

Publisher's Comments by Mark Linnemann

Without question the two biggest concerns we all have with the game of softball are team classifications and doctored bats.

But if last September's World Tournaments are any indication, USSSA may be on the brink of taming the classification monster.

In the early sixties, former National Football League commissioner Pete Rozelle's mantra was "on any given Sunday." "On any given Sunday, any team in the NFL can beat any other team," claimed Rozelle. Parity reigned in the league, and Rozelle pledged to keep things that way as long as he was commissioner.

Unfortunately at the world tournament level in softball, most teams returning from these events would not apply Rozelle's famous saying to their experience. In fact, the most common expression they might utter has been "we can't compete."

Well, for many teams, that's never going to change. First of all, assuming every team in a 200 team tournament has the exactly the same ability, a team's chances to win that event would be 200 to 1. So teams that complain, "we can't win" just aren't being realistic. Of course they can't win! The odds are 200 to 1! There's nothing wrong with wanting to and trying to win, but the attitude needs to be one of just being glad to join the big dance! After all, depending on what level your team is, there might be anywhere from several hundred to several thousand other teams of your classification staying home in September.

Also, somebody's got to play like a world beater to win a world tournament. On any given weekend, any team can get hot. In fact, in any game, one team can get hot. Many teams are forced to travel to world tournaments without key players who might be injured or had to stay home due to family or job commitments. Some teams simply party too much and don't bring their "A" game to the park. Some teams can't get along. Some teams kick the ball around or hit into double plays or pop up with the bases loaded and one out. Some teams are playing in their first world tournament against seasoned teams who have been there a dozen times before.

The point is that there are countless variables that go into every world tournament, if not every game, that are going to effect the outcome of the tournament besides team strength.

Still, there has been a prevailing feeling since classifications were first introduced that the associations have not provided a level playing field. That a "C" team in Ohio was simply not a "C" team in Texas, or Florida, or California, or Michigan, or Minnesota or wherever.

Then came 2007.

For perhaps the first time ever, Greater Cincinnati teams, which have historically felt "outclassed" and "outmanned" at world tournaments, came back to town feeling like that if they played well, they could win.

"More of the field had a chance to win the tournament," says Homer Matheny, manager of Freeze/Arnold/JAC/Putter's, a U-Trip "B" team. "In the past, maybe it was five or ten teams that had a legitimate shot of winning. This year, I believe over fifty percent of the field had a legitimate chance to make a run at the title."

Kevin Henn, manager of Sentry Tire/Apex/LBYC, a "C" team, concurs.

"This past season's world tournament was the most balanced that I have ever seen at the 'C' level," says Henn. "And from what I understand, in talking to other managers, the other divisions had more parity than ever before as well. After watching the teams play, and seeing how our games went, I concluded that it seemed that everyone had a legitimate shot at placing in the top ten. I saw very good teams there, but I also saw the same teams that had bouts with inconsistency. In years past, there have always been a few teams

that were clearly heads and shoulders above everyone else. This year I think that all the top teams were tested on their path to the top ten.”

Despite the fact that his Good Guys/GBI Cincinnati team finished fourth in the USSSA “D” World, manager Terris Allen came away from the event with a more pragmatic attitude. “In order to compete and have a chance to win, a team needs to have players from a higher class, or you have no chance. And I would say that a lot of ‘D’ teams had added players from higher classes.

“But I would say that across the board, things did seem to be more balanced from the games I saw and from the teams we played,” acknowledged Allen.

TPE/Backstabbers was also in Michigan for the “D” World, and manager Creg Storer maintains that the tournament was “somewhat unbalanced,” but allows that “it was better than in the past, so I think we’re getting where we need to be. The end of the year fell apart for us, so I don’t know how good of a measuring stick we were,” says Storer. “The two teams we played were totally opposite. Our first opponent from Iowa was definitely a ‘D’ team. We allowed seven runs in the first inning, but they didn’t score the rest of the game. Unfortunately, we didn’t show up to hit. But the second team from New York was not a ‘D’ team. They hit lasers from the first batter to the last. A typical ‘D’ team usually weakens as you get to the bottom of the line-up. Seems like the larger discrepancies always come from the same states. It’s tough to police every team to make it legit, but I do think we’re getting there.”

“I do think they were more balanced,” agrees John Tomlinson, manager of M & M Connection/Saints, another “D” squad. “We were in each of our games until we eventually lost. The scores overall seemed to be lower, but I really don’t know if area teams are getting better now because the people moving down or the threat of classification lists being used is making people play where they should.”

NKY Thunder manager Gene Callen says the teams he saw at the “D” world “were fairly accurately ranked.

“Our team was very short on players - I think we were missing four starters - but we almost won both games,” notes Callen.

So what has happened to bring about this sudden breath of fresh air into the game?

“It is obvious to me that local regions are taking the sanctioning of teams very seriously and not allowing teams to play down,” suggests Kevin Henn of Sentry Fire. “Directors in other areas seem to be more involved in knowing how strong teams from their areas are, and making them play at a higher level to balance the playing field. There are certain teams and groups of individuals that will always try their hardest to find a loophole in the system and play at a lower level. But I think pressure from the National Headquarters to get it taken care of at the local levels has heightened local directors’ awareness of their respective talent pool.”

Still, more work needs to be done.

Homer Matheny of Freeze/Arnold says that USSSA needs to take “more control over moving players in mid-year” and “teams combining or adding players after the midway point” of the season. “In some areas of the country these fly under the radar,” says Matheny.

Sentry’s Kevin Henn wants to see “all areas get on board with player lists.

“Once that happens, you can pinpoint an area that is a little soft or hard on their grading scale and that can be adjusted,” says Henn. “The imperative thing is that local directors in each region remain in line with the tough love approach and continue to push talented players up in division as opposed to letting them play down,” says Henn.

Terris Allen of the Good Guys believes teams need to be “monitored during the year,” while Gene Callen of Thunder says that “some great all around ball players really should move up” and every area needs to “make teams move up when needed.

“Too many teams move down just because they dump a few good players, then pick up equally talented players to replace them with,” says Callen.

Classifications are opinions, and opinions are like noses - everybody has one. But somehow, in 2007, there seemed to be more of a consensus of opinion on classifications than in the past in USSSA. Hopefully their directors won't rest on their laurels.

What's Your Gripe? By Ron Jeffers

Q. I have umpired at Queen City Softball Complex for several years, and someone told me they are going out of business. Is this true?

A. I do not know if they are going to continue to operate as a softball complex, but I do know everything is gone but the office building. Perhaps they are going to operate from some other park or fields, but I do know the old fields have been demolished. Contacts for several ASA and USSSA umpire organizations are listed in this month's Cincinnati Softball News if you want to continue to umpire.

Q. I saw a play in the world series of baseball where a ball hit the yellow line at the top of the outfield fence and came back on the field. After the umpires all got together to talk this play over, they decided the ball was alive and not a home run. I think the batter ended up on second base. My question is when will baseball catch up with the rest of the professional sports, and start using television cameras to view the play, and come up with the correct decision on these important plays?

A. Major League Baseball is going to experiment with this on plays in spring training this year, but it will not include decisions on balls and strikes. The Major League Baseball Umpire Union is fighting this, but it will come to play some time in the future if not this season.

As for softball, you can forget it. There are no television cameras covering the field to refer to. You are just going to have to live with the judgment of your local umpires, who hopefully are doing their very best.

Q. I know if a pitched ball hits the ground and then hits the batter in slow pitch softball it is nothing, but what is it in fast pitch softball or baseball?

A. You are right. It is nothing but a ball on the batter if a pitched ball hits the ground and then hits the batter, but in baseball and fast pitch softball, by rule, it is considered a hit batter, and the batter is awarded first base. The fact that the pitched ball hits the ground before striking the batter does not mean anything. The batter is still awarded first base, unless the umpire determines the batter intentionally allowed the ball to hit him.

Q. Last year I noticed our umpire never, ever carried the extra game ball on him, as some do, in a cloth bag on their belt. He always laid the extra game ball back against the backstop, and I wondered what would happen if a thrown ball to the plate hit this other ball, or near it, to where you could not tell which ball was really the game ball? What ball would the defensive team go to or use?

A. I guess you would have to ask the umpire, and see what story he comes up with to cover his rear end. There is no rule to cover up for an umpire's laziness or ignorance. Every plate umpire should have a ball bag on him at all times, and the spare game balls are to be kept safely in that bag.

I would love to see how this umpire could explain two balls bouncing around and no one knowing which ball was the thrown ball.

Q. Ron, I went to Joe Nuxhall's funeral, and I wondered if you knew him or were if you were there?

A. I knew him as so many of you do. I listened to Joe broadcast the Reds' games for so many years that he seemed like a close friend. I was privileged to be at the same speakers table with him on a couple of occasions, but we were not really friends.

I would have gone to his funeral, but I could not stand in the long lines in my current health situation.

Joe was a marvelous man, and he will surely be missed by myself and many others. When I turn on the radio, mostly in the car, it won't seem the same not hearing that oh-so-familiar voice we have all come to love. I do hope Joe was a man of God, and is in Heaven today.

ASA News

31st Annual ASA Metro Rules Clinic February 16-17 At St. Rita's School For The Deaf

The 31st Annual ASA Metro Rules Clinic has been scheduled for February 16-17 at St. Rita School for the Deaf in Evendale.

In breaking tradition with past clinics, which have typically featured members of the ASA National Umpire Staff, this year's clinic will have a "new twist" according to Metro Cincinnati Amateur Softball Association Umpire-In-Chief Jerry Fick.

"This year our own local staff will be joining me as we discuss new rules, interpretations, and tournament procedures," explains Fick. "Our emphasis will be on umpire mechanics.

"We will again schedule breakout sessions on both slow and fast pitch rules and mechanics, which are vital programs for those working these games," adds Fick. "Umpires do not want to miss this great clinic, especially since the cost is included in each umpire's ASA registration fee."

The clinic will open on Saturday, February 16 with a session from 9 AM until 4 PM, and concludes the following day with a session from 9 AM until 1 PM. St. Rita School is located at I-75 and Glendale-Milford Road (State Route 126 - Exit 14).

"We will again have our social to conclude our first day," notes Fick. "This will give our umpires a chance to meet our local staff and ask questions about the ASA and umpiring."

Fick says that the clinic is mandatory for all Cincinnati umpires interested in working in any ASA sponsored tournaments or special events.

The cost of the clinic is included with each umpire's ASA registration fee, which is \$40, and must be paid prior to the clinic to each umpire's respective association or park. Fees paid after the clinic are subject to a late charge of \$10. Umpires are urged to contact their local association or park now to make their dues payment, or payments can be sent to ASA Metro Cincinnati Umpire-In-Chief Jerry Fick at 3016 Ambler Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241. Local ASA umpires do not need to pre-register for this clinic. However, for out of town umpires the cost will be \$20 for one or both days (ASA registration is not included).

In addition to the clinic, the registration fee includes an ASA Rule Book and Umpire Manual, ASA Comprehensive General Liability insurance coverage, Excess Medical insurance coverage, weekly rules meetings, tests and study materials, ASA tournament assignments, and all the other benefits that go along with being part of the world's largest organization of sports officials.

For further information visit the ASA website - www.metrocincinnatiasa.com/Umpire or call Jerry Fick at the Cincinnati ASA Umpire Office – 563-2755.

Weekly ASA Umpire Meetings To Run From February 21st – March 27th

All ASA umpires are encouraged to attend weekly meetings to be held on Thursdays at 7 PM.

Meeting dates and locations are as follows: February 21 and 28 at Symmes Branch Cincinnati Public Library (11850 Enyart Rd., east of Montgomery Rd. and north of I-275), and March 6, 13, 20 and 27 at Kelly's Sports Bar at Eggleston Park.

Any ASA umpire is welcome to attend these meetings.

