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## An Express need for host families

Rockville's Cal Ripken Sr. League team looking for help

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2006

by John Y. Wehmueller  
Staff Writer

The Rockville Express, a summer wood-bat baseball team that plays its games at Montgomery College-Rockville, is looking for host families for its out-of-town players.

The Express play in the Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate Baseball League, which affords college-aged players an opportunity to sharpen their skills in the off-season. Rockville, a second-year franchise, will have 25 players on this summer's roster who will need a place to stay.

Host families are expected to provide meals and lodging from June 2 to Aug. 5. Players coordinate their own transportation to practices and games, and the team finds jobs for any player who wants one.

"It was a wonderful experience for us," said Mark Swissman, who hosted shortstop Steve Braun last season and is coordinating the search for families this year. "It feels like he's part of your family. ... It's like getting an instant son."

Swissman said he intends to match the personalities of players and families to the extent possible. While most of the families will likely come through connections on the team's board, other potential hosts are welcome to contact Swissman at swisskm@aol.com or 301-762-8099. The Express will screen potential host families not already known to the team.

The team is also looking for game-day volunteers — statisticians, scorekeepers and others.

For more information on the team, visit [www.rockvilleexpress.org](http://www.rockvilleexpress.org).



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