Best of the Batch Foundation

Executive Summary

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Background

The Best of the Batch Foundation, founded by former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch, is a nonprofit that serves to provide a space for underprivileged kids to build character and a sense of community through education and sports. Located in Munhall, Pennsylvania, the Foundation offers after school programs, summer camps, various scholarships and more that help kids succeed in all areas of their lives. The Best of the Batch attempts to equalize the playing field by providing constructive activities in a range of different areas in an attempt to build the qualities in kids that lead them to success.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

The Best of the Batch has two main summer programs, Project C.H.U.C.K. and Next Level Athletics. As these programs continue to grow, the foundation needs a way to keep track of the all kids in each program throughout the different seasons. In the past few years, CMU Information Systems teams have worked on creating a registration and scheduling system for Project C.H.U.C.K. Best of the Batch is expanding the number of programs they offer as well as the number of kids that partake in these programs. There is an opportunity for us to expand past years' projects to create a more robust, and bulletproof system with added functionality, including the addition of registration for Next Level Athletics and student study hall tracking.

Project Vision

The primary goal of this project was to rebuild and refactor the entire web application that previous IS teams had developed. After learning about the issues the client faced in previous years with usability and functionality, our goal became to create a web application that achieved a smooth registration process for Project C.H.U.C.K. and Next Level Athletics and to ensure the user interface / user experience of the application was well designed for both the admin and general user. We also envisioned that our system would support the easy addition of more programs as Best of the Batch grows and adds new programs to their repertoire.

Project Outcomes

Using past projects as a guide for our application, we began by generating a list of use cases and functionalities based on deficiencies the client identified in past projects as well and new feature requests. From this we started a new application from scratch using a new refactored database design. We created a fully functioning and bulletproof Ruby on Rails application, improving features on the Project C.H.U.C.K. side and implementing a new registration system for Next Level Athletics. In past years, the app was mainly used by admin; however we extended usability so the application is more user friendly for a wide range of users, including volunteers, coaches, and parents. We identified that the application would mostly be used on mobile devices and adapted the application to be mobile friendly. The application also updates information based on the certain year, saving old data but only showing relevant information. We intend that this new application will help Best of the Batch to better organize and increase efficiency when accessing their information.

Project Deliverables

The main deliverable our team is providing to the client is a web application hosted on Heroku. The web application encompasses two major programs that Best of the Batch runs, Project C.H.U.C.K. and Next Level Athletics. Amongst our deliverables, we are providing documentation for both future teams to continue working on the project as well as documentation for the client to use the web application.

Recommendations

Best of the Batch is a continually expanding the organization to meet more students' needs. By embracing technology to help manage their information, they are able to continue their vision. We recommend that Best of the Batch look into working with a professional organization that can help meet their ever growing technological and information systems needs. This vendor can help maintain information integrity as well as provide support for current systems that are in place. If future CMU teams are brought in to work on this application, we recommend that they use the documentation provided and build upon the current system.

Student Development Team

Annette Chen served as back-end developer. She is a junior in Information Systems minoring in Human Computer Interaction. This summer, she will be a technology development intern at Capital One.

Akash Kejriwal served as a front-end developer. He is a junior in Information Systems minoring in Human-Computer Interaction. This summer, he will be a web development intern at Optoro.

Jeremy Lee served as the team project manager and helped facilitate various functions of the team to support the overall vision. After three years at CMU, Jeremy will be graduating this summer with a Business Administration minor.