For further information visit the ASA website - www.metrocincinnati.asa.com/Umpire or call Jerry Fick at the Cincinnati ASA Umpire Office – 563-2755.

Early Registration Underway; Three Season Format, All Balls, Bases And Umpires Included In Fees...

CRC Continues Successful Three-Season Format In '08; Features Central Location, Rain Number At Each Field And More

The 2008 Cincinnati Recreation Commission Adult Softball Program will begin priority registration for teams who played in the spring of 2007 on Monday, February 4th and run through Tuesday, February 12th. All teams - old and new - may register beginning Wednesday, February 4th, and continue until all leagues are filled.

Lighted Leagues and Sunday afternoon leagues will begin play on Sunday April 6th. These leagues will play at Oskamp, Oakley, Salway, and Schmidt fields and will use an eight game season format. The fee for all lighted leagues is \$350 (eight games). The fee for Sunday afternoon (unlighted) games is \$285 (eight games).

Twilight leagues (unlighted) will begin on Sunday April 22nd. These leagues will play at Airport, Oskamp, Oakley, Salway, Schmidt, and Withrow fields and will use a ten game season format. The fee for twilight leagues is \$345 (ten games).

APPLICATIONS AND PAYMENTS

Applications and payment will be accepted at the CRC Athletic Office Monday through Friday from 8 AM until 4:30 PM. Payment may be made with cash (in person only), check, money order or Visa/MasterCard. Credit card payments for applications that are faxed in (352-1605) require that you phone the Athletics Division with the credit card number and expiration date to complete the registration process.

Entry fees will not be refunded after league schedules have been completed. Teams withdrawing prior to completion of league schedules will be assessed a \$25 service charge for clerical and material fees. Again, registration is not completed until you have phoned the Athletic Office and made payment.

ROSTERS

Rosters are due in the Athletic Office before the first game is played. Rosters and CRC rule book are available on the web site. The manager's signature is required for the roster to be acceptable.

DOWN PAYMENTS

This year the CRC Athletic Division will again allow teams to hold a spot with a \$100.00 down payment. The remainder of the registration fee is due by Thursday March 6th to allow time to get schedules out in a timely manner. Down payments are non-refundable. If full payment has not received by March 1st, your spot can be replaced by a full payment registration and without refund of down payment.

THREE SEASONS

Our three season (spring, summer, and fall) leagues at Schmidt worked out so well again in 2007 the CRC Athletic Division will continue that program in 2008. Also, all CRC Softball field locations will again offer

the one fee covers everything (ASA and USSSA registration fee, umpire fee, balls, bases, scorebook, rule book and Cincinnati Softball News subscription for each manager).

FIELD UPDATES

The Athletic Division will also be offering field and weather condition updates at all field locations for the 2008 season. Each field will have its own individual rainout program cancellation number for the teams. This will provide better game day communication and help to prevent unnecessary trips to the fields by the teams.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

An organizational meeting for team managers will be held on Wednesday, March 19th. Once again for your convenience, there will be two sessions at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM in the CRC office first floor auditorium. We highly recommend that all team managers attend.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Anyone interested in serving on the email Advisory Committee please contact Bill Bailey at 352-1627. This is your chance to help CRC improve the softball program.

UMPIRES

Umpires will be assigned by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission. The CRC Athletic Division will be holding umpire training on Sunday January 13th from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. The CRC is looking for ex players and current umpires who are on time, KNOW the rules, hustle, are professional, and believe in great customer service. Contact Bill Bailey at 352-1627 for further information.

CRC Leagues To Offer USSSA World, National, State Tournament Berths

All Cincinnati Recreation Commission men's, women's, mixed couples and black american leagues will again offer berths into USSSA championship tournaments in 2008.

Men's, women's and mixed leagues will offer berths into both State Championship and Great Lakes Division National Championship Tournaments. Black American teams will be awarded World Tournament berths from selected leagues.

In men's, women's and mixed leagues, a berth into the Ohio USSSA State Championship will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in each league. A berth to the USSSA Great Lakes Division National Championship Tournament will be awarded to the first place team in each league.

A berth to the USSSA Black American World Tournament will be awarded to the first place finishers in the Salway (Sunday) league.

Teams accepting berths are responsible for paying their own entry fee. The CRC League Supervisor and USSSA officials will determine the proper team classification. Tournament packages for Great Lakes Division National Tournaments and Ohio State Tournaments will be mailed to eligible teams by the USSSA. Teams must meet USSSA eligibility requirements to advance.

Norwood Sorrento's Softball Hall Of Fame Banquet Set For January 27th At Radisson Hotel; WCPO-TV Sports Anchor Dennis Janson To MC

The Norwood Sorrento's Softball Hall of Fame Committee has set Sunday, January 27th, as the date for this year's induction banquet for four new Hall of Famers.

This year's banquet will once again be held at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront in Covington. Inductees will be Dick Jones, Gary Mounts and John Steele in the male player category, Colleen Needham in the manager category, Dave Neiheisel in the sponsor category and Ken Williams (deceased) in the administrative category.

The six new inductees will bring the local Hall of Fame membership to 133.

The ceremony this winter will mark the fourth year that the induction ceremony has been held at the Radisson.

Norwood Sorrento's Softball Hall of Fame Committee member Jim Chastang calls the Radisson Hotel in Covington a "Northern Kentucky landmark of luxury."

Just across the Ohio River from downtown Cincinnati, the Radisson is "a famous feature of the Greater Cincinnati landscape," says Chastang.

"This hotel is a fixture with its striking exterior, which is visible for miles around," notes Chastang. "The inside is stunning and boasts exquisite event facilities and an attentive staff. The Radisson has all the standards and amenities that our committee requires plus a convenient location."

The banquet will again feature a buffet dinner, displays of softball memorabilia and a slide show honoring the great players and teams of yesterday. And many of the greatest names in the history of the game, including 21 members of national softball halls of fame, are regular attendees at the function.

"The Norwood Sorrento's Softball Hall of Fame induction banquet has grown increasingly popular and enjoys top billing as softball's premier social event of the year," says Chastang.

"Guests will have an opportunity to meet and greet softball's greats of past and present in a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere at a cocktail party preceding the ceremonies."

The committee will once again conduct the banquet as an afternoon affair, with a cocktail hour getting underway at 1 PM, and dinner at 2 PM.

Dennis Janson, who has been the sports anchor at WCPO-TV for the last 20 years, will return as MC for the function for the fifth consecutive year. "D. J.'s" broadcasting career, which has spanned 38 years, began during his sophomore year at Elder High School with WSAI-AM in 1965. An internship at the then dominant rock 'n roll radio station led to the news-room, which spawned other opportunities during high school and upon entering the University of Cincinnati. Later, while an employee of WKRC-AM/WKRQ-FM, he made the move down the hall to their television affiliate, where he launched the career that brought him to WCPO-TV in 1984. Janson's stock in trade is breaking stories, but "getting it right" is first and foremost for the Indian Hill resident. Janson never loses sight of his roots, his association with UC, or the many organizations and charities he's helped by hosting or presiding over their event as master of ceremonies.

Tickets are available from Kattus Pro-Team Sports and Hal Manufacturing Company, and from Hall of Fame Committee Members. Kattus is located at 1200 Glendale-Milford Road (821-7575). Store hours are Monday and Thursday 9:30 AM to 8:00 PM; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM; and Saturday 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Hal Manufacturing is located at 3116 Spring Grove avenue at Avon (541-2505). Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 6 PM, and Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Norwood Sorrento's Softball Hall of Fame Committee members include Mike Burns, Myra Burwell, Jim Chastang, Ralph DeLuca, Jan Deters, Bob Fennell, Ron Jeffers, Jim Kolker, Mark Linnemann, Dave Maury, Bob Owens, Danney Saylor, Tom Taylor, Roland Vories and Merle Williams.

Originally known as the "Hudepohl Softball Hall of Fame," the Norwood Sorrento's Softball Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 1985 as part of Cincinnati's Hudepohl Brewing Company's 100th anniversary. It is under the direction of a committee of longtime softball players, managers, fans, sponsors, umpires and administrators.

CRC News

Five Greater Cincinnati Teams Reclassified By USSSA State, National Rules

Five Greater Cincinnati teams will be required to move up in classification for the 2008 season by USSSA National and State Rules and By-Laws.

USSSA National By-Laws require the winner of all Men's and Women's National and World Tournaments with 25 or more teams, the top ten percent of the finishing teams in the Men's Class "C," "D" and "E," and Women's "D" World Tournaments, and the top six finishers in the Mixed "C" and "D" World Tournaments to compete the following year in a higher classification.

Any team reclassified by the USSSA National By-Laws may appeal to be reinstated to its former classification after June 1st and until July 1st (October 1st in the Mixed program) after participating in at least four tournaments in the team's new classification.

Three Greater Cincinnati men's teams will be required to move up in class for 2008 according to USSSA National By-Laws. Good Guys/GBI Cincinnati of Edgewood, Ky. finished 4th in the USSSA Men's "D" World Tournament September 20-23 in Sterling Heights, Mi., and will be required to play "C" or higher in 2008. The Cincinnati Diamondbacks won the U-Trip Great Lakes "E" Nationals Labor Day Weekend in Milford, and will be required to play "D" or higher in 2008. And D & S Engineering, which finished 4th in the Women's "D" World Tournament, will be required to play "C" or higher in 2008.

Ohio USSSA State Rules requiring teams to move up in class are as follows: the top four teams in the Men's Class "D" and "E" State Tournament; and the winner and runner-up of the Mixed Couples Class "D" and "E" State Tournaments.

Teams affected by Ohio USSSA State Rules will include: Tri-State Air Filter of Milford, which finished 4th in the "D" State; OC Softball and JB's of Cincinnati, the 3rd and 4th place finishers, respectively in the "E" State; and Brady's Bunch/Cherry Grove Lanes of Batavia, which finished 2nd in the Mixed "D" State.

USSSA State and National By-Laws are in effect if a team retains any four players from its roster from the previous season. Teams affected by National By-Laws may appeal after making a reasonable effort to participate in their new classification. Appeals must be made between June 1st and July 1st (October 1st in the Mixed program). Appeals must be made to a committee including the respective State Director, National Program Director and three USSSA Vice-Presidents.

Teams affected by Ohio USSSA By-Laws may appeal to both the State Director and District IX Director in writing using the official Ohio USSSA appeal form. Teams wishing to file an appeal must first compete in at least four tournaments in their new classification. No appeals will be accepted after July 1st.

Teams may request an Ohio USSSA appeal form by writing: Ohio USSSA, P. O. Box 75091, Cincinnati, OH 45275.

USSSA Umpire Groups Announce 2008 Training Classes

Greater Cincinnati's United States Specialty Sports Association umpire groups are now accepting registrations for their 2008 training schools. Additional information can be obtained by contacting one of the groups listed below:

ARMCO PARK UMPIRES - For information on umpiring at Armco Park call Park Manager Don Keys at 937-728-3220. Dates and times of classes will be listed in the February CINCINNATI SOFTBALL NEWS.

BUCKEYE/METROPOLITAN UMPIRE ASSOCIATION - Now recruiting both new and experienced umpires. Classes will be held February 12, 19 and 26, and March 4, 11, 19 and 25. An on-field clinic will be held March 22. A District IX Umpire Clinic is tentatively scheduled for March 2nd. Competitive rates, bonus program, awards program, extensive training - leagues and tournaments. Call Expressway Park at 831-2273 for additional information.

CINCINNATI RECREATION COMMISSION - Contact Bill Bailey at 352-4020 if you are interested in umpiring CRC softball games. All umpires will be certified USSSA.

PASTIME PARK UMPIRES - For information on 2008 umpire classes contact John Herbert at 300-5246, or email the park at manager@pastimepark.com. New umpires are welcome.

