

Village of Orland Park Media Relations

NEWSRelease

Frederick T. Owens Village Hall

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March 30, 2010

Orland Park Recreation to Host Pitch, Hit & Run Contest *Open To Girls and Boys Age Seven to Fourteen*

ORLAND PARK, IL – The Village of Orland Park Recreation Department will hold its Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run Contest on Saturday, April 17 at the Doogan Park Ballfields, 14700 Park Lane.

“This is a great opportunity for kids to show their skills and possibly represent their community at the next level of competition,” said Orland Park Athletic Supervisor Quincy Bejster.

Registration and a signed waiver are required for the free event, open to girls and boys ages seven to fourteen. Participants must have reached the age at which they are competing by July 17, 2010. Check-in and warm ups begin at 8:00 a.m. on April 17 with the competition beginning at 8:30 a.m. The contest is limited to 200 participants and is open to all area residents. Competition categories are divided according to age and gender.

“The Aquafina Pitch, Hit and Run Competition is a national contest that encourages youth participation and emphasizes the fun elements of baseball,” Bejster explained. Participants could potentially advance through four levels of competition, including local and sectional competitions. The national finals are held at the Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

Orland Park’s Antonio Roselli won the nine and ten year old division for Orland Park’s Pitch, Hit and Run 2009 Competition. He competed and won for his age level at the sectionals at the Windy City Thunderbolts Stadium. Roselli then competed at the team level competition at U.S. Cellular Field and finished sixth in the nation for his age level.

“Antonio Roselli did an outstanding job representing Orland Park, placing sixth in the country,” Bejster said. The top three national winners at each age division advance to Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game.

The pitch portion of the program gives each competitor six pitches to hit the designated strike zone target from 45 feet away. Competitors bat from a stationary tee for the hitting element of the contest and must run from second base to home for the running part of the contest. Sliding is not permitted.

“We invite all kids to be a part of the competition, whether they’re currently playing ball or not. This is a fun event and who knows? We may have another contender from Orland Park this year,” Bejster added.

Registration for the April 17 Pitch, Hit and Run Contest is currently available at the Franklin Loebe Center, 14750 South Ravinia Avenue and at the village’s Sportsplex,

11351 West 159th Street. Those registering the day of the event must bring a valid birth certificate to the competition. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 708/645-7529.

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PHOTO CAPTION

Orland Park's Antonio Roselli won the nine and ten year old division for Orland Park's Pitch, Hit and Run 2009 Competition. He competed and won for his age level at the sectionals at the Windy City Thunderbolts Stadium. Roselli then competed at the team level competition at U.S. Cellular Field, finishing sixth in the nation. Information about Orland Park's 2010 Pitch, Hit and Run Contest is available by calling 708/645-7529.