

PORTA SOFTBALL EXPRESS

AUGUST 28, 2006

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BATTING PRACTICE 2

SELECTING A GLOVE 2

COACHES CORNER 2

3RD ANNUAL SPRING SLAM 3

DATES TO REMEMBER 3

A LOOK BACK... 3

YOUTH CLINIC UNDERWAY 4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Junior High Season in Full Swing
- Grades, Grades, Grades
- Batting Practice
- Glove selection
- Youth clinic

JUNIOR HIGH JAYS AT 6-6

The PORTA Junior High Softball team are off to a 6-6 start on the 2006 season.

Practice started on July 24th and the team persisted through sweltering temperatures for two long weeks of training. These two weeks of practice led up to the season opening games on August 5th against Colchester West Prairie.

There are nineteen girls on this year's squad including eleven eighth graders and eight seventh graders. Team members are: Taylor LaSanska, Lauren Blauvelt, Abby Sutton, Samantha Nowicki, Nicole Parton, Megan Sampson, Stacey Sinclair, Katie Rebbe, Chelsea Todd, Laikyn Baum, Tifani Stewart, Whitney Greger, Chelsea

Minor, Kelsey Tucker, Ellen Kuhn, Katie Sidwell, Savanna Shafer, Holly Davis and Christina Wilbern.

The team is coached by Mike Logsdon, Wayne Books and Frank DeRosa.

The team has victories over Colchester West Prairie, Greenview, St. Aloysius, Virginia, Illini Central, and Chatham Glenwood. Losses have been to Colchester West Prairie, Havana (twice), Athens, A.C. Central and Pleasant Plains.

Remaining away games are at Riverton, Rochester and Franklin.

Remaining home games are with New Berlin and Williamsville.

The IESA Regional Tournament will begin on Thursday September 7th in Williamsville.

The girls have worked extremely hard throughout the season and are improving every day. As it says on the back of the girls' new t-shirts "Hard Work + Desire = Success".

Thank you to Greg Baum for supplying ice for our concessions and to ALL of the parents for their help with manning the concession stand.



GRADES ARE PRIORITY # 1

As the school year begins, the leisure of summer vacation is replaced by the stress of going to class.

With all of the various activities available to you, it is sometimes hard to remember how very important it is to keep your grades up. That is, after all, the reason for being at school.

Although eligibility rules are only enforced while you are "in-season", I will be keeping track of eligibility throughout the entire school year.

It is very important that, if you are struggling with a certain class, to try to get help early. Don't wait until it is too late to do something about the grade.

Find a classmate to help you, ask your teacher what you can do to improve, or talk to Coach Logsdon and he will do whatever possible to get you the help you need.

Remember, success on the field is preceded by success in the classroom.

BATTING PRACTICE

All PORTA softball players are welcome to attend open batting practice on Sunday nights at the high school diamond from 6:00-8:00.

Those players wishing to improve their batting skills will be able to hit off of the pitching machine, work off of batting tees, do soft toss drills and participate in numerous other hitting drills.

Hitting is one part of the

game of softball that can be improved through repetition. That repetition, however, must be done using the proper skills and techniques. Practicing the wrong swing can actually produce negative results rather than the improvement that you are seeking.

These fall batting practice sessions will be your last chance to hit off of the machine or “live” pitching before

the spring high school season begins. The drill work will continue throughout the winter at the Sunday night open gyms.

In addition, any pitchers who would like to come and throw are welcome to attend and do their pitching workout.

Workouts are optional but highly recommended. Hard work in the off-season will lead to much more success on the field during the year.



FINDING THE PERFECT GLOVE

Most gloves, until recently, have been designed for the male market. This created longer, wider and bigger fingered gloves.

Many women's' softball players are still using gloves that were designed for men. Having a glove that is the right size for you is critical and can be the difference between an average defensive player and a great one.

Most gloves range in size from 11" to 13".

Pitchers and infielders will, most likely, be better served with a smaller glove. A larger glove sometimes tends to have the ball “get lost” in it. After fielding a ball, the last thing anyone wants to do is to spend time trying to locate the ball inside the glove.

Outfielders may prefer a slightly larger glove to increase surface area in trying to make a running catch.

Position to be played notwithstanding, the number one thing to consider in choosing a new glove should be hand size. The glove should be loose enough to fit comfortably on the player's hand but not so loose that it can't be tightened to fit without slipping.

During the off-season, selecting the proper glove is one of the most important decisions a player can make.

**“Winning is
Only Half of it.
Having Fun is
the Other Half”**

-Bum Phillips

COACHES CORNER

Pride is a word that is often used but many times misunderstood. It is important that you take pride in everything you are and everything you do.