WESSEL SPORTS - METRO CINCINNATI UMPIRES - EGGLESTON PARK AND RIVERSTAR SPORTSPLEX - Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7 to 8:30 PM at Starlite Ballroom. Call Eggleston Park at 385-5304 or Riverstar Park at 232-4263 to register.

Expressway Park Announces 2008 Sponsorship Program

Milford, Oh.--Having a difficult time finding a sponsor?

Team sponsors paying league fees at Expressway Park during the current season can easily double or triple the value of the sponsorship at no additional charge.

In the past, the only value to a sponsor was weekly name exposure. Now sponsors - in exchange for paying league fees - will receive a substantial advertising package for free.

Again this year, team sponsors will be given the opportunity to advertise or expose their business to over 100,000 players and spectators at Expressway Park during the entire season, a program which costs other advertisers up to \$2,500.00.

The following program is offered to all the sponsors during the current season, and again - at no additional charge - free!

1. Provide 4 x 8 outfield fence banner which will remain on fence for entire season;
2. Provide advertising information or ad slick to be included in 12 tournament programs throughout the season;
3. Select a weekend to set up a booth at the park to promote your business (perfect for banks, mortgage companies, insurance companies);
4. Provide flyer to be given out at gate to all players and spectators entering the park for a period of one week during the season.

Interested teams can be provided with flyers explaining this program to potential sponsors. Sponsors must provide banners and advertising material.

Expressway Park continues to lead the way on developing programs to help teams secure the fees necessary to continue to participate in the great game of softball. If any manager wishes to discuss a new program or any other promotional idea unique to their business which could help them raise money for their league fees, they are encouraged to call Bob at 831-2273. Or email expressway@expresswaypark.com for

assistance. For additional information call Myra Monday thru Friday at 831-2273. Or visit Expressway Park's website at www.expresswaypark.com.

Expressway Park League Meeting March 12th At Holiday Inn Eastgate

The 2008 Expressway Park team managers' meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12th, from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Eastgate.

Team managers will receive their managers' packets at the meeting, and 2008 league and USSSA rule changes will be reviewed.

Also at the meeting, bats, gloves, batting gloves, and equipment bags will be sold at thirty to forty percent off regular Expressway Park pro shop prices. And representatives from various bat manufacturers will be in attendance to show their new bats and answer any questions about bat standards.

A manager and player raffle will also be conducted at the meeting. Prizes will include a portable TV, DVD player, boom box, Holiday Inn Eastgate Weekend getaway, softball bats and equipment and restaurant certificates.

Managers are required to attend, and players are welcome to attend. Refreshments and snacks will be served at the meeting.

For any additional information contact Expressway Park at 831-2273.

Expressway Park Tuesday USSSA "B-C" Major League Features New Format, Awards, Cash Payouts

Milford, Oh.--\$2,000 in cash payouts and a monster 36-game season will highlight the Tuesday night Men's B-C Major Doubleheader League at Expressway Park this year.

The league will play doubleheaders over two, 18-game seasons for a total of 36 games, says Park Manager Bob Owens.

"We'll also be providing double umpires, USSSA league ranking points, USSSA state and national berths, all the softballs, and a \$100 tournament credit during the 2008 season," says Owens. "Plus, C and D teams will receive free entry into Expressway's \$2,500 "Mid-Summer League Championship Series."

The \$2,000 cash payouts will be awarded as follows: \$500 to the first place team each season, \$250 to the team with the overall combined best record, and \$250 to the highest finishing C and D teams unless the teams win the league. In addition, \$50 will be returned to any team with no forfeits for both seasons.

"Also," adds Owens, "Expressway Park league teams paying both seasons receive a 10% discount on all Expressway Park tournaments except our summer state tournaments and Great Lakes nationals."

Owens says the league will accept the first eight teams to make a \$500 deposit.

The \$1,995 entry fee is due as follows: \$500 by January 15, \$700 by February 15 and \$795 by March 10.

2008 Membership Approaches 175,000 Mark...

USSSA Announces Major League Baseball Partnership, Inducts Eleven More Hall Of Famers At 39th National Meeting

Daytona Beach, Fl.--The United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) celebrated nearing the 175,000 team milestone at its 40th Annual National Meeting November 11-18 at the Hilton Ocean Walk in Daytona Beach, Fl., by announcing an exciting new partnership with Major League Baseball and inducting ten new members into its Hall of Fame.

The Association also passed thirty two rule changes and nine by-law changes at the convention, along with a constitution change to discourage lawsuits.

The world's largest multi-sports organization continued to bask in its exclusive partnership with Walt Disney's Wide World of Sports, popular website, and its phenomenal growth at the convention, where it announced that membership had reached 173,452 teams, a staggering increase of over 22,000 teams from 2006. USSSA CEO/Executive Director Don DeDonatis also noted in his keynote address that 175,000 teams had participated in 30,000 events in 2007.

But despite the Association's staggering growth - with membership increasing two and a half times over the last nine years - DeDonatis cautioned convention delegates against "complacency.

"The next phase of our plan is focused on strengthening the organization from the ground up," said DeDonatis. "Complacency is something that will not be accepted in the organization moving forward."

DeDonatis challenged the organization's state directors to "maximize all of the facilities and resources available" to them and to "work hand in hand" with state directors of all sports.

"Our competitors are only as strong as we allow them to be. Where we are weak, they are strong. This must change if we are to continue to grow as an association," said DeDonatis.

"I'm challenging each of you here today to go out and make a difference, and to improve your programs to promote and encourage participation," he added. "It is vital that all sports work together towards a common goal, remembering that each of you is a member of the same team.

"Today, we find ourselves in an enviable position," acknowledged DeDonatis. "We pick and choose our partners with great care, looking for lasting and mutually beneficial relationships. Today I am pleased to have with us a gentleman who has become a good friend. Eddie Einhorn, co-owner of the Chicago White Sox and a representative of Major League Baseball. USSSA and MLB.Com are working on a program that will be of great benefit to the members of USSSA and their families and will have a great impact on the game of baseball and fast pitch softball as we know it today."

In closing, DeDonatis said that the USSSA had "witnessed the rebirth of an organization" over the previous nine years.

"Today we set our sights firmly on our future and will again rise to meet these challenges head on," said DeDonatis. "The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible. I wish each of you the very best and a strong and productive meeting in the days ahead."

Among the rule and by-law changes passed at its convention, the USSSA reshaped its mixed couples program, adopted a national classification committee and dropped a long-standing requirement that teams that win men's B, C and D NIT's with 25 or more teams be required to play in a higher classification the following year. Also, beginning in 2009, a 40 COR ball will be used in all programs.

In the face of declining participation at the upper levels of its mixed program, USSSA combined its mixed A and B program into a mixed "Major" program allowing teams a maximum of two major players. USSSA also approved a new mixed "E" World Tournament.

The USSSA inducted eleven new members into its Hall of Fame. They included Doug Roberson (FL), Jeff Wallace (NY) and Brett Helmer (CT) in the male player category, Leslie Canter (FL) in the female player category, Tom Formosa (CA) in the manager category, John Usie (LA) in the umpire category, Dennis Helmig (OH) and Chuck Fischer (KY) in the special service category, Mark Linnemann (KY) in the executive category, and Bill Taylor (MA) in the sponsor category. The ten were inducted during a Hall of Fame Induction and Awards banquet at the Hilton.

Ten new candidates were selected for induction in 2007. They were Todd Martin (NC), Jason Kendrick (FL) and Rick Weiterman (WI) in the male player category, Marie Pesch (TX) in the female player category, Gene Williams (NY) and Louis Calvisi (MI) in the manager category, Travis Resmondo (FL) in the sponsor category, Kevin Naegele (NM) and Bill Hensley (IN) in the executive category, and Dick Calvo (WA) in the special service category.

The ten will be inducted during a Hall of Fame banquet at the USSSA National Meeting on November 16-22 at the Omni Orlando Resort in Championsgate, FL.

USSSA National Meeting Awards

ROOKIE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

Baseball: Scott Mobley, Huntsville, AL
Slow Pitch: Ben Sims, OR; Jeff Martin, OR;
Mark Turpening, OR
Fast Pitch: Jeff Kittle, New Tripoli, PA
Basketball: Todd Miller, Ames, IA

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

David Whitford, Golden, CO (Baseball)

DEBEER-RICHARD POLLAK MEMORIAL AWARD:

Player Category: Mary Arndt, Decaturville, TN
Non-Player: Theresa Schrock, Hutchinson, KS

DWIGHT HALL SPARK PLUG OF THE YEAR:

Slow Pitch (West): Rhiny Williams, Artesia, NM
Slow Pitch (East): Jon Brandt, Manchester, CT
Baseball: Eric Ervin, Pace, FL
Fast Pitch: John Dye, Columbia, MD
Volleyball: Jan Edwards, Amarillo, TX
Taekwondo: Chris Wrangel, KS

W. B. HENSLEY SPARK PLUG OF THE YEAR

Basketball: Todd Hensley, Ft. Wayne, IN

COMPLEX OF THE YEAR AWARDS:

Bailey Park, Battle Creek, MI
Sweetwater Softball Complex, Thomson/McDuffie
Recreation & Leisure Services, GA

USSSA OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD:

Duane Posovetz, FL

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Fast Pitch: Tonya Perkins, Middletown, IN
Baseball: Bob Egr, Des Moines, IA
Basketball: B. J. Larson, Shawnee, Kansas
Slow Pitch: Larry Green, Ellisville, MS
Taekwondo: Donald Hoise, Livingston, TX

USSSA AWARD OF MERIT:

Line Drive, Rob Murray
Emily Moak, Disney's Wide World of Sports

USSSA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS:

K & K Insurance, Ft. Wayne, IN
Radcliffe-Ft. Knox Convention & Tourism Commis.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD:

Non-Slow Pitch Category: Bill Hensley, IN

Slow Pitch Category: Bert Frederick, NM

E. A. RAMSEY/CEO AWARD:

Rick Robertson, FL

Joey Odom, LA

**2008 USSSA WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS**

August 14-17 Men's & Women's Military Lake B. V., FL
August 15-17 Men's A World Lake Buena Vista, FL
August 22-24 Men's & Women's Church Thomson, GA
September 6-7 Men's A & B Corporate Indianapolis, IN
September 11-14 Men's E Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 12-14 Men's B Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 12-14 Men's Black American Birmingham, AL
September 12-14 Women's Black American Birmingham, AL
September 12-14 Hispanic Las Cruces, NM
September 17-21 Men's Major Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 18-21 Women's Class B Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 18-21 Women's Class C Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 18-21 Women's Class D Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 18-21 Women's A World Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 18-21 Men's C Sterling Heights, MI
September 18-21 Men's D Lake Buena Vista, FL
September 27-28 Women's Masters 35-Over Salem, OR
September 27-28 Men's Masters 45-Over Salem, OR
October 4-5 Men's Masters 35-Over North Branford, CT
October 11-12 Men's Masters 40-Over Warwick, RI
October 17-19 Mixed Major Lake Buena Vista, FL
October 17-19 Mixed C Lexington, SC
October 17-19 Mixed D Lake Buena Vista, FL
October 17-19 Mixed E Lexington, SC
TBD Law Enforcement TBD
TBD Men's Senior 50-55-60-65 Panama City, FL
TBD Women's Masters Senior Panama City, FL

Ten Elected To USSSA National Hall Of Fame; Induction Ceremonies Slated For November 16-22, 2008 In Championsgate, FL.

Daytona Beach, FL.-A member of five USSSA Men's Major World Series champions, a nine time member of the USSSA Women's World Series All-Tournament team, a manager in the USSSA program for 25 years, and a USSSA State Director, Vice President and Executive Vice President, are among ten individuals who have been selected for induction into the USSSA Hall of Fame in 2008.

Elected at the USSSA National Meeting November 11-18 in Daytona Beach, FL. were Todd Martin (NC), Jason Kendrick (FL), Rick Weiterman (WI), Marie Pesch (TX), Travis Resmondo (FL), Gene Williams (NY), Louis Calvisi (MI), Kevin Naegele (NM) and Bill Hensley (IN).

