


LANCASTER / DEPEW *PONYTAILS* NEWSLETTER

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The Presidents Pen:

Hello everyone, The House Divisions and teams are set, the Coaches and Managers are in place and though it may not feel like it, softball is less than a month away starting on Saturday, May 9th and in our 30th Anniversary year, the Ponytails are looking to have one of the best years ever.

As you may know, some small changes have been made to the structure of how we are running the league this year and all of it is to benefit the girls as much as possible. The last week of registration and the draft were held earlier than ever before in order to make room for the girls to get more batting time in the Batting Cage Facility. In some Divisions there are more teams with less numbers to promote playing time for the girls. We have also added a 20 and under High School Division team.

Many more clinics have been developed than ever before. Clinics were also held earlier with a little more variety in what we offer, not only drill and skill clinics, but pitching and catching clinics as well, coupled with the well attended Lancaster High School clinic. This was all designed to get the girls out of the house and playing softball to gear them up for a great season at Walden Ponds.

Another change that the Board of Directors has been working on is the recent approval for the construction of dugouts at every diamond at Walden Ponds. We are very excited about this and if all goes well they should be completed by the time the season gets under way.

The player's uniform shirts will reflect the 30th Anniversary logo. The League is also offering Anniversary merchandise, some of which includes car flags, water bottles, hoodies and jackets that will soon be available on the league web site at www.lancasterdepewponytails.com.

On the Tournament/Travel side of things we acquired Coca-Cola as a tournament sponsor which allows us to call our tournaments "The Coca-Cola Classic" softball tournament. We have also secured an ASA (American Softball Association) Qualifier for 2010.

We are also looking into the prospect of having a small parade the morning of opening day to kick off the season. More to come on that. All and all we are very excited and looking forward to having a GREAT season for our 30th Anniversary year. I cannot wait to finally get good enough weather to see you all out on the diamonds. Let's play ball!!!!

John Raab

President
Lancaster-Depew Ponytails

2009 Events:

April 30th, 7:00 PM General Meeting (Uniforms Distributed)
Spring Clean-Up at the Batting Cages

Fri. May 8th - HEAT Spring Fundraiser 8:00 pm - 12:00 pm

Sat. May 9th - Opening Day

Sat. May 16th - Picture Day

June - High School games begin.

Coca-Cola Classic Tournaments at Walden Pond Park

June 5th, 6th & 7th - 12U & 14U

June 12th, 13th & 14th - 16U & 18U

Fri. June 26th - Annual Friday Night Bash

All-Star Games/Pee Wee move up

Playoffs Begin

Ponytail Scholarship applications due

Last Regular Season Games Played

Sat. Jul 4th - 4th of July Parade

Coca-Cola Classic Tournament at Walden Pond Park

July 11th & 12th - 10U

August - Tournament & Travel Tryouts for 2010

HEAT Spring Fundraiser - Each year, the Travel & Tournament Division runs a fundraiser for the entire league. This helps to offset the cost of tournaments, uniforms, insurance, inter-league fees etc. This year's fundraiser will be held on Friday, May 8th at the Leonard Post on Walden Avenue. Once again, entertainment will be provided by *Hit & Run*. Contact John Raab at 472-6703 for tickets.



Lottery Tickets - Remember to turn in the lottery tickets you received and paid for at registration to your house coach. Only those tickets turned in to the league are eligible to win prizes.



Lancaster/Depew Heat, as many of you know, is the Tournament & Travel portion of the Ponytails. Our goal is to compete at the highest level in local, regional as well as national tournaments. The selection process begins with tryouts at the end of August, a full 9 months before the actual season begins. This allows our managers sufficient time to utilize our batting cage facilities during the winter months. Those winter months are not only used to hone the skills of the individual girls but to develop a sense of teamwork and unity. To establish the goals we set takes unprecedented devotion and hard work from our managers and coaches. This year we, as an organization, are blessed with 8 managers and a slew of coaches that I swear must sleep at the cages. Many of our managers have gotten gym time around the area in addition to their cage time.

Using the gyms allows the teams to get infield practice and allows catchers to practice throws down to 2nd along with other drills our managers have established. We have even found a way to play competitive games indoors. Through the efforts of our President, John Raab, Lancaster has established the Sahlen's Center Indoor Softball League. The center, located in Elma offers teams the opportunity to face other squads in a competitive atmosphere. The organization also runs 3 Tournaments during the season. These events bring teams from all over the WNY softball community as well as from our friends to the north, many Canadian squads. These tournaments are our biggest fundraiser for the entire organization. The money made at these events goes 100% back into the league, to purchase equipment and help us with continued growth within the Lancaster community. It also gives you a chance to see the fruits of the labor these girls have put in. So come out on the first 2 weekends in June as well as our 10U tournament on July 11 and 12, enjoy great atmosphere, great food and above all, GREAT SOFTBALL.

Larry Mentel, T&T Coordinator



Ponytail's Website – Did you know you can get information about your team by logging in to the Ponytail's website? Click on Secure Logon at lancasterdepewponytails.com. With Secure Logon, you can see who's on your team and you'll have

access to your team's game and practice schedule along with your scheduled concession stand time. You can also update your profile and change your password. Keeping your e-mail address up to date will allow the league to contact you about upcoming events including clinics, tryouts for the travel teams and next year's registration. If you don't know your Logon ID and Password, click on Forgot User ID and follow the directions.



Volunteer Responsibilities – Our organization provides a safe, fun atmosphere for over 400 girls. To keep the league running takes a lot of people working together. Please be sure to be present at your assigned concession stand time so that we can provide a quality experience to all of our guests that come to enjoy the softball experience. Please keep in

mind that parents of Travel and Tournament girls are required to put in an additional 4 hours of volunteer time. From registration to spring clean-up to the Spring Fundraiser, there are many ways to fill your obligation. We're always looking for more workers for the concession stand, especially during the tournaments.