

# Stepping in

Gary Staples

Gary Staples is certainly no newcomer to the league. He has served as treasurer as well as team representative on the Executive Committee. He also has managed BSL teams for several years. One thing is certain, Gary is qualified for the job of commissioner that he will soon take on.

Gary has been called "Mr. All-Star" more than once. Although it has not always been said with affection, the label does nonetheless apply. Gary is a perennial on BSL All-Star teams.

I asked him how he plans to balance the competitive and recreational elements of the league. Gary suggested that it may now be time for our league to attempt a two division set-up similar to the one used in Toronto. There they have a competitive division where emphasis is on winning and a recreational division where social aspects are more important and everyone is guaranteed playing time. "Some players who want to participate on a competitive team but will not be starters can play on the recreational teams. This gives more options."

Gary was adamant about the league supporting its representative to the World Series. This year no league funds were allotted for the championship team's expenses to go to Chicago. He feels that it's important for the team to know that the league is behind them and that they are out there representing Boston.

It's Boston's turn at hosting a tournament, says Gary. "Where ever we go, people ask, 'When is Boston going to sponsor a tournament?' We've been to many other cities, it's time to return the hospitality. Everybody wants to come to Boston. Guys from San Francisco told me they want to send two teams."

"We're going to need support from everyone in the league to make it come out well. It's especially going to take a good deal of money. I really want this to come out right. The most important thing is that we start planning this right away. We can't expect to just have things happen. We have to plan and make sure everything is ready."

Gary knows that you can't have everything just right all of the time. "Even if it's not the best idea, we have to go with it if we don't have something better. I don't want to hear people arguing unless they can come up with a better idea. I'll encourage people to speak up because we have some really smart people in this league (for instance the past officers, I hope they'll stay involved) and we should take advantage of that. But we can't just stop doing things because we haven't found the best ways to do them."

Gary has many of the right ideas, it seems to me. I was very impressed with what he had to say. But the big question is will he be able to do them? From our discussion, I think we will be able to get things done. Next year should be a very good year!

# On Deck

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