



DISH WITH COMMISH

BOB PERTSAS declares state of union strong on PSAL diamond

A HANDFUL of PSAL baseball players were selected in MLB's amateur draft earlier this month, on the same day the league wrapped up a season of transition with Morris and George Washington emerging victorious after a pair of well-played championship games at Shea Stadium.

But PSAL baseball commissioner Bob Pertsas is proud of more than the season's final innings.

Pertsas, an assistant principal at FDR who has been commissioner for the past eight seasons, beams about the league's ability to embrace wooden bats for the first time in 35 years, as well as the fall and spring showcases, which allow players to showcase their skills to college coaches and pro scouts.

Here, Pertsas offers his take on the state of the league.

"We had five players drafted. We can't remember the last time that happened, if it's happened at all. Naturally, we're very proud of those five players

and we wish them greater success in the future.

"But I don't think that's what PSAL baseball is all about. The kids are here for an education, and

baseball supports that education. We want to use the baseball experience as a way to get them ready for college.

"It's not all about winning or losing. It's about being able to compete. I don't think you have to win to look back on your experience as a player and see it as a rewarding experience.

"That being said, I want to tip my hat to the players and coaches for making a terrific adjustment to a major change in my sport; this is the first time we went to wood in 35 years.

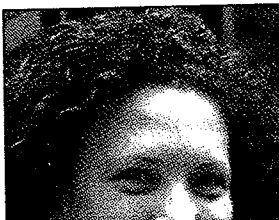
"The reason I think we were successful is that we embraced it right from the beginning. Rather than complain about it, we just went with it. And the results were terrific."

YOU'RE UP!

Interviews by Kellie Clark

Question of the week:

Did Willie Randolph get a raw deal, or did the Mets do the right thing by firing him?



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