



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 11, 2015

**CONTACT:** [pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov), [\(212\) 788-2958](tel:(212)788-2958)

**RUSH TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT LITTLE LEAGUE  
OPENING DAY**

**Mayor Bill de Blasio:** Thank you. Let's thank Sue for all she does for Prospect Park. Give her a round of applause.

[Applause]

Now, there may be some of you who, like me, are a little groggy today, because you stayed up for 19 innings. Who stayed up for the whole game last night? All right, die hards. That was a beautiful example of everything great about baseball, and a great way to remember, at the beginning of this season, everything that this game is about.

Now, I just want to say to everyone – you're starting something wonderful. You know, for years, I got to experience this parade and this opening day as a parent. Chiara played, Dante played. Dante ultimately is the Bulldogs – I'm wearing Dante de Blasio's Bulldog hat right now, collector item. There you go, Bulldogs!

And I also had the opportunity to coach in this league. And to all the parents who are coaches, I want to thank you. It is not the easiest thing you'll ever do in your life, but it may be the best thing you ever do in your life. And you'll do a lot of good for a lot of kids.

Now, players – players, I want to say to you, make sure you play hard, make sure you have fun, make sure you're good to your teammates. Really pay attention to your coaches, because they're doing a lot to try and help you. And – and I think the Reverend made a very good point about the umpires – I say to the players, even when you think the umpire is wrong, try your hardest to respect the umpire, and listen to the umpire. It's not always easy, but it's the right thing to do.

So, I want everyone to have a great season.

I want to thank some of the members of my administration who have been a part of these leagues. Ana Bermúdez, our probation commissioner, was a coach here in Prospect Park. Richard Buery, our deputy mayor, now has his son here in the 78th Precinct playing this year. So we've got a lot of members of our administration who care deeply about what happens in this park for a lot of reasons.

Thank you to all the elected officials who support Prospect Park and support all these leagues.

Now, I just want to say one more thing – you may have seen, we have a lot of people out here today telling families about pre-k. We have an opportunity – let's thank all the people who are helping tell people about pre-k!

[Applause]

I want to remind you – the first deadline for signing up for pre-k is Friday, April 24. 53,000 families have already signed up. There are still seats available, so if you have a child – if you have a child who’s pre-k age, going to be four in September, or you know someone who does, tell them to sign up now for pre-k. It will change the life of that child. It’ll change the life of the family. It’ll give them a great future.

With that, I want everyone to have a great, great season. And even if a game goes 19 innings, you’re going to have a great time and stick with it until the end! Have a great season, everyone!

[Applause]

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