

Three Champions Crowned at the 37th Annual Hampton's Classic

On Tuesday, August 18, the 37th Annual Hampton's Classic Tournament began with 18 teams across three divisions. For the second year in a row, Anthony and Heather D'Agostino put together a top-notch softball tournament, comprising some of the top players in the New York City/Long Island area. This year's tournament was relocated for the third consecutive year to the beautiful Emil Stotzky Park in Riverhead, Long Island.

The park is less than an hour-and-a-half drive from Manhattan. The fences are 275 feet and the fields are beautifully maintained. The tournament is an unlimited home run tournament. The park is a great fit for the clincher game. The clincher is widely used in the New York City area due to space limitations and can travel up to 350 feet if hit well. With the exception of senior bats, the tournament allows any type of bat.

Ray Coyne and his staff at the Town of Riverhead Parks Department were extremely helpful and have complete knowledge of running softball tournaments.

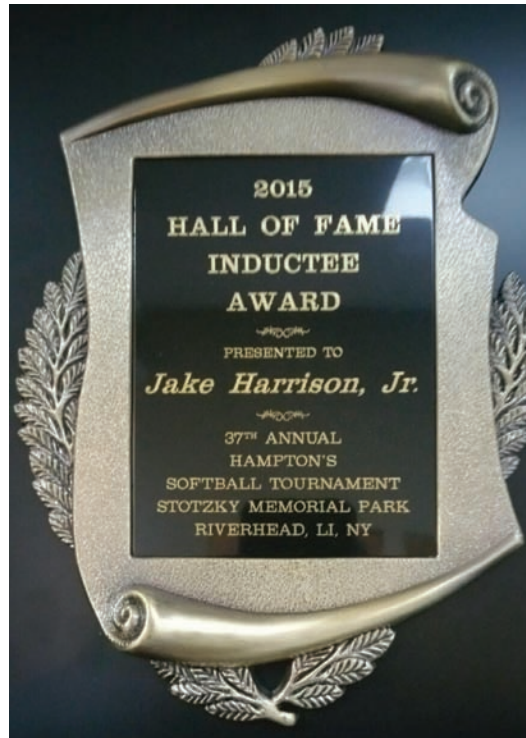
The park is a short drive away from the Tanger Shopping Outlets as well as Splish Splash, a waterpark in Riverhead, Long Island. The Riverhead area also has some great hotels and restaurants, all in within minutes from the field location. Regardless of where the tournament is held, Anthony and his wife are committed to maintaining the tradition while improving it each year.

This event continues to honor the great players who have played in the past as well as current players.

This year's event honored Mike Collins. Mike played in the last 35 events, but unfortunately passed away last year. He is survived by his two sons, John and Justin Collins, who continue the tradition by placing a team in the tournament as well as accepting a lifetime achievement award for their father. This year's Hall of Fame inductees were Jake Harrison Jr. (Beach Dawgs), James Hughes (BB's), and Tony Ippolito (K of C Royals).

The annual event is one of the most anticipated tournaments of the year for the local teams in New York and Long Island.

The event wouldn't be a success without the amazing local sponsors from the area: Orange Hammer, Yatzee Ink, Walkoff Sports, 6-4-3 New York Designs, M Four Custom Sports, YOLO Lip Gloss, Bridies Bar & Grill, Jeff Cohen Real Estate, The Station Bar, Ken Kortright/State Farm, Body Armor, 2nd to None Entertainment, P.J. Peria/Allstate Insurance, and Budweiser.



Hot Soup is served - Hampton's style

The Coed division has five strong teams, some of them comprised of prior world champions. The Hot Soup team from Westhampton, New York, took on a Ballers team out of Queens, New York. The game ended after the five-inning mercy rule, with Hot Soup winning, 15-2. Erin Breslin (Hot Soup) got the first female hit of the tourney. Matt Colletti (Hot Soup) pitched a great game, sitting down the Ballers, 1-2-3, in four out of the five innings. Hot Soup also won the next game by mercy rule, 17-5, against the reigning E Coed World Champions, Darkside, out of Belmore, New York.

Danny Dunn, Josh Haglund, and Joey Gordon all homered for Hot Soup in the rout. Nicole Michel and Kristen "Dink" Gordon both hit well for Hot Soup. This put Hot Soup in the championship game of the double-elimination tournament. On Wednesday, August 19, the rest of the teams battled it out in 93-degree heat to see who would face off against Hot Soup in the finals, with the Allstate Insurance/P.J. Peria Agent team emerging from the pool to face off against Hot Soup. Allstate was back-to-back Coed World Champions in the E and D level, as well as a runner-up in the 2014 C Coed Worlds.

The first game came down to walks and key home runs, with Allstate overcoming a seven-run deficit to win by five. Allstate pitcher and all-tournament selection Maurice Reyes held a majority of the Hot Soup bats down, with Dominic Cillotta and Joey Gordon hitting monstrous home runs. All-tournament selection Justin Hutt from Allstate was white hot at the bat, going 5-for-5 in the first game. Jackie Burd and Kristy Digirolamo rounded out the all-tournament selections for Allstate.

In the second game, Hot Soup started off with a lead and held on in the end for a one-run victory, as Allstate had the tying run up to bat when Colletti and Gordon turned a game-ending 1-6-3 double play. Despite being hit in the ribs by an errant throw, all-tournament selection Kristen "Dink" Gordon continued the great defensive play in left field as well as having a .640 OBP throughout the tourney. Erin Breslin played a solid first and continued her hitting with a Female MVP .656 OBP. Matt Colletti, Male MVP, continued to battle on the mound with some control issues, but got some perfectly timed ground balls when the team needed them. All-tournament selection Joey Gordon, with a .915 OBP, hit another no-doubter home



Hot Soup - 37th Annual Hampton's Classic Coed Division Champions



Faddy Malone's - 37th Annual Hampton's Classic Men's A Division Champions