

# PORTA SOFTBALL EXPRESS

JUNE 14, 2006

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**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Muni Parking Sign-Up ASAP
- Off Season Weight Training
- Off Season Batting Practice
- Awards Banquet Highlights
- Jr High Season Begins July 24

## Varsity Jays Finish 22-11-1

The PORTA High School softball team finished the 2006 campaign with an outstanding 22-11-1 final record. This record includes a record of 5-3 in the very competitive Sangamo Conference.

Varsity team members included: seniors Rachel Ozella, Allison Epping, Emily Francis, Jamie Minor and Clare Bultmann. Juniors on the squad were Breanne Tibbs, Allie Howarth and Megan McCurdy. Sophomores contributing at the varsity level included Kasey Nolan, Emily Davis, Meghan Kelton, and Megan O'Brien. Freshmen team members were Kelcie King, Jordan Durrett, Hannah Reiser, Jacqlyn Rohlfs, Sara Reichart, Laura Francis, and Lindsey Raridon.

The season started at 3-0 including the first ever double-header sweep of AA Dunlap. The SportsCare Spring Slam at UIS was a great day of softball with PORTA going 2-1 on the day. Wins over Greenfield and New Berlin were followed by a loss to Clinton.

A split with Beardstown proved impressive as Beardstown advanced in the postseason to the Super-sectionals. An eight game winning streak allowed the Bluejays to go over three weeks without a loss in the latter part of the season.

Impressive conference wins over Tri-City (12-0), Riverton (3-0) and Pleasant Plains (1-0) led to a heart-breaking 1-0 loss to state power Williamsville in

11 innings. The season ended with a 5-4 upset loss to Mt. Pulaski in the semi-finals of the Moroa Regional.



## Muni Parking August 9-20

For the third consecutive summer, the PORTA High School softball team will be parking cars at the Springfield Muni as a fundraiser for the program.

After working for the productions of "A Chorus Line" two years ago and "The Sound of Music" last year, we are looking

forward to working at this year's production of "The King and I".

Every girl who will be playing high school softball next spring is REQUIRED to work one night at The Muni.

The dates for this show are as follows: Friday through Sunday August 11-13 and Wednesday

through Sunday August 16-20.

If you have not already signed up to work a night, please contact Coach Logsdon to do so. Coach Logsdon can be reached at 632-5039 or 971-4374 or at [portasoftware@hotmail.com](mailto:portasoftware@hotmail.com).

Again, this is MANDATORY!!!

## WEIGHT ROOM OPEN

The weight room at PORTA High School will be open for softball players twice each week beginning next week.

The weight room times for softball players will be Tuesday mornings from 8:30-9:30 and Sunday evenings from 6:00-7:00.

Sessions will begin on Tuesday morning June 20. The weight room is open to all high school and junior high

softball players. Both experienced and beginner lifters are welcome.

This weight room work will lead into the weight program the softball team will be using during the winter. During the winter, softball players not participating in a winter sports will have the opportunity to lift three days per week.

Weight training will also be

combined with some agility and quickness activities.

The program being used was first implemented by PORTA Softball last winter and provided positive results for all those who participated.

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



## BATTING PRACTICE

Batting practice will be held weekly at PORTA High School, weather permitting, beginning next week.

The sessions will begin at approximately 6:45-7:00 on Sunday evenings, immediately after weight lifting. Each session will last until approximately 8:00.

The first BP session will be on Sunday June 25. All sessions will be dependant on weather

conditions and will be held at the PORTA High School softball diamond.

Batting practice will be open to all high school and junior high players. In addition to hitting off of the machine, other batting drills (tees, ropes, soft toss, etc.) will be available.

This will hopefully not only help the PORTA softball program but will also provide

extra practice for those participating in summer softball.

These sessions are not required but are highly recommended.

**“The Will to Win is Useless without the Will to Prepare to Win”**

**-Bob Knight**

## COACHES CORNER

Aggressiveness. A word often used but not always understood. We, as coaches, stress aggressiveness over and over. However, not all players fully comprehend the meaning of the word. Simply put...aggressiveness is the key to winning softball.

Aggressiveness on defense makes the opposing team work hard for every hit and every run. Aggressiveness at

the plate puts pressure on the opposing pitcher to get ahead in the count and make the “perfect” pitch to get you out. Aggressiveness on the bases is perhaps most important of all. Aggressive base running can put tremendous pressure on the defense. A defensive player who knows you are going to be aggressive on the bases knows there is no room for a bobble or a lazy throw.

I was fortunate enough to coach in the State Journal Register All-Star Classic last week and worked with some tremendous athletes. Even in such a showcase with so many great athletes, what stood out was aggressiveness.

Remember, the difference between good and great is a little extra effort. That is what aggressiveness is all about.



## BLUEJAYS HONORED AT BANQUET

The PORTA High School softball season officially came to an end on May 23 with the annual awards banquet held at PORTA Central.

