

Miniature Baseball

Introduction

Why would a pastor write a book about baseball? Well, first, maybe because it is something one can do outside in the fresh air, thus improving one's health? Maybe because it is educational, thus improving one's life? Maybe because, as serious as life can get, he likes to see people have some fun? Maybe because he just likes the game? For me, it is all of these things, but there is even more.

I am taking a break from my more serious writing to bring to you a concern I have had for many years. The benefits of playing baseball carry over to life in general and can have an everlasting impact on the developing personality of young people and their families. How can I find a way for serious fans of baseball to have a new opportunity to play, and even for those who just like to play out of doors to have an opportunity to play something that they have never played before? Not everyone can play 9" hardball or even 12" soft ball. There are millions of people who, for one reason or another, cannot play these games. Usually, the reasons are human, such as physical strength, balance, agility, ability to run, age, or basic skill level. Other reasons pertain to time and space restraints or even the number of people available to play.

Miniature baseball is a game played on a 40 percent scale size regulation baseball field. The exceptions are the pitcher's distance, which is 30 feet 3 inches (50 percent) and the batter's boxes. Any question about whether you can expect true performance and returns to scale is obliterated with the first pitch.

For example, the 5" balls can occasionally travel in excess of 200 literal feet (or 500 scale feet). The longest ball ever hit had a tailwind and was measured at 296 literal feet or 740 scale feet). It hit about 40 feet up in a pine tree and dropped straight down, where it stopped. It was measured from there. The modern record is 273 literal feet (683 scale feet) with no noticeable tailwind. The 5" ball will support fastballs, curve balls, sliders, a variety of change-ups, fork balls, cutters, knuckleballs, etc., and are available to pitchers via standard grips and wrist motions. Most overhand fastballs range between 40 and 50 miles per hour (mph) (80 to 100 scale mph, calculated on a pitching distance of 30 feet, 3 inches). However, depending on the pitcher, speeds can range in excess of 70 mph (140 scale mph). The fastest clocked pitch was 81 mph (162 scale mph). The initial reaction from most people upon first encountering this game is that they will never be able to hit such a small ball, but they are soon surprised!

In this book, I propose an alternative that will allow millions of people who long to play an invigorating (but not exhausting) game in the fresh air of God's creation to be able to participate on a competent level in the greatest game ever created—baseball.

Play ball!

Blessings,

Pastor Craig Martin Barnes