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# LANCASTER/DEPEW PONYTAILS NEWSLETTER

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## SPRING IS HERE!!!

Spring is upon us and that means the beginning of softball season! The weather is finally beginning to warm and the snow is melting away. At this time, the draft has been completed. All players should have been contacted by their managers at this point. Clinics for the younger players and batting cage sessions for all teams have begun

We have registered nearly 495 girls to play this season. The league breakdown is as follows: Pee Wees 6 teams (72 girls), Ponytails 8 teams (107 girls), Juniors 8 teams (120 girls), middle school 8 teams (107 girls), and high school 3 teams (43 girls). 9 HEAT T&T teams with 100 players. Thank You to all the parents, coaches and board members who volunteered their time to make registration, the formation of these teams and our upcoming season a reality. Your efforts, though seen by few, are greatly appreciated.

Opening day is scheduled for Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. As of this printing, the Pee Wee and Junior Divisions are scheduled to play games on Monday nights and Saturday. The Middle School and Ponytail Divisions are scheduled to play on Tuesday nights and Saturdays. Schedules are completed and coaches have them for distribution. Rainouts and make up games are to be rescheduled for Sundays or the next available day with an open diamond.

Picture Day is Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. They will be taken inside the Batting and Training Facility rain or shine. You will have the opportunity to purchase a picture package or picture CD at this time. All managers will pass along specific information after the leagues general meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

This year's league fundraiser to benefit The Lancaster/Depew Ponytails and sponsored by our Tournament and Travel Heat teams was held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Leonard Post Jr. Post No 6251 VFW, 2450 Walden Avenue in Cheektowaga. The local band and Buffalo area favorite **Hit-N-Run** was the main attraction. Admission of \$25 included food, beverages, and door prizes. Lottery trees, 50/50 Raffles, and a Chinese Auction were also available. The event was a great success, raising nearly \$9,000.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, we held our annual umpire clinic at the Walden Pond batting cages. It was one of the largest turnouts in years. All coaches and umpires who attended had a chance to learn about all aspects of the game and to brush up on their skills in order to get ready for the 2008 season. It was a fun and educational day. Thanks to Eric Minton (Metro Buffalo UIC, ASA-USA Elite Umpire) for his expertise and guidance.

**Lottery Ticket Stubs need to be returned to the team manager no later than May 17th.**

## 2008 SPONSORS

Thank You to all for the area businesses who have supported our league for the 2008 season. It is their support that helps make youth softball a reality for young girls in our area.

Active Investigations  
Alden State Bank  
American Pie Family Diner 3987 Walden Avenue  
AT & T Mobility  
Bear Ridge Custom Drywall 913-1206  
Boston Steak & Crab House  
Bryant Electric  
Coca Cola Bottling of Buffalo  
Dan Scaglione State Farm Insurance  
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Frosty's of Lancaster Ice Cream  
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Greg's Tree Service  
Intense Milk  
Lancaster Fire Department  
Lancaster Fire Department Eagle Hose  
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Niagara Chocolates  
R.J. Sherwood Attorney  
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St. Mary's High School Junior Lancers  
Tops D&L Plaza  
Tops Markets  
Verizon  
Wardynski's Sausage Company  
Watson Bennett Attorneys at Law  
Wendy's Restaurants  
Xtreme Cleaning Service, LLC.

## **From The Bench.....**

*This is the second year that the League has partnered with the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) in getting all of our team managers and many of our coaches registered as Certified Coaches. We felt that we had a better season with regards to sportsmanship values by participating in the program and having everyone attend one of the League Orientation sessions prior to working with our young players. The signing off on the NAYS Code of Conduct doesn't guarantee an "incident-free" season, but it helps by making sure that everyone coaching our players understands what the League values are.*

***This year's All-Star games and Awards Night will be held on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup>.*** There will be games for the Ponytail, Junior and Middle School Divisions as well as a game involving some of the players slated to move up from Pee Wee to Ponytails in the 2009 season.

*The games will begin at 6:15PM on the diamonds in Walden Pond Park and be completed by 8:00PM.*

*Participation awards for the Pee Wee and Ponytail Division will be handed out after these games for ALL of the players in these Divisions.*

*Players chosen to participate in the All-Star games will also receive awards after the completion of their games, along with 1 player from each team in the league chosen to receive the Sportsmanship Award. Managers and coaches will be selecting the winners of these awards soon. It must be noted that the player must be able to participate in the All-Star game in order to receive an award. The Sportsman Award winner must also be able to be attend the event in order to be given the award. Those girls playing HEAT travel softball will also be presented their participation awards at 8:30PM.*



*Each player, manager/coach and umpire will receive a ticket for a hot dog, hamburger or slice of pizza and a ticket for a bottle of pop or Powerade. Our concession stand will be open for anything else that you might want. So if you just want to watch the games, the event will not cost you anything. Food and drinks will be available starting at 5:30PM.*

*We are also working on having our traditional bon-fire at the event that night. There will be more information on this to follow.*

*The trophies for regular season Champions and Runner-ups in Ponytail, Junior, Middle School will be awarded during the playoffs in July. The playoff Champions and Runner-ups in these Divisions will be presented their awards during Championship Tuesday on July 15<sup>th</sup>.*

*With everyone's very hectic and busy schedules, there will always be a conflict for some no matter what date we chose. This date was one that we hope will work for many people.*