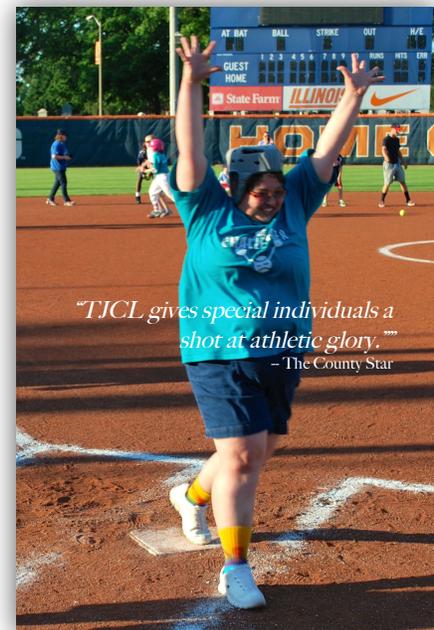




Sharing the joy of baseball with everyone

The Kiwanis Tom Jones Challenger League allows children ages 6-21 with all degrees of ability to play baseball in an inclusive, family friendly atmosphere. Like a traditional youth league, kids play on teams, wear uniforms, hit, field, run, and score. Our specialty is our focus on kids with physical and cognitive challenges. We provide all of the supports they need to successfully play baseball and experience the rewards that baseball provides – teamwork, exercise, sportsmanship, confidence, self-esteem, pride in accomplishment, and especially fun!



*"TJCL gives special individuals a shot at athletic glory."
- The County Star*

www.tomjonesleague.org





Tom Jones
Photo by John Dixon,
The News-Gazette

History

The Kiwanis Tom Jones Challenger League began play in 1998 and was named in tribute to Tom Jones after his passing in 2008. In a wheelchair since the age of six, Tom lived his entire life making the most of his abilities. He earned two degrees from the University of Illinois, participated in basketball and track, became a successful local broadcaster, and advocated tirelessly for the disabled members of our community. Tom also loved baseball, and his dream was to give physically and mentally challenged youngsters a chance to play the game. His great legacy is the smiles we see each spring and summer on the faces of our players, their families and friends.



"Those dreams of Jack's first baseball uniform, the whole family coming out to cheer... they came true"
- Kara D., parent



"The TJCL is a wonderful thing. Everyone should take in at least one game."
- The News-Gazette

How We Play

Games are usually three innings long and are held to a time limit of one hour. Everyone bats once per inning. Everyone runs the bases, and everyone scores each inning. No outs are recorded. We do not keep score. We enlist the help of volunteer on-field Buddies to assist the players in any facet of the game required.



"TJCL is all about opportunity, a smile, a high five...it's given them the game of baseball."
- WICD-15 News

Our Field

Games and practices are held at AMBUCS Park on East University Avenue in Urbana, Illinois. This is a handicap accessible park and ball diamond, equipped with covered dugouts and field lighting for night games.



"A great blessing..."
- The County-Star

Schedule

Our season kicks off in April with a skills orientation day and some preseason practices. Games are played in May and June, usually on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings. We also schedule a few special events and games with other Challenger leagues during the year. Visit us online for our full schedule.



Sign Up!

Register for Challenger League by calling or visiting Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation:

(217) 239-1152

www.cuspecialrecreation.com