee to please consider for induction Dr. Dwayne Aboud in the "Administrator/Coaching category.

Dr. Aboud has been my university's 'Head Team Physician' for near 30 straight years. There are, of course, other physicians who are specialists for the specific injury and rehabilitation needs of the UTEP athletes. They are called upon for very specific situations, and some of them have helped for years....but not 30. Dr. Aboud is always available day in and day out, 7-days a week, for phone consultations with the training staff. He makes time during his extremely busy office schedule to see athletes (or coaches) for general medical purposes or even emergencies that can be handled at the office. Time and time again, he'll leave his office after work to drop by the training offices for special requests.....and Dr. Aboud has never charged for his time and efforts. Others might. I have personally witnessed him get up in the middle of a lunch and head to the training offices.

He does it for the University's athletic program, which is always, always strapped for funding, and for the wonderful relationships he has developed over the 30 years with the various trainers. There is no telling how many thousands upon thousands of dollars he's saved UTEP. He does it from his heart.

In my field of expertise.....he's been unbelievable in perpetuating youth baseball in El Paso since his high school years. He loved the game from the first day he played it. When that ended, he coached Instructional Youth Baseball every summer while at El Paso High. While in medical 'residency', he then Dr. Aboud even found time to coach a Mantle team in New York.

It has been his life-long dream to formulate a program to help the kids of El Paso to perfect their skills, and academics so that they might advance their education through scholarships. He then founded the "EP Border Youth Athletic Association" 17 years ago. That mission was to identify and bring experienced coaching to our city's finest young baseball and softball talent. Now, his efforts have really started gaining momentum.

From 2000-2014, he also recruited and ran 10 baseball teams, to include four travel teams. Since during that time -period, he helped some 50 players to obtain college level scholarships since its inception in 2000.

In 2012, he also created The Base (14,000 square feet), the city's first 'truly' functional indoor practice facility with cages. He had Tommy John come to town for a fundraiser to help subsistence youth avail themselves to the opportunity to learn at the Base with knowledgeable coaches. During this time, he was invited to Major League Baseball's prestigious "Scouting School" in Arizona. (Strictly for MLB personnel only 1). After 70 some hours of schooling and testing, Dr. Aboud became a certified MLB Scout. His detailed and accurate reports on EP talent has gained respect from MLB teams over the past few years as evidenced by the increasing assignments each year.... and culminating in 2017 with an actual offer of employment as a full-time scout for the Twins. (The Scouting director did not know he had a day job). This past week Florida Marlins approached him in regard to scouting the immediate area for them...contract is in the mail and due this week.

For the past seven winters, he has brought in some of the country's finest and most experienced baseball coaches, instructors, and players for benefit of baseball in our city. These highly respected instructors (from the Braves, Dodgers, Brewers, and MLB Scouting Bureau, to also include personnel



from the Universities of Washington, Michigan, and Clemson) provide two-day clinics for El Paso youth and coaches who wish to attend and better themselves.

Next, he initiated "Base Play", as a beginning to fulfilling his long-time dream...baseball/softball & education! He started the program by convincing the Clint Schools to allow Base Play to be introduced into early grades of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Here, economically disadvantaged children could be introduced to baseball/softball through organized programs, but in order to practice and play in the actual games, they had to have passing grades. Aboud' fundraising and his out-of-pocket monies provided for t-shirts, pants, gloves, bats, balls, bases, catcher's gear, umpires, transportation home from practice, meals, academic awards and small stipends to the volunteer coaches (mostly mothers and aunts who learned from Base instructors) plus another focus on umpire development. 12 weeks in the fall, and 12 in the spring. Major Success—210 kids in '15, 170 in '16, and 230 in '17. Now it's 18 teams, 19 coaches, 23 volunteers. AND good grades in a very low-income section of our county, to include the Colonia's. This wonderful effort received a Grant from the Roberto Clemente Foundation. Next MLB granted "Base Play" with their "RBI Program" (one of the very few outside of urban settings).

This past summer, Major League Baseball invited 12 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls from the Clint Base Play Program to the Major League All Star game in Miami (first time airplane ride for all 12). All expenses were paid for by MLB. The 12 were recognized on the field during the homerun derby/old-timers game and while there, they participated in softball games with other specially selected teams from around the country and were treated to various skills seminars.

Dr. Aboud has now focused on bringing "Base Play" to the Canutillo area. This will be another dream come true beginning this spring. MLB is now committed to send in instructors to El Paso and will host seminars throughout the year... especially for coaches at all levels. Base Play is now an affiliated with Major League Baseball's "Youth Programs Division".

Aboud has now involved the EP Chihuahuas in forming the "Next Program", an elite skills development program. It's focusing on enhancing the competitive level of EP county student-athletes to better position them for higher education opportunities.

For all his efforts to enhance youth baseball/softball in conjunction with education over the past 50 years, along with his devotion to make this city a better place for everyone through the vehicle of sport...Dr. Dwayne Aboud deserves your attention and a spot in the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Jim Paul