

# Miracle League season-opening event a hit

The Miracle League of San Diego launched its new season with a Fan Festival celebration last Saturday at the San Dieguito County Park featuring a home run derby with the Padres Swing Friar and the Pad Squad in attendance.

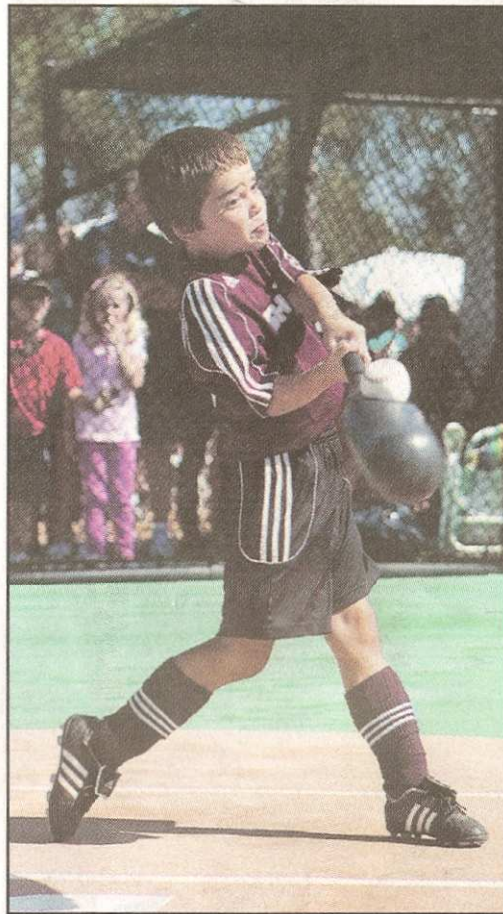
The Miracle League provides children with mental and physical disabilities the opportunity to play team baseball in an organized league.

The event included an opening ceremony, emceed by Channel 4 San Diego's John Weisbarth, in which the players on the 10 Miracle League teams were introduced like the pros.

**LIKE THESE PHOTOS?** You can purchase them from our online photo store...  
[www.delmartimes.net](http://www.delmartimes.net)



Matt O'Malley accepts the Exemplary Coach Award, presented by the Fulston family in honor of Christopher Fulston.



Alex Farfel, 9, takes a swing during the home run derby.



Athletes from the University of San Diego baseball team greet players.



The San Diego Padres Friar clowns around with some of the junior athletes during the Miracle League opening day ceremonies.



Jack Farfel, 7, takes a swing during the home run derby.



Nicholas Andrews, 6, signs an autograph at the press table.



Jason Gackstetter, 11, takes a swing during the home run derby.



Joe Pimentel took the mound for the home run derby.



Kyle Wyborne, 6, practices his technique during the home run derby.



The San Diego Padres Friar hangs out with participants. PHOTOS BY WILL PARSON