The ten will be inducted during the Hall of Fame induction banquet at the USSSA National Meeting on November 16-22 in Championsgate, FL.

Rick Weiterman captured USSSA World Series championships with Elite Coatings, Steele's Silver Bullets, Ritch's Superior and Team TPS. Known as one of the premier pitchers of his era, Weiterman also boasted a .719 batting average.

Marie Pesch has won seven USSSA Women's World Series championships while competing with teams like Cannon's Illusions, UPI and Kinder Sharks. She was a seven-time All-World Series pick and named the Outstanding Offensive Player in the Series in 1993, 1995 and 2004.

Lou Calvisa managed teams in the USSSA program from 1972 through 1997, including nationally renowned Coors Light and Bunca Worth. His teams qualified for the USSSA World Series for eight consecutive years from 1988 through 1995, finishing fourth on two occasions.

After taking being appointed the New Mexico State Director in 1987, Kevin Naegele took the state from just under 200 teams to over 1,500 teams. In 1992 he received the National President's Award. Ten years later he was appointed Midwest Division Vice President. In 2004 Naegele received the USSSA Distinguished Service Award for his work in supervising the operations of the USSSA World Tournaments at the Walt Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Fl. In 2006 he was promoted to Executive VP and to the USSSA Board of Directors.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bios for Todd Martin, Jason Kendrick, Rick Weiterman, Travis Resmondo, Gene Williams and Bill Hensley were not available.

Ten Inducted Into USSSA National Hall Of Fame In Daytona Beach, Fl.

Daytona Beach, Fl.-A four time USSSA World Series All-Tournament team selection, a nine team member of the USSSA Women's World Series All-Tournament team, a sponsor and manager in the USSSA program for over twenty years, a 39-year veteran of the USSSA umpire program, a longtime sporting goods executive, and a USSSA State Director and Executive VP were among ten individuals who were formally inducted into the USSSA Hall of Fame last fall at a ceremony concluding the organization's National Meeting in Daytona Beach, Fl.

Inducted were Doug Roberson (FL), Jeff Wallace (NY), and Brett Helmer (CT) in the male player category; Leslie Canter (FL) in the female player category; Tom Formosa (CA) in the manager category; John Usie (LA) in the umpire category; Bill Taylor (MA) in the sponsor category; Dennis Helmig (OH) and Chuck Fischer (KY) in the special service category; and Mark Linnemann (KY) in the Executive Category.

The ten were honored during a Hall of Fame banquet ceremony November 16th at the Hilton Ocean Walk Village in Daytona Beach, Fl., where they were formally inducted into the USSSA National Hall of Fame, located in Kissimmee, Fl.

Doug Roberson captured USSSA World Series championships with Superior-Apollo, Ritch's Superior, and Team TPS, and was a four-time USSSA All-World Series selection. He was the Series home run leader in 1987.

Leslie Canter won five USSSA Women's World Series championships while competing with teams like Steele's Sports, Canton Softball Center, Lady Blue, UPI and the Shooters. She was a six-time All-World Series pick, was named to 45 All-Tournament teams, and claimed 21 Outstanding Defensive Awards. She compiled a career batting average of .585.

Tom Formosa sponsored and managed the Classic Glass softball team for over twenty years. His teams competed in five Men's B World Tournaments and two Men's A. In 1998 he piloted Classic Glass to the USSSA Men's B World Championship and was named manager of the year. Classic Glass has also won numerous other NIT, state and regional championships.

John Usie remains an active umpire to this day with 42 years of experience, including 39 with USSSA. Usie has attended five National Umpire Clinics, and has officiated in the dozens of State and National Tournaments, and the Men's Church, Men's A, Men's Major and Girls' Youth World Tournaments. He was an inductee into the Louisiana USSSA Hall of Fame in 2000.

Dennis Helmig was a founding member of the famous Steele's Automotive softball team in 1972. Capitalizing on that team's notoriety and success, Helmig co-founded Steele's Sports Company. He is believed to be one of only a handful of individuals to play, manage, and sponsor a team in the USSSA World Series. In 1992, Helmig joined Star Sports, then in 1996 became a territory manager for industry giant Worth Sports of Tullahoma, Tn. In 2005 Helmig became one of two National Regional Sales Managers for Worth.

Kentucky USSSA State Director Chuck Fischer completed his 26th season with USSSA in 2007. After starting his career as an area director in Louisville, he was appointed as the Girls' Youth State Director in 1982, then as Women's State Director in 1986, and eventually succeeded Ed Williams as Kentucky State Director. Fischer received the President's Award in 1999, a year after being named Great Lakes Director of the Year. He has served the Association as Director of three Women's World Series, and has hosted two Girls' Youth Worlds in the Louisville area. Over the last five years at Kiliansky Sports Complex in Ft. Knox, Ky., he has hosted a Men's 45-Over and Women's 35-Over World, a Women's World Series, and the first USSSA Military world tournament to be played on a military base. He has conducted an estimated fifty USSSA NIT's, thirty State Championships and twenty five National Championships.

Fischer says his most exciting experience with USSSA has been serving as Master of Ceremonies for the Association's Hall of Fame induction ceremonies from 1994-2006. He credits his Hall of Fame election to the 21 park operators in Louisville and his area directors around the state.

For over 33 years Mark Linnemann was involved in virtually every aspect of the USSSA program, including player, manager, umpire, area director, and state director. He served on the USSSA Executive Board as Great Lakes Division Vice-President from 1988-1998, then on the association's Board of Directors as Great Lakes Division Vice-President in 1999-2000, and as Executive Vice-President from 2000-2006. He received the USSSA President's Award in 1985.

USSSA Awards Twenty Eight National Invitationals To Greater Cincinnati Parks For 2008

Daytona Beach, Fl.--The United States Specialty Sports Association has awarded twenty eight National Invitational Tournaments to Greater Cincinnati area softball complexes for 2008, including a Men's Major NIT, seven Men's "B-C's," one "C," three "C-D's," six "D's"; four Women's NIT's, five Mixed, and a One-Pitch.

Last year over 400 teams competed in area USSSA National Invitationals.

The U-Trip Major NIT, which will be held July 18-20, will once again be one of only eighteen in the country again in 2008. Last year's monster 48-team event was won by Resmondo Softball. The eventual USSSA World Series champions steamrolled Bellcorp/Belcher/TAI/B ackman 41-14 in the championship game to complete a six game sweep.

The 48-team field was believed to be the largest U-Trip Major NIT ever held, as "C" and "D" teams vied for \$500 travel expense and a paid berth to their respective World Tournaments.

Ranking next on the classification ladder will be the 30th Annual Louisville Slugger-Bud Light-USSSA Men's "B-C" Early Bird Round Robin NIT on March 29-30. Last year's title was captured by Mike Foulks Auto Body/Team Insanity/Easton, which battled past Biltz/Watanabe/TTP/Wessel/A & K/Easton 18-15 in the semi-finals, then mercy-ruled M & S Drywall 27-16 to wrap up a 5-1 weekend.

Again this year, the Early Bird NIT will feature paid berths to USSSA "B" and "C" World Tournaments plus travel expense.

Six other USSSA "B-C" NIT's, all sponsored by Worth and Bud Light and featuring direct berths to the USSSA "B" World, have been slated for three area complexes in 2008. These events will also carry a berth to the USSSA "C" World September 18-21 in Sterling Heights, Mi.

A week after the Louisville Slugger on April 5th, action moves to Eggleston Park, where last year's scheduled event was rained out.

Expressway Park in Milford is the next stop on the "B-C" circuit with an April 12th offering. This tournament was also washed out in 2007.

Action returns to Harrison three weeks later for the 8th Annual Bud Light-Worth "B-C" NIT on May 3rd. Dawg Pack/Wessel/A-1 Fabricators drilled Mike Foulks/Team Insanity 25-6 to complete a four game sweep of a 13-team field in last year's tourney. This event will be restricted to four "C" teams to protect a "C" NIT in Dayton, Oh., being held on the same weekend.

Two weeks later on May 17th, Expressway Park will host their third of three "B-C" NIT's for 2008. HLS Bonding/Big Sonny's pushed across two runs in the bottom of the 7th to stun Loveless/Conveyor 12-11 in the championship game in 2007.

Two weekends later on May 31-June 1, the competition returns to Eggleston for the annual "City Slam" NIT, where last season Dawg Pack/Wessel/A1 dethroned Freeze/Arnold/JAC/Putters in the finals to outduel an 18-team field.

The curtain will fall on the 2008 "B-C" NIT season five weeks later on June 22-23 at Expressway Park, where Freeze/Arnold successfully defended their 2006 title, dropping DO/Butch's/Tarz Nation 17-13 in the second finals to overcome a 14-team affair.

The Greater Cincinnati area will host four U-Trip "C" or "C-D" NIT's in 2008. Kicking off the "C" NIT slate will be the 7th Annual "Bash for Cash" at Riverstar Sportsplex on March 14-16, followed by the 6th Annual Softball Magazine NIT June 7th in Harrison, a third year event on June 28-29 at Riverstar and a July 12-13 offering at Expressway. The last three will be "C-D" events and offer a paid berth to the "D" World, September 18-21 in Lake Buena Vista, Fl.

Each tournament will again feature a paid USSSA to the "C" World Tournament berth plus \$600 in travel money.

Last year in March, Missouri Hits averaged 22 runs per game and mercy-ruled four of six opponents as they romped past a 22-team field to capture the 7th Annual "Bash for Cash" USSSA C NIT to wrap up a 6-0 weekend and prevail over a 22-team field.

In the Softball Magazine NIT last year, Extreme/Moose/Shirtworks/Fents blanked JLC/Legends/Countrywide 9-0 in the championship game to complete a five game sweep. Then at Riverstar, Goodfellows swept past six opponents to best a monster 31-team field.

The final "C-D" NIT on tap for 2008 will be the Bud Light-Worth on July 12-13 at Expressway. Last year in an all-Columbus finals, EZ Cash mercy-ruled HLS Bonding/Big Sonny's 21-5 to complete a five game sweep of a 21-team event.

Launching the area's six "D" NIT's will be a pair of events at Rivershore Sports Complex, with the 7th Annual "Bash for Cash" on March 14-16, followed two weekends later by a March 29-30 affair. A seventh year event - the "Bud Light-Worth" - will follow on April 26-27 at Expressway Park. Next up will be Rivershore's third "D" NIT on May 10-11, followed by the "Softball Magazine" NIT at Eggleston on June 7-8. Capping off area "D" NIT's will be Rivershore's fourth event on July 5-6.

The "Bash for Cash" "D" NIT in March last spring was captured by Softball Fans/Miken, who tripped up the Trailblazers in the finals.

TPE/Backstabbers routed Best Way Frame/Nasty Boys 24-9 in Rivershore's NIT.

Then in April, Expressway Park's "D" NIT, Extreme/Turner Properties outdueled Good Guys/GBI Cincinnati 7-5 and 9-3 in the semi-finals and finals to sweep undefeated past a 22-team field.

Good Guys/GBI avenged their setback in June, double-dipping Cooper Auto/Tanel 360 10-9 and 9-4 to wrap up a 6-1 outing at Eggleston Park.

Each "D" NIT offers a paid berth to the USSSA "D" World September 20-23 in Lake Buena Vista, Fl., plus \$600 travel expense.

Switching to the U-Trip women's program, there will be four events again in 2008, including the 10th Annual Commie Currens Memorial on April 5th at Riverstar Park, 3rd Annual Bud Light-Worth Bernie Dickman Memorial on April 19 at Expressway Park, the Bud Light-Blue Chip Classic on June 7-9 at Expressway, and the 32nd Annual Queen City Classic on June 21-22 at Pastime Park. The Queen City Classic is Cincinnati's longest running women's event.

