



## **Carolina Mens Baseball League Receives Grant From MLB**

**Commissioner Bud Selig will announce today at a press conference the results of the search committee for community baseball development. The Committee, chaired by Henry Aaron, was charged with identifying worthy community baseball programs that would be eligible for grants from MLB to develop facilities in the continental United States devoted to the love of the game of baseball. The Committee Report remarked that the stratified nature of baseball participation from the professional level, through the minor leagues and college programs all the way to Little League and T-ball made it difficult to single out worthy programs. Mr. Aaron noted that the multiple levels of the game gave it great strength and broad appeal. He stated that the amateur players were the most in need of assistance. "There are a significant number of wannabe baseball players that simply do not have the facilities to develop their skills. In view of this finding, we focused our search on adult baseball leagues as a target for developmental grants."**

**The Report identified 19 organizations nationwide that will receive grants ranging from fifty thousand dollars to two million dollars. One of the key criteria for these grants is that the community be blessed with baseball weather sufficient to support at least two seasons of participatory baseball programs. Another criteria was the existence of a strong baseball tradition in the locality. And, finally, the passion for the game exhibited by the players was taken into consideration. The Carolina Mens Baseball League and the Asheville Amateur Baseball Association were the programs selected in North Carolina.**

**Lou Howard, Commissioner of the Carolina Mens Baseball League flew to New York to attend the press conference and receive the grant money on behalf of the League. As he departed from ILM, Mr. Howard commented that, "This award will enable the League to purchase land for the construction of a four field complex. We have received commitments from local construction companies to donate materials and labor to make this a reality." He cited the Southerland Construction Company and Keenan Construction as two that have come forward with commitments to perform the work. Another League sponsor, Catlin Engineering, has agreed to provide the League with free engineering services. Mr. Catlin has already begun drawing up the plans which will include two artificial turf fields and two natural grass fields and a state of the art batting tunnel.**

**Among the features under consideration for the new complex are a locker room with hot tubs under a retractable roof and large refrigeration units for mass quantities of beer for after games. The League is also exploring a collaboration with the Spitzer School of Therapeutic Massage to establish a massage center for sore muscles. The Geriatric Association of Baseball, also known as GAS, lauded the plans and agreed to donate motorized chairs for players having difficulty circumnavigating the bases. At a spontaneous celebration that broke out after notification from Commissioner Selig announcing the grant, Frank Amoroso, President of the League, commented, "April Fools, see you on the Diamond!"**