You should take pride in your appearance, your school, your grades, and all of your abilities.

On the field, pride should mean doing your very best on every pitch in every inning of every game. You should never give less than your best, even for a single play. You never know when one bad play

If you are able to walk off of the field after each practice and each game knowing that you did everything you did to make

yourself better and help your team win, you should take pride in knowing you gave 100%.

There are people who will ask you to give 110%, but that is physically impossible. 100% is all you have and that is what you should give every time you step on the field. If you do that, be proud as you walk off the field knowing that you are a winner.



SPRING SLAM FIELD SET

The third annual Sportscare Spring Slam is set for March 31, 2007 at the Land of Lincoln Jr. Olympics Softball Complex on the campus of the University of Illinois-Springfield.

This twenty team event, sponsored by Sportscare of Illinois, attracts some of the best softball schools in the state of Illinois.

This year should feature the

strongest field ever at the event. Schools returning this year are Auburn, Clinton, Concord Triopia, Delavan, Greenfield, Griggsville-Perry, Hartsburg-Emden, Jacksonville Routt, Midwest Central, New Berlin, Oblong, PORTA, Quincy, Rochester, Springfield Southeast, Warrensburg-Latham, Williamsville and Winchester.

The two new entries in this year's event are Carthage

and Piasa Southwestern. Carthage is coming off a 23-6 regional championship season while Piasa was 32-2 last season placing 3rd in the IHSA State Tournament.

This showcase is great for the schools involved as it gives them the opportunity to compare themselves to top notch talent early in the season and great for the fans as they can see twenty teams and thirty games on six diamonds in one day!



DATES TO REMEMBER

With the high school season just a few short months away, There are some important dates to keep in mind.

- October 30

Weight training and Sports Metrics training begin. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

- December 3

Open gyms begins. Every Sunday from 6:00-8:00 @ Central

- February 26

First official day of practice.

- March 10

PORTA Softball Bake Sale @ National Bank of Petersburg

- March 19

Opening game of the season @ Edinburg

- March 20

Home opener vs. Springfield Lutheran

- March 31

Sportscare Spring Slam @ UIS

- May 15

Regional Tournament Begins

“There is nothing wrong with losing...unless you learn to like it.”

-Paul Brown

A LOOK BACK...1998

(This is the second in a series.)

The 1998 PORTA Softball team compiled an overall record of 18-8.

This team won an amazing 12 games in a 13 game stretch through the middle of the season to propel them to such a record.

This was also the first group of senior softball player who benefited from playing at the junior high level.

Following is a 1998 Roster:

#1 Kristin Schainker	So.	#19 Michelle Miller	Sr.
#2 Jill Thomas	So.	#20 Megan Hansen	Jr.
#8 Raenell Connor	So.	#21 Sarah Rebbe	Jr.
#9 Heidi Andrew	Sr.	#23 Amy Books	Sr.
#11 Sarah Mies	Sr.	#25 Angela DeRosa	So.
#12 Heather Bacon	Jr.	#27 Kristen Carpenter	So.
#14 Erin Noll	Sr.	#30 Molly Basso	Sr.
#15 Tamsyn Weaver	Jr.	#33 Sarah Menninger	Fr.
#17 Brianne Weaver	Fr.	#40 Melissa Buerkett	So.
		#42 Crystal Mattingly	Sr.



PORTA SOFTBALL

Mike Logsdon

Head Softball Coach

PORTA High School

PORTA Jr. High School

Phone: 217-632-5039

Cell: 217-971-4374

Email: portasoftball@hotmail.com



Fastpitch Softball



PORTA Softball

T H E H A R D E R Y O U W O R K ...
T H E L U C K I E R Y O U G E T

YOUTH CLINIC BEING CONDUCTED

A youth softball clinic is underway and will be ongoing for the next several weeks. The clinic is being conducted under the direction of Mark McWilliams and Boyd Nowicki. Both of these gentlemen have vast softball experience and knowledge and are veterans of ASA softball.

The clinics will be on Tuesday and Thursday nights beginning at 6:00 and are located at the Northeast Main Diamond. This is the field where Petersburg Summer Softball is held.

Instruction will be given on all aspects of the game of softball. During these sessions, throwing, catching, batting, bunting and base running will all be addressed. In

Addition to the work done at the clinic, the instructors will also give the participants drills that they can work on at home, either by themselves or with someone else.

Pitching instruction will also be given at the clinic. Pitching is a skill that must be developed through hard work and repetition. Pitchers must be willing to practice at home and not just during a clinic or practice session.

PORTA Softball would like to extend a thank you to Mr. McWilliams and Mr. Nowicki for their time and effort. Their hard work and dedication are helping to make the future of PORTA Softball bright.