Freshman numerals were earned by Tifani Lucht, Kelcie King, Jordan Durrett, Hannah Reiser, Cassie Owens, Harley Lemme, Jacqlyn Rohlf, Beth Janssen, Sara Reichart, Laura Francis and Lindsey Raridon.

Sophomore patches were earned by Kasey Nolan, Emily Davis, Devin Whitley, Katie Marcum, Meghan Kelton, Jessie McCann and Megan O'Brien.

Varsity letters were earned by Kelcie King, Kasey Nolan, Emily Davis, Rachel Ozella, Allison Epping, Breanne Tibbs, Meghan Kelton, Emily Francis, Jordan Durrett, Hannah Reiser, Allie Howarth, Megan O'Brien, Megan

McCurdy, Jacqlyn Rohlf, Sara Reichart, Laura Francis, Lindsey Raridon, Jamie Minor and Clare Bultmann.

All-Sangamo Conference awards were presented to Jamie Minor (1st), Megan McCurdy (1st), Emily Francis (2nd) and Allison Epping (2nd).

Team award winners were: Batting Average-Jamie Minor (.402), Most Improved- Jordan Durrett, Bluejay Award-Megan McCurdy, MVP, Jamie Minor.



## JV JAYS COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL SEASON

The Bluejays JV team had a very successful season. With many key members playing at the varsity level, the wins were not as plentiful as the players had hoped. However, the game experience and hard work will prove to be invaluable in future years at the varsity level.

Players for the PORTA JV squad this year included:

Seniors: Korie Golden and

Carola Traub.

Juniors: Kristen Harrison, Alison Blake and Breanne Tibbs.

Sophomores: Emily Davis, Devin Whitley, Katie Marcum, Meghan Kelton, Jessie McCann and Megan O'Brien..

Freshmen: Tifani Lucht, Kelcie King, Hannah Reiser, Cassie Owens, Harley Lemme, Beth Janssen and

Laura Francis.

This group of players worked exceptionally hard to improve throughout the season and their diligence was very evident by season's end.

A special thank you to volunteer coach Frank DeRosa for all his work with this group of girls this spring. Frank does many things to make the program better and coaching the JV squad is probably most important of all.

**“Winners do the common things uncommonly well.”**

## JR SOFTBALL CAMP A SUCCESS

The 6th Annual PORTA Jr. Softball Camp was held at the high school field earlier this summer from May 30- June 2.

There were 45 girls from grades 3-9 who were in attendance. This number was down from 53 who attended camp last year.

Campers were schooled in the fundamentals of softball including throwing, catching, hitting and base running.

Thank you to the high school players who took time out of your busy summer schedule to help with the camp. The younger girls respond really well to high school players. Helping with camp is a great

way to contribute to the program.

Workers who did not receive a camp t-shirt need to see Coach Logsdon to get your shirt.

If you were unable to help with camp this year, please keep it in mind next year. Your help is greatly appreciated.



## Fastpitch Softball



### PORTA SOFTBALL

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PORTA Softball

**T O B E T H E B E S T ...**

**Y O U G O T T A B E A T T H E B E S T !**

## JUNIOR HIGH PRACTICE TO BEGIN JULY 24

Practice for the fall 2006 junior high softball season will be here in a few short weeks. Practice will begin on Monday July 24. Practice will be from 8:00-10:00 am.

Practices will continue Monday through Friday for the first two weeks. In all likelihood, there will be no Saturday or Sunday practices.

The opening games will be on Saturday August 5 with a doubleheader at home against Colchester.

There will be a reminder in The Petersburg Observer the

week before practice begins.

All girls planning to play need to have a current physical (within one year). Please get your physical taken care of before practice begins so there is no wasted practice time. According to the IESA participation in games AND practices are not allowed without a current physical.

Again, for those of you who are new to the junior high program, playing time is based on ability level. There are NO GUARANTEES in regards to how much each girl

plays. Coaches do their best to get everyone playing time when possible but, in all probability, not every game. We have some "B" games scheduled and will try to play as many of these games as possible to get all of the girls on the field.

All parents want to see their daughter on the field playing but the goal is to win games and for the team to improve as much as possible as the season progresses. Being a part of a team and working to improve individually are valuable lessons that are taught.



PORTA Softball came into being in 1978. The high school team in the first few years, played season of 5-10 games. There have been five head coaches over the 27 year history of the program. The current coach, Mike Logsdon, became the head coach before the 1995 season. The biggest highlight in PORTA's softball history was the 1996 season when the Bluejays finished 27-5 and became an IHSA state quarter-finalist, winning the only Regional and Sectional Tournaments in school history.

The junior high program was born in the fall of 1993. Current assistant coach Wayne Books was the original coach. The junior high Bluejays have two state tournament appearances, reaching the quarter-finals in 1994 and taking 3rd place in 1996.