Last year's Worth-Bud Light Commie Currens Memorial USSSA Women's NIT was won by D & S Engineering, which rallied from a 7-0 1st inning deficit to outlast the Battin' Bullets 11-9 in the championship game. The popular kick-off event for area women's teams will be April 5 in 2008.

Eventual USSSA Women's "B" World Champion Ty-1-On mercy-ruled Stage II 27-17 in six innings in the "B-C" division of Expressway's first NIT, while Dented Bats trimmed Pelle's 3-2 in the "D" division.

Last year Hill & Griffith upended two-time champion Shooters in the Queen City Classic "C" division finals, while Pelle's outslugged the Intimidators 19-13 in the "D."

No fewer than five USSSA Mixed NIT's are on tap for Greater Cincinnati, including two - April 26-27 and May 31-June 1 - at Riverstar Park, one May 10th at Kolping Park, one May 18th (Sunday) at Pastime Park, and one July 26th at Expressway.

High Octane rallied for two runs in the bottom of the 7th to stun Wessel Sports 20-19 in the championship game of the 2007 Mike Adler in April. And in the City Slam, Arni's/Prime Players outslugged Dented Bats 21-18 in the winners' bracket finals and 20-16 in the championship game of the C division, while Bomb Squad spanked Sizzle Softball 18-7 in the deciding game of the D.

At Kolping Park in May, Wessel Sports outscored four opponents by a 77-32 margin at Kolping Park. Then in July, Brady's Bunch/Cherry Grove Lanes knocked off Summerville Bank 12-8 in the championship game to capture first place in the Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Mixed "C-D" Mid-Summer Classic NIT at Expressway.

Greater Cincinnati's remaining U-Trip NIT will be the 24th Annual Bud Light-One-Pitch National Invitational September 27-28 at Expressway Park. D & S Engineering pulled away from P & G Construction 14-7 in the championship game in the Gold Division of the One-Pitch. While in the Silver Division, Dixon Softball polished off Sports Reach 15-10 in the championship game to complete a six game sweep.

For more information regarding any USSSA NIT's in Greater Cincinnati, visit the USSSA web site at www.ussa.com.

2008 GREAT LAKES DIVISION USSSA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Men's Major	May 16-18	Columbus, IN
Men's Major	June 27-29	Joliet, IL
Men's Major	July 18-20	Cincinnati, OH
Men's Major	August 8-10	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's B-C	March 29-30	Harrison, OH
Men's B-C	April 5-6	Cincinnati, OH
Men's B-C	April 12-13	Milford, OH
Men's B-C	April 26-27	Joliet, IL
Men's B-C	May 3-4	Harrison, OH
Men's B-C	May 10-11	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's B-C	May 17-18	Milford, OH
Men's B-C	May 24-25	Dayton, OH
Men's B-C	May 31-June 1	Cincinnati, OH
Men's B-C	June 7-8	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's B-C	June 14-15	Lebanon, OH
Men's B-C	June 21-22	Milford, OH
Men's B-C	July 5-6	Indianapolis, IN
Men's B-C	July 12-13	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's B-C	August 2-3	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's C	March 14-16	Cincinnati, OH
Men's C-D	April 5-6	Columbus, IN
Men's C-D	April 19-20	Indianapolis, IN
Men's C	May 3-4	Lebanon, OH
Men's C-D	May 17-18	Canton, MI
Men's C-D	May 31/June 1	Barberton, OH
Men's C	June 7-8	Harrison, OH
Men's C-D	June 14-15	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's C	June 21-22	Sylvania, OH
Men's C-D	June 28-29	Cincinnati, OH
Men's C-D	July 12-13	Milford, OH
Men's C-D	July 19-20	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's C-D	July 26-27	Fairborn, OH
Men's D	March 14-16	Cincinnati, OH
Men's D	March 29-30	Hebron, KY
Men's D	April 12-13	Columbus, IN
Men's D	April 26-27	Milford, OH
Men's D	April 26-27	Joliet, IL
Men's D	May 3-4	Canton, MI
Men's D	May 10-11	Hebron, KY
Men's D	May 10-11	Sylvania, OH
Men's D	May 17-18	Dayton, OH
Men's D	May 24-25	Indianapolis, IN
Men's D	May 31-June 1	Ft. Knox, KY
Men's D	June 7-8	Barberton, OH
Men's D	June 7-8	Cincinnati, OH
Men's D	June 21-22	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's D	June 21-22	Columbus, OH
Men's D	June 28-29	Columbus, IN
Men's D	July 5-6	Hebron, KY
Men's D	July 5-6	Bowling Green, OH
Men's D	July 12-13	Sterling Heights, MI
Men's D	July 12-13	Springfield, OH
Men's D	July 19-20	Joliet, IL
Men's D	August 2-3	Sterling Heights, MI
Women's B, C, D	April 5-6	Cincinnati, OH
Women's B, C, D	April 19-20	Milford, OH

Women's B, C, D	May 31-June 1	Columbus, OH
Women's B, C, D	June 7-8	Milford, OH
Women's B, C, D	June 21-22	Harrison, OH
Mixed Couples	April 26-27	Cincinnati, OH
Mixed Couples	May 10-11	Cincinnati, OH
Mixed Couples	May 18	Harrison, OH
Mixed Couples	May 31-June 1	Cincinnati, OH
Mixed Couples	July 12-13	Lebanon, OH
Mixed Couples	July 26-27	Milford, OH
Men's One-Pitch	September 27-28	Milford, OH

USSSA Awards Great Lakes Men's "C," Women's "B," "C," and "D" Nationals To Expressway Park For 2008

Daytona Beach, Fl.--The United States Specialty Sports Association has (USSSA) awarded the Great Lakes Division Men's Class "C," Women's "B-C" and Women's "D" National Championship Tournaments to Expressway Park for 2008.

Last year's tournaments were won by EZ Cash of Grove City, Oh., (Men's "C") over a 14-team field in Ft. Knox, Ky; Stage II (Women's "B-C") of St. Louis, Mo. in a 7-team affair; and Bedrock Tanning (Women's "D") of Ravenna, Oh., also in a 14-team event.

While USSSA's National Tournament participation numbers have been declining in many divisions as softball has declined overall, Ohio USSSA Women's State Director Myra Burwell notes that the Women's "D" division will definitely increase.

"The Great Lakes Women's 'D' Nationals will be combined this year," points out Burwell. "Last year there were a total of 26 teams with 12 in the northern national in Canton, Mi. and 14 in Ft. Knox, so we expect at least 20 teams in 2008."

"Also," points out Burwell, "when the National Tournaments are in Ft. Knox, participation tends to decline. The last time the women's 'D' nationals was in Milford in 2005, there were 27 teams."

In all, twelve Great Lakes Division National Championship Tournaments were awarded at the USSSA National Meeting, held November 11-18 in Daytona Beach, Fl.

Men's Great Lakes Division National Championships awarded included the Class "B," Class "C" North and Class "D" North to Sterling Heights, Mi.; the "E" North to Sylvania, Oh.; the "C" South to Milford, Oh., the "D" South to Ft. Knox, Ky., and the "E" South to Columbus, In.; and the Church Class "B-C" to Beavercreek, Oh.

Both of the Great Lakes Division Women's National Championship Tournaments - the "B-C" and the "D" - were awarded to Expressway Park.

The Mixed Couples "C" and "D" National Tournaments will be held in Dayton, Oh.

All tournaments will be held over Labor Day Weekend, August 30-September 1, except for the Men's "B" and "C" Church (TBA), and the Mixed "C" and "D" (September 27-28).

Last year's Great Lakes Division National Championships ranged in size from 7 teams (Women's "B-C" in Sterling Heights, Mi.) to 85 (Men's Class "D" South in Indianapolis, In.).

The Men's Class "B," which was played in Sterling Heights, Mi., last year, had 10 teams. The Men's Class "C" (N) in Canton had 15 teams, and the Class "D" (N) in Sterling Heights, Mi. had 45 teams. The Men's "E" (N) in Sylvania, Oh. had 18 teams, while the Men's "E" (S) in Milford, Oh., had 75 teams.

The Men's Church "B-C" in Beavercreek facilitated 14 teams, while the Mixed "C," "D" and "E" Nationals hosted 4, 6 and 6 teams, respectively.

2008 USSSA GREAT LAKES DIVISION NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Men's Class B Sterling Heights, MI
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Men's Class C (N) Sterling Heights, MI
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Men's Class C (S) Milford, OH
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Men's Class D (N) Sterling Heights, MI
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Men's Class D (S) Ft. Knox, KY
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Men's Class E (N) Sylvania, OH
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Men's Class E (S) Columbus, IN
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Women's Class B Milford, OH
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Women's Class C Milford, OH
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 Women's Class D Milford, OH
Sept. 27-28 Mixed C & D Dayton, OH
TBA Men's Church B Beavercreek, OH
TBA Men's Church C Beavercreek, OH

USSSA Major NIT, City Slam Are Marquis Eggleston Park Events Again For 2008; Tournaments To Award Over \$20,000 In Team Travel

Colerain Township, Oh.--With combined purses in excess of \$20,000, the 6th Annual USSSA "City Slam" and a Men's Major National Invitational Tournament will again be the marquee events on a 30-weekend Eggleston Park softball calendar in 2008.

Located on Blue Rock Road at East Miami River Road, Eggleston features four lighted, irrigated diamonds with electronic scoreboards, a family atmosphere, an abundance of shade trees, and Eggleston's exclusive, two story club-house featuring "Kelly's Sports Bar."

The Billy Backman IV Memorial "City Slam," which will be held on May 23-25 (Men's "C" and "D" divisions) and May 31-June 1 (Men's "B-C NIT" and "E" divisions), will again boast a \$17,400 cash purse this year, including a \$2,850 purse in the "B-C" division, \$4,900 in the "C," \$2,200 in the "D," \$3,750 in the "E," and \$1,050 in the "E Rec," Mixed "C" and Mixed "D/E" divisions. Last year Dawg Pack/Wessel Sports/A1 Fab (B), Brock Restoration/Hotwings/Schmoe's (C), Extreme/Turner Properties (D), and Hard Knocks (E) won their respective divisions in this sixth annual event.

The U-Trip Major NIT, which will be held July 18-20, will once again be one of only eighteen in the country again in 2008. Last year's monster 48-team event was won by Resmondo Softball. The eventual USSSA World Series champions steam-rolled Bellcorp/Belcher/TAI/Backman 41-14 in the championship game to complete a six game sweep.

The 48-team field was believed to be the largest U-Trip Major NIT ever held, as "B," "C," and "D" teams vied for \$500 travel expense and a paid berth to their respective World Tournaments.

"We're extremely pleased to have been selected as one of the sites for a USSSA Major NIT again," says Eggleston's David Maury. "It's an honor to have the best softball teams in the nation playing at our facility. And the lure of \$500 travel expense and a paid World berth should attract plenty of class "B," "C" and "D" teams" again.

The Major NIT will be one of four USSSA NIT's at the park in 2008. Eggleston will host a U-Trip "B-C" NIT on April 5 and May 31-June 1, and a "D" NIT on June 7-8. Both "B-C" NIT's will be offering a paid "C" World berth. The winner of the "B" berth will advance to Lake Buena Vista, Fl. September 11-14 with \$600 in travel expense (based on 13 teams). The winners of the "C" World berths qualify for the U-Trip

“C” World September 18-21 in Sterling Heights, Mi. The June 7-8 “D” NIT will also feature \$600 in travel expense and a paid World berth to Lake Buena Vista September 18-21.

“These events propel Eggleston into the local and national limelight on those weekends, and provide our park teams with an excellent opportunity to compete against regional and national competition and to qualify for a USSSA World Tournament,” observes Maury.

Four U-Trip “E” World qualifiers featuring paid berths (based on participation) to the “E” World September 11-14 in Lake Buena Vista have been scheduled for June 7, June 28, August 11 and August 23.

Several ASA tournaments are also slated for Eggleston in 2008. Most notable will be the ASA Cincinnati Men’s Metro on July 25-27.

Many “Special Events” are also scheduled for 2008, beginning with the “Bash for Cash” on March 14-16. The St. Patrick’s March Madness “Week of Suds” will follow immediately on Monday March 17 through Saturday March 22. The Cincysoftball.com Spring Classic will be May 10, and the WEBN Tree Frog Classic July 5-6. The Nazarene National Tournament August 30-31, the Fall Cash Cow September 27 and the Cincysoftball.com “Super Draft III” wrap up the season.

Park Manager David Maury says tournament participants will appreciate the park’s heated clubhouse during the late spring and early fall tournaments.

“Our patrons can escape the cold weather in the early spring and late fall by taking advantage of our clubhouse between their games,” points out Maury. “And on hot summer days they’ll enjoy the air conditioning.”

Also, points out Maury, “all Eggleston Park league teams will receive discounts on our tournament program in 2008. Teams can receive 20% off our regular tournaments and 25% off our NIT’s.”

Maury points out that the Bash for Cash, City Slam and Major NIT are excluded from the discount program.

For information on Eggleston Softball Complex tournaments for 2008, call Eggleston Ball Park at 385-5304, or visit the Park’s website www.egglestonpark.com.

2008 EGGLESTON PARK SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

2008 ASA TOURNAMENTS

ASA Tree Frog Classic Men’s C-D July 5-6
ASA Cincinnati Metro Tournament July 25-27
ASA Metro Consolation August 1-3

2008 USSSA CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

USSSA Men’s Major NIT July 18-20
“Men’s Major World Series Berth, Plus Paid World Berth & \$500 Travel Expense To USSSA C and D World!”
USSSA Men’s Class B-C NIT April 5
“Highest Finishing C Team Wins Paid Berth To C World!”
USSSA Greater Cincinnati City Slam B-C NIT May 31-June 1
USSSA Greater Cincinnati City Slam C May 23-26
USSSA Greater Cincinnati City Slam D May 23-26
USSSA Greater Cincinnati City Slam E May 31-June 1
USSSA Men’s Class D NIT June 7-8
“Sponsored By SOFTBALL MAG. - Direct World Berth!”

2008 USSSA QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

Men's Class B-C NIT April 5
"Men's Class B & Class C World Tournament Qualifiers!"
Men's Class B-C NIT May 31-June 1
"Men's Class B & Class C World Tournament Qualifiers!"
Men's Class C May 23-26
Men's Class D May 23-26
Men's Class D NIT June 7-8
"Sponsored By SOFTBALL MAGAZ. - Direct World Berth!"
Men's Class E - World Qualifier May 31-June 1
"Direct Paid Berth To Disney's Wide World of Sports!"
Men's Class E - World Qualifier June 7
Men's Class E - World Qualifier June 28
"Direct Paid Berth To Disney's Wide World of Sports!"
Men's Class E - World Qualifier August 9
"Direct Paid Berth To Disney's Wide World of Sports!"
Men's Class E - World Qualifier August 23
"Direct Paid Berth To Disney's Wide World of Sports!"

2008 EGGLESTON PARK SPECIAL EVENTS

"Bash For Cash" March 14-16
Cincysoftball.com Classic May 10
"Tree Frog Classic" ASA C-D July 5-6
ASA Metro Consolation August 1-3
Nazarene National Tournament August 30-31
Fall Cash Cow September 27-28
Super Draft October 4-5

MEN'S CLASS C-D-E ROUND ROBINS

Every Saturday, Sunday & Holiday March 15-October 26

Nine NIT's, Four State Tourneys, Great Lakes Nationals Highlight 2008 Expressway Calendar

Milford, OH.--Nine USSSA National Invitational Tournaments, four state tournaments, and three USSSA Men's Class Great Lakes Division National Championships will be among the featured events on an expansive Expressway Park tournament calendar for 2008.

Expressway Park's National Invitationals are among the largest and most prestigious in the nation. They include three Men's B-C, a Men's C-D, a Men's D, and a Men's One-Pitch NIT; and a Mixed Couples and two Women's NIT's. Each NIT is co-sponsored by Worth Sports Company and Bud Light.

Expressway Park's B-C NIT's will be held this year on April 12, May 17 and June 21-22. Each will feature a paid World berth and travel expense money to the USSSA B World Tournament September 12-14 in Lake Buena Vista, Fl. The highest finishing C team will also earn a paid berth to the U-Trip C World September 18-21 in Sterling Heights, Mi.

Expressway's C-D NIT will also advance the highest finishing C team to Sterling Heights. The 10th Annual Bud Light-Worth-USSSA C-D NIT, one of only five to be offered in Greater Cincinnati in 2008, will take place on July 12-13. The event will again offer a D World berth to Lake Buena Vista September 18-21.

Expressway Park's D NIT, scheduled for April 26-27, will be one of only four U-Trip Men's Class D NIT's held in Greater Cincinnati in 2008. Last year's event drew a solid 22 teams. A berth to the USSSA D World and \$600 travel expense is at stake.

Expressway's other NIT's include the Bud Light-Worth-Bernie Dickman Memorial Classic Women's NIT on April 19, the Bud Light-Worth Blue Chip Classic Women's B-C-D NIT on June 7-8, the Bud Light-Worth Mixed NIT July 26, and the Bud Light-Worth One-Pitch NIT September 27-28. The two Women's NIT's will feature World Tournament berths for Women's B, C and D teams to the U-Trip Women's Worlds September 18-21 in Lake Buena Vista, Fl. The 26th Annual Bud Light-Worth One-Pitch NIT offers an A-B division, plus a "Gold" division for C-D teams and a "Silver" division for D-E.

Expressway Park's most prominent slow pitch events in 2008 will be the USSSA Great Lakes Division Men's Class C and Women's B-C and D National Championships. Play gets underway over Labor Day Weekend, August 30-September 1. The C Nationals will award two paid berths to the U-Trip World in Michigan.

Other major events slated for the park include the USSSA Men's B State Tournament August 9, the USSSA Men's Class D on August 16-17, the "E Rec" and Mixed Couples State Tournament on August 23-24, and the USSSA Men's Class D Fall State on October 4-5.

Also this year, the park will host three USSSA D-E "Super Cash Qualifiers." These tournaments will feature cash prizes ranging from \$500 to \$1500, and will be held on April 5, May 31 and June 21.

Six E World qualifiers offering paid World berths to the U-Trip E World September 11-14 in Lake Buena Vista, Fl. will be held on April 5 as part of the D-E Super qualifier, April 19, April 26-27 as part of the D NIT, May 17, May 31, and June 21.

Men's C, D and E National/State qualifiers will be held most Sunday mornings at Expressway, and feature a three game round robin format. USSSA travel expense money will be awarded along with double points for D teams playing in a C-D division, and for E teams playing in a D-E division.

Then again this year on Tuesday through Sunday, July 28-August 3, Expressway will offer its 7th Annual Mid-Summer League Championship Series. All Expressway Park Men's D, E, E Rec and Mixed league teams not participating in the ASA Metro, which is being run during the same time frame, are eligible to compete. The tournament format will be round robin with all teams playing at least three games during the week, followed by a double elimination tournament over the weekend. Teams playing in both the first and second season at the park will receive a free entry fee into the tournament. The entry fee for teams playing only one season will be \$99. The winner of each division will receive their choice of a 2008 league fee valued at \$900 or \$500 in cash.

Another event open only to Expressway Park customers is the 15th Annual Round Robin Jacket Appreciation Tournament to be held September 21.

"Teams that participate in Expressway Park round robins and qualifiers receive points throughout the season, and the top sixteen teams are awarded berths," explains Park Manager Bob Owens. "The top three teams receive a paid berth. Other teams will pay a special entry fee of only \$59-\$99 based on the 2008 round robin participation.

Owens says the tournament will feature a special sponsor trophy, tournament champion jackets, and a \$100 credit to be used during the 2009 season at Expressway Park for either league or tournament fees.

USSSA qualifying tournaments, many featuring special prizes and awards, and Expressway Park three game "mini" and four game "maxi" round robins, will be held throughout the summer. Expressway will also be offering one day mini round robins for mixed couples teams on selected Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

Expressway Park is located on Rt. 50 at I-275 in Milford. For a 2008 tournament brochure call Expressway Park at 513-831-2273. Tournament information packages for all of Expressway Park's USSSA NIT's can be downloaded at the park's website, www.expresswaypark.com.

2008 EXPRESSWAY PARK SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

MEN'S CLASS A-B TOURNAMENTS

April 12 USSSA B-C NIT
May 17 USSSA B-C NIT
June 21 USSSA B-C NIT
August 9 USSSA Men's B Ohio State Championship*
September 27-28 USSSA Men's A-B One-Pitch NIT

MEN'S CLASS C TOURNAMENTS

March 29-30 Pre-Season Mini Round Robins
April 6 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
April 12 USSSA B-C NIT
April 13 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
April 20 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
April 27 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
May 17 USSSA B-C NIT
May 18 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
May 26 - Monday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
May 26 - Mon. USSSA C-D-E One-Pitch Memorial Rd. Rob.
June 1 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
June 8 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
June 15 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
June 21-22 USSSA B-C NIT
June 22 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
June 28 USSSA C National/State Qualifier
June 29 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
July 6 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
July 6 - Mon. USSSA C-D-E One-Pitch Rd. Rob.
July 12-13 USSSA C-D NIT
July 13 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
July 20 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
July 27 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
August 10 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
August 24 - Sunday USSSA C National/State Qualifier
Aug. 30-Sep. 1 USSSA Men's C Great Lakes National
September 1 USSSA Men's One-Pitch C-D-E Rec
September 21 15th Men's C-D-E Tourn. Appreciation Jacket
September 27-28 USSSA Men's C-D One-Pitch NIT
October 18-19 Player Appreciation Blow-Out

MEN'S CLASS D TOURNAMENTS

March 29-30 Pre-Season Mini Round Robins
April 5 USSSA D National/E World Super Cash Qualifier
April 6 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
April 12 USSSA D National/State Qualifier
April 14 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
April 20 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier

April 26-28 USSSA D NIT
 April 27 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 May 18 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 May 26 - Monday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 May 26 - Mon. USSSA C-D-E One-Pitch Memorial Rd. Rob.
 May 31 USSSA D National/E World Super Cash Qualifier
 June 1 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 June 8 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 June 15 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 June 21 USSSA D National/E World Super Cash Qualifier
 June 22 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 June 28 USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 June 29 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 July 6 - Sunday USSSA One-Pitch National Qualifier
 July 6 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 July 12-13 USSSA C-D NIT
 July 13 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 July 20 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 June 26 USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 July 27 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 Jul. 28-Aug. 3 Men's D-E Mid-Sum. League Championship
 August 10 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 August 16-17 USSSA Men's D State Tournament
 August 24 - Sunday USSSA D National/State Qualifier
 September 1 Men's D Labor Day Special Round Robins
 September 1 USSSA C-D-E One-Pitch National Qualifier
 September 21 16th Men's C-D-E Tourn. Appreciation Jacket
 September 27-28 USSSA Men's C-D-E One-Pitch NIT
 October 4-5 USSSA Men's D Fall State Championship
 October 18-19 Player Appreciation Blow-Out

MEN'S CLASS E TOURNAMENTS

March 29-30 Pre-Season Mini Round Robins
 April 5 USSSA D National/E World Super Cash Qualifier
 April 6 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 April 12 USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 April 13 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 April 19 USSSA E World/National/State Qualifier
 April 20 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 April 26-27 USSSA D-E NIT
 April 27 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 May 18 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 May 26 - Mon. USSSA C-D-E One-Pitch National Qualifier
 May 26 - Monday USSSA C-D-E National/State Qualifier
 May 31 USSSA D National/E World Super Cash Qualifier
 June 1 - Sunday USSSA E World/National/State Qualifier
 June 8 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 June 15 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 June 21 USSSA D National/E World Super Cash Qualifier
 June 22 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 June 28 USSSA E World Super State Qualifier
 June 29 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 July 6 - Sunday USSSA One-Pitch National Qualifier
 July 6 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
 July 13 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier

July 20 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
July 26 USSSA E National/State Qualifier
July 27 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
Jul. 28-Aug. 3 Men's D-E Mid-Sum. League Championship
August 10 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
August 24 - Sunday USSSA E National/State Qualifier
September 1 Men's D Labor Day Special Round Robins
September 1 USSSA Men's One-Pitch National Qualifier
September 21 15th Men's C-D-E Tourn. Appreciation Jacket
September 27-28 USSSA Men's D-E One-Pitch NIT
October 11 Great Lakes Men's E Fall National
October 18-19 Player Appreciation Blow-Out

MEN'S CLASS E REC TOURNAMENTS

May 18 - Sunday USSSA E Rec State Qualifier
August 10 - Sunday USSSA E Rec State Qualifier
August 23 USSSA E Rec State Tournament
September 23 - Sunday USSSA Fall E Rec State

MIXED COUPLES TOURNAMENTS

March 29-30 Mixed Pre-Season Mini Round Robins
April 6 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
April 13 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
April 20 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
May 18 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
May 26 - Monday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
June 1 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
June 15 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
June 22 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
June 28 USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
June 29 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
July 6 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
July 13 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
July 20 - Sunday USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
July 27 USSSA Mixed NIT
Jul. 28-Aug. 3 Mixed Mid-Summer League Championship
August 10 - Sun. USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
August 23 USSSA Mixed Couples State Tournament
September 1 - Monday Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
September 21 - Sun. USSSA Mixed World/Natl./State Qualifier
October 18-19 Player Appreciation Blow-Out

GIRLS' YOUTH TOURNAMENTS

May 26-27 USSSA Girls' Youth Fast Pitch World Qualifier
June 15-17 USSSA Girls' Youth Fast Pitch Grand Slam NIT
June 30-July 1 USSSA Girls' Youth FP All-American NIT
September 8-9 USSSA Girls' Youth Fast Pitch Fall State

WOMEN'S A-B-C-D-E TOURNAMENTS

March 29-30 Women's Pre-Season Mini Round Robins
April 19 USSSA B-C-D-E Bernie Dickman Memorial NIT
June 7-8 USSSA B-C-D-E Blue Chip Classic NIT

Aug. 30-Sep. 1 USSSA Great Lakes Women's B-C-D Natl.

SPECIALTY TOURNAMENTS

July 19-20 BASA Graystone Classic Men's & Women's
September 5-7 BASA World Series
Sept. 20-21 Buckeye Battle Of The Badges Law Enforcement

MEN'S & MIXED C-D-E ROUND ROBINS

Selected Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays March 29-Oct. 18

Holiday Qualifiers Pack The House Each Year...

Mixed NIT, "E" World Qualifiers, "D" District Highlight 2008 Kolping Park Calendar

Mt. Healthy, Oh.--A Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Mixed Couples NIT, the Bud Light-Worth-USSSA Class D District XV Championship, seven USSSA E World qualifiers and a pair of popular Holiday tournaments will highlight a thirty weekend Kolping Park softball tournament calendar for 2008.

Kolping, which is conveniently located at 10303 Mill Road in Mt. Healthy, is known for being a "family oriented" park, and offers free admission for players and spectators to all league and tournament games. The park features three lighted diamonds with 300 foot fences, score-boards, time clocks, sprinkling system, large rest-rooms with showers, indoor concessions, video games, children's playground, volleyball courts, a 300 seat pavillion boasting an out-side bar and TV, and large parking lot.

Kolping Park completely refurbishes its infields every two seasons and refreshes its fields each fall.

The 9th Annual "Bud Light-Worth-USSSA Mix-ed Couples National Invitational" on May 10 will be one of five Mixed Couples NIT's scheduled for Greater Cincinnati in 2008. The tournament will offer USSSA World berths for Mixed C, D and E teams.

"We have almost forty mixed league teams at the park and this will be a terrific opportunity for them to enjoy the challenge of regional competition," says Park Manager Jim Hill.

A wide range of men's, women's and mixed couples tournaments are also on tap for Kolping in 2008, including thirty-six USSSA qualifying tournaments and several special events, including a sweatshirt tournament, a bat bag tournament, cash tournaments and even a "turkey" tournament.

March 29 will kick off the season for men's C state and national qualifiers at Kolping Park, continuing with May 3, and May 31 and June 14. Each tournament will feature a berths to the USSSA C state August 16-17 in Dayton, and the Great Lakes C Nationals August 30-September 1 in Milford, Oh.

Men's D qualifiers will be held on March 22; April 5 and 26; May 24-25; June 21 and 28; July 12; and August 9, and will advance teams to the U-Trip D State August 16-17 in Milford, Oh., and the D Nationals August 30-September 1 in Ft. Knox, Ky.

The April 5th date is a "Super" qualifier with a \$500 purse. The June 21 qualifier will be the Ohio USSSA District XV Championship for Men's Class D teams, which will feature a special awards package from sponsor Worth Sports Company.

Class E qualifiers will be held on Saturday, March 22; April 5 and 12; May 10 and 24-25; June 14 and 28; and August 2, 9 and 16. Teams will earn berths to the Ohio State Tournament August 16-17 in Harrison, Oh. and the E National Tournament Labor Day Weekend in Columbus, In.

Class E World qualifiers will be held on March 29, May 3, June 7, July 5 and July 19, August 23 and August 30. In addition to state and national berths, these tournaments will offer paid berths (based on

participation) to the USSSA E World Tournament September 11-14 at the Walt Disney World's "Wide World of Sports" complex in Lake Buena Vista, Fl.

Class "E Rec" tournaments, a second program offered by Ohio USSSA, have been scheduled for April 26; May 31; June 14; July 12 and 19; and August 2 and August 16. Each tournament is a state qualifier and boasts a low-ball, introductory entry fee of only \$99.

Mixed Couples E qualifiers will be held on April 12 and August 9.

All USSSA Men's and Mixed Couples tournaments at Kolping Park are co-sponsored by Worth Sports Company and Bud Light. Most are one day affairs.

Kolping will also offer several events with special awards packages, including a USSSA D-E qualifier on March 22 featuring sweat-shirts and t-shirts, a "Super Cash" qualifier on April 5 (D) and June 14 (E), an E qualifier on April 12 with bat bags, a D and E cash tournament on April 19, a cash tournament on September 6, a "hooded sweatshirt" tournament on September 13, and finally a "Turkey Tournament" on October 4 featuring a dozen first place individual tur-keys.

Other special events carded for the park include the ever-popular "Memorial" and "Firecracker Invitational" holiday USSSA D and E qualifiers on May 24-25 and July 6-7, respectively, the Kolping Park Appreciation Tournament on September 27.

Both the "Memorial" and "Firecracker Invitational" tournaments attract a full house of twelve teams each year. Now entering its seventh year, the "Memorial" boasts a three game round robin followed by a double elimination tournament for all participants. The "Fire-cracker" is a three-game round robin followed by a single elimination affair.

"These are our most popular tournaments and fill up every year," comments Kolping's Jim Hill. "We encourage teams to register early to secure a spot."

One day men's C-D-E round robins will be held every Saturday and Sun-day morning and afternoon and every Saturday night from March 15-October 5. Kolping Park is also avail-able for private corporate picnic rentals.

For field rental information or information on league or tournament play at Kolping Park, call the park office at 851-5657.

2008 KOLPING P ARK TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

USSSA QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

March 22 Men's Class D-E
"1st Place Sweats, 2nd Place T's!"
March 29 Men's Class C
March 29 Men's Class E "World Qualifier"
*"2nd Annual Kickoff Classic - Direct Paid Berth
To USSSA E World Tourn. At Walt Disney World!"*
April 5 Men's Class D - \$500 Super Qualifier
April 5 Men's Class E
April 12 Men's Class D - Bat Bag Tourney
April 12 Mixed Couples E
April 26 Men's Class D
April 26 Men's Class "E Rec"
May 3 Men's Class C
May 3 Men's Class E "World Qualifier"
"Direct Paid Berth To USSSA E World At Disney!"

May 10 Mixed Couples National Invitational
 May 10 Men's Class E
 May 24-25 Men's Class D & E - "Memorial Tourney"
"Five Game Guarantee"
 May 31 Men's Class C
 May 31 Men's Class E
 May 31 Men's Class "E Rec"
 June 7 Men's Class E "World Qualifier"
*"5th Annual E World Blast - Direct Paid Berth To
 USSSA E World Tournament At Walt Disney World"*
 June 14 Men's Class C
 June 14 Men's Class E - \$500 Super Qualifier
 June 14 Men's Class "E Rec"
 June 21 - "Worth Sports Dist. Champ." Men's Class D
"Paid Berth To Super State - E World Qualifier"
 June 28 Men's Class E "World Qualifier"
*"4th Annual E World Challenge - Direct Paid Berth To
 USSSA E World Tournament At Walt Disney World"*
 July 5 Men's Class D & E "Firecracker Invitational"
"4 Game Guarantee"
 July 12 Men's Class D
 July 12 Men's E Rec
 July 19 Men's Class E "World Qualifier"
"Direct Paid Berth To USSSA E World At Disney!"
 August 2 Men's Class E
 August 2 Men's Class "E Rec"
 August 9 Men's Class D - Last Chance
"Last Chance To Qualify For Men's D Nationals"
 August 9 Men's Class E
 August 16 Men's Class E - Last Chance
"Last Chance To Qualify For Men's E Nationals"
 August 16 Men's Class "E Rec"
 August 23 Men's Class E "World Qualifier"
*"4th Annual Summer Slam - Direct Paid Berth To
 USSSA E World Tournament At Walt Disney World"*
 August 30 Men's Class E "World Qualifier"
*"3rd Annual Labor Day Shootout - Direct Paid Berth To
 USSSA E World Tournament At Walt Disney World"*

KOLPING PARK SPECIAL EVENTS

March 15 Men's C-D-E Early Bird Round Robins
 March 22 USSSA D-E Qualifier - Sweats & T-Shirts
 April 5 USSSA Men's D \$500 Super Qualifier
 April 12 USSSA E Bat Bag Qualifier
 April 19 Kolping Men's D & E Cash Tournament
 May 10 Bud Light-USSSA Mixed Couples NIT
 May 24-25 Memorial Tou. USSSA D And E Qualifiers
 June 21 USSSA District IX Men's D Championship
 July 5 Firecracker Invitat. USSSA D And E Quals.
 July 12 "Schuetzenfest" Men's D, E Rec Qualifiers
 July 26 Top Dawg Challenge D-E League Tourn.
"Open To Kolping Park League Teams Only!"
 September 6 Kolping Park Cash Tournament
 September 13 Kolping Mixed Couples - Sweat Shirts
 September 20 D-E One-Pitch Tournament

September 27 Kolping Park Appreciation Tournament
October 4 5th Annual Men's D-E Turkey Tourn.
"1st Place Individual Turkeys Awarded!"

MEN'S C-D-E MORN. & AFTER. ROUND ROBINS

Every Saturday & Sunday March 15-October 5

MEN'S C-D-E SATURDAY NITE ROUND ROBINS

Every Saturday March 15-October 4

Monster Qualifiers Are Traditional "Kickoff" Events For Greater Cincinnati Tournament Season... Five USSSA NIT's, Big "D" And "E," Two State Tournaments Highlight 2008 Pastime Park Calendar

Harrison, OH.--Five United States Specialty Sports Association National Invitational Tournaments and two USSSA State Championships will be among the major events highlighting a 35-weekend 2008 tournament calendar at Pastime Park in Harrison.

Pastime's National Invitational Tournaments are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation. They include two Men's "B-C" NIT's, a Men's "C" NIT, a Women's NIT and a Mixed Couples NIT.

Kicking off the park's NIT program will be the 30th Annual Louisville Slugger-Bud Light-USSSA Men's "B-C" Early Bird Round Robin NIT on March 29-30. Last year's title was captured by Mike Foulks Auto Body/Team Insanity/Easton, which battled past Biltz/Watanabe/TTP/Wessel/A & K/Easton 18-15 in the semi-finals, then mercy-ruled M & S Drywall 27-16 to wrap up a 5-1 weekend.

Again this year, the Early Bird NIT will feature paid berths to USSSA "B" and "C" World Tournaments plus travel expense.

Pastime Park's next NIT will be the 8th Annual Bud Light-Worth "B-C" NIT on May 3-4. Like the "Early Bird" NIT, the event will also feature a direct paid berth to the USSSA Men's "B" and "C" Worlds, plus \$600 in sponsor travel expense money (based on 17 teams).

Dawg Pack/Wessel/A-1 Fabricators drilled Mike Foulks/Team Insanity 25-6 to complete a four game sweep of the 13-team field.

The following month on June 7-8, Softball Magazine will be at Pastime for one of their "Championship Tournament Series" stops. The event includes a U-Trip "C" NIT and a lavish awards package. In 2007, Extreme/Moose/Shirtworks/Fents pitcher Steve Harrington blanked JLC/Legends/Countrywide 9-0 in the championship game to help lead his team to a 5-0 record.

Also in June, Pastime will host the 30th Annual Worth-Bud Light-Queen City Classic, which features divisions for Women's Class "B," "C" and "D" teams and is Greater Cincinnati's longest running women's tournament. Last year Hill & Griffith upended two-time champion Shooters in the "C" division finals, while Pelle's outslugged the Intimidators 19-13 in the "D."

The final NIT of the season at Pastime Park will be the 26th Annual Worth-Bud Light Mixed Couples NIT on September 13th. A U-Trip World qualifier, this long-standing classic offers World Tournament berths to Mixed "C" and "E" World Tournaments in Lexington, SC, and the Mixed "D" World October 17-18 in Lake Buena Vista, Fl. All three events will be held on October 17-19.

Tournament packets or fliers for all five of Pastime Park's NIT's can be downloaded from the park's website beginning January 31st.

At the state level Pastime Park will host the USSSA Men's Southern One-Pitch State Tournament on Sunday, August 10th (for Men's "C," "D" and "E" teams), and the Ohio Class "E" State August 16-17.

Last year's Ohio USSSA Men's "E" State was held in Dayton, where it facilitated 44 teams.

"We're proud to be hosting this important event for the ninth time," says Pastime manager John Herbert. "We anticipate having a lot of local teams participate, especially from our own park."

Pastime Park also conducts an extensive schedule of USSSA qualifying tournaments that attract some 100 tri-state teams to the facility annually.

"We provide good umpiring and nice awards, and most of our tournaments are held on one day," points out Herbert.

Most prominent of Pastime's qualifiers are its two monster "C-D-E" season "kickoff" tournaments that traditionally mark the opening of the tournament season in Greater Cincinnati.

The 10th Annual Pastime Park Spring Open drew a combined 26 teams in two divisions, while the 10th Annual Pastime Park Round Robin Spring Tune-Up attracted 22 teams.

Other "Special Events" slated for Pastime Park include the 7th Annual "Bash For Cash" on March 15-16, and two one-pitch jacket tournaments held on the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays. The "Cincysoftball.com Big 'E' and the Big 'D' World Qualifiers" will be held on back-to-back Saturdays - April 26th and May 3rd. Both events, which are sponsored by Cincysoftball.com, feature unique formats along with a generous package of paid World berths and travel expense. Pastime's other noteworthy returning slow pitch events will be two "Iron Man" round robins, the 3rd Annual "King of the Park," a free event for Pastime league teams, and the 5th Annual "Cincinnati World Series of Softball."

"Iron Man II," slated for April 12, and "Iron Man III," to be held June 28, are "grueling tests of stamina," says Pastime's John Herbert.

"We guarantee teams seven games, and the winner more often than not isn't the best team in the tournament, but the team with the most endurance," he says.

Herbert calls "The King of the Park" Tournament, scheduled for Sunday, June 29th, "a fun day of softball, cornhole and prize drawings given to our park teams in appreciation of their choosing Pastime to play their leagues.

"This is a neat tournament and day because it gives us at the park a chance to be with our teams, meet and talk with players and fans, and just really enjoy a day at the park of 'easy going' softball."

Herbert says that in addition to the fact that there is no tournament entry fee, there is also no gate fee charged during the "King of the Park."

Herberts says that the park's World Series, to be held August 9th, "has become one of our most exciting events" due to an enticing package of USSSA post-season berths and travel expense.

"We are trying to give teams something different in tournament play," says Herbert of his park's special events. "And these are all one day tournaments at a cost that teams can feel they are getting more games and more fun for their money."

Round robins are also held at the park for Men's C, D and E teams every Saturday, Saturday night, Sunday and holiday from March 1st through October 18th

For any information regarding Pastime Park's 2008 tournament program, call 367-0266 or 300-5246, or visit their website, www.pastimepark.com.

2008 PASTIME PARK TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

-MEN'S CLASS B TOURNAMENTS-

March 29-30 Louisville Slugger Early Bird R.R. USSSA B/C NIT
May 3-4 USSSA B-C NIT

-MEN'S CLASS C TOURNAMENTS-

March 1-2 Pastime Park Spring Open (C-D-E)
* USSSA C-D-E State/National Qualifier
March 8-9 PP Round Robin Spring Tune-up (C-D-E)
* USSSA C-D-E State/National Qualifier
March 15-16 NKYS softball.com BASH FOR CASH
March 29-30 Louisville Slugger Early Bird R.R. USSSA B/C NIT
April 19 USSSA C State/National Qualifier
May 3-4 USSSA B-C NIT
May 18 USSSA C State/National Qualifier
May 26 PP Memorial Day One Pitch Jacket Tourney (C-D-E)
June 7-8 Softball Magazine / USSSA C NIT
August 10 USSSA One Pitch State
Sept. 1 PP Labor Day One Pitch Jacket Tourney (C-D-E)
October 18 6th Annual Jim Del Monaco Memorial Tournament
-WOMEN'S C-D-E TOURNAMENTS-

June 8 USSSA Women's D-E State/National Qualifier
June 21-22 Bud Light – USSSA Women's C-D-E
* **30th Annual Queen City Classic NIT**

-MEN'S CLASS D TOURNAMENTS-

March 1-2 Pastime Park Spring Open (C-D-E)
* USSSA C-D-E State/National Qualifier
March 8-9 PP Round Robin Spring Tune-up (C-D-E)
* USSSA C-D-E State/National Qualifier
March 15-16 NKYS softball.com BASH FOR CASH
April 12 IRON MAN II – 7 Game Round Robin
April 19 USSSA D State/National Qualifier
May 3 CincySoftball.com BIG "D" World
* **USSSA D State / National / World Qualifier**
May 17 THE ONE & OUT (FREE TOURNAMENT - All teams)
May 26 PP Memorial Day One Pitch Jacket Tourney (C-D-E)
June 28 Iron Man III - 7 Game Round Robin
June 29 King of the Park (Free Tournament - league teams only)
August 9-10 5th Annual Cincinnati World Series of Softball (D-E)
* USSSA State/National Qualifier
August 10 USSSA One Pitch State
Sept. 1 PP Labor Day One Pitch Jacket Tourney (C-D-E)
October 18 6th Annual Jim Del Monaco Memorial Tournament

-MEN'S CLASS E TOURNAMENTS-

March 1-2 Pastime Park Spring Open (C-D-E)
* USSSA C-D-E State/National Qualifier
March 8-9 PP Round Robin Spring Tune-up (C-D-E)

* USSSA C-D-E State/National Qualifier
March 15-16 NKYSOFTBALL.COM BASH FOR CASH
April 12 IRON MAN II – 7 Game Round Robin
April 13 USSSA E World Qualifier
April 20 USSSA E State/National Qualifier
**April 26 CincySoftball.com BIG “E” World
* USSSA E World Qualifier**
May 11 USSSA E World Qualifier
May 17 THE ONE & OUT (FREE TOURNAMENT - All teams)
May 18 USSSA E State/National Qualifier
May 26 PP Memorial Day One Pitch Jacket Tourney (C-D-E)
June 7-8 Softball Magazine USSSA E World Series Qualifier
June 28 Iron Man III - 7 Game Round Robin (C-D-E)
June 29 King of the Park (Free Tournament - league teams only)
August 9-10 5th Annual Cincinnati World Series of Softball (D-E)
* USSSA State/National Qualifier
August 10 USSSA One Pitch State
August 16-17 USSSA MEN’S E STATE
Sept. 1 PP Labor Day One Pitch Jacket Tourney (C-D-E)
October 18 6th Annual Jim Del Monaco Memorial Tournament

-MIXED COUPLES’ TOURNAMENTS-

Sept. 13 Bud Light – USSSA Mixed Couple’s NIT
2nd Sunday of every month: USSSA Mixed Qualifiers

-PASTIME PARK SPECIAL EVENTS 2008-

March 1-2 Pastime Park Open (C-D-E)
March 15-16 NKYSOFTBALL.COM BASH FOR CASH
March 29-30 Louisville Slugger Early Bird R.R. USSSA B/C NIT
April 12 Iron Man II – 7 Game Round Robin
April 13 USSSA E World Qualifier
April 26 CincySoftball.com BIG “E” World Qualifier
May 3 CincySoftball.com BIG “D” State/National/World Qualifier
May 3-4 USSSA B-C NIT
May 11 USSSA E World Qualifier
May 17 THE ONE & OUT (FREE TOURNAMENT - All teams)
June 7-8 Softball Magazine/USSSA E World Series Qualifier
June 21-22 30th Annual Women’s Queen City Classic NIT
June 28 Iron Man III – 7 Game Round Robin
June 29 King of the Park (Free Tournament - league teams only)
August 9-10 5th Annual Cincinnati World Series of Softball (D-E)
August 10 USSSA One Pitch State C-D-E Tournaments
August 16-17 USSSA MEN’S E STATE
Sept. 13 Bud Light - USSSA Mixed Couple’s NIT
October 18 6th Annual Jim Del Monaco Memorial Tournament

**USSSA Men’s “C,” Women’s, And Mixed NIT’s; U-Trip Mixed State, UA Nationals Highlight 2008
Schedule...**

Five National Invitationals, Two State Tournaments Carded For Riverstar

Five USSSA National Invitational Tournaments, two Ohio USSSA State Championships and the U. A. National Tournament will be among the featured events on Riverstar Park's tournament calendar for 2008.

Riverstar's National Invitational Tournaments for 2008 will include the 7th Annual Bud Light-USSSA "Bash For Cash" Men's C NIT March 15-16, the 9th Annual Worth-Bud Light Commie Currens Memorial USSSA Women's C-D NIT April 5, the 9th Annual Worth-Bud Light-Mike Adler Memorial Mixed Couples B-C-D-E April 28, the 17th Annual Worth-Bud Light-City Slam USSSA Mixed Couples NIT May 31, and a Worth-Bud Light-USSSA Men's Class C-D National Invitational Tournament June 28-29.

State Tournaments slated for Riverstar include the Ohio USSSA Mixed Couples C, D and E Championships August 23-24, and the Ohio USSSA Mixed Couples Fall State September 13.

Riverstar's lone national tournament is its hallmark event, the 31st U. A. National Tournament June 13-15.

Missouri Hits averaged 22 runs per game and mercy-ruled four of six opponents as they romped past a 22-team field to capture the 7th Annual "Bