

## THE CLUBHOUSE

### Around the Nation

Our readers are important to us, and we want to know who you are! Here are a few kids who sent us some great photos and told us a little about their baseball lives. Send us your photos for the next issue to [mailbox@baseballyouth.com](mailto:mailbox@baseballyouth.com).



**Name:** Joseph Vadala  
**Age:** 11  
**Position:** P, 1B, 3B  
**Hometown:** Garden City Park, N.J.

Joseph is a member of the Garden City Bombers, and his nickname is Smoothie. What a nickname! Out of all the places he's played baseball, he rates the Disney Wide World of Sports as No. 1. Joseph wrote to tell us he loves reading Baseball Youth. Thanks!



**Name:** Spencer Lewis  
**Age:** 8  
**Position:** SS, P  
**Hometown:** Lilburn, Ga.

Spencer's nickname is Dirtball, and there's no telling how he got that one. He considers himself one of those kids that eats, sleeps and breathes baseball. Spencer plays for the Peachtree Ridge Lions 9U travel team, and his bedroom is a shrine to the Atlanta Braves.



**Name:** Trace Richards  
**Age:** 9  
**Position:** 3B  
**Hometown:** Arlington, Texas

Trace plays in the North Arlington Little League, and he even took part in a Texas Rangers Baseball Camp. By the looks of his pictures, he really worked hard to improve his skills. Keep up the good work, Trace!

### FanFests Becoming a Popular Offseason Hit

To give fans a little taste of baseball during the offseason, MLB teams are creating FanFests with plenty of fun events for kids. In December, Baseball Youth set up a booth at the Cincinnati RedsFest, and many other teams are joining in on the excitement.



At these FanFests kids get the chance to play interactive games, participate in skills contests, meet current and former players, collect autographs, shop for great team memorabilia and more.



Whenever Baseball Youth attends a team's FanFest we will hand out a free magazine to any kid or adult interested in our magazine. It's a great way to grow our product and get kids excited about the national pastime.

#### MLB Teams Hosting FanFests This Winter

- Cincinnati RedsFest
- Atlanta Braves FanFest
- Minnesota TwinsFest
- Kansas City Royals FanFest
- Seattle Mariners FanFest
- San Diego Padres Friar Fest
- Pittsburgh PirateFest
- Texas Rangers FanFest
- Chicago White SoxFest

## THE CLUBHOUSE Improve Those Practices!

Practice is one of the most important times for any team, and coaches are always looking for new tools and drills to help their team improve. Here are a couple instructional tools you coaches can use next time your team hits the field.



#### CoachDeck • \$20

Pick a card, any card! This is the first-ever instructional deck of cards created by coaches for coaches. Each deck contains 50 exciting, professional-quality drills that teach valuable fundamentals. The drills are perfect for practice, and most importantly, the kids can have fun.

Each card is color coded so you know which kind of drill you're going to be working on that day. There are all types of infield, outfield, hitting and baserunning drills. The drills are explained on the card with words and illustrations so you will never be confused.

Don't let your kids get tired of the same practice over and over again. The CoachDeck will help you organize great practices every time.



### SLAM DICE BASEBALL

America's newest baseball board game designed for the whole family!

Get yours today at

[www.slamdice.com](http://www.slamdice.com)

Ages 6 to Adults

[www.slamdice.com](http://www.slamdice.com)

#### Baseball SweetSpots Prices vary



SweetSpots is a unique new product designed to help players improve their pitching and throwing skills. These bright-colored padded patches stick inside your glove providing a big target for other players to hit when they're throwing.

The goal is for kids to focus better on the baseball glove and improve throwing accuracy. You can customize your own SweetSpots to have your team's logo on it or choose from one of the fluorescent colors. They come available in a standard fielder's glove size and a larger size for a catcher's mitt.

For more information on both products, check out [baseballyouth.com/links](http://baseballyouth.com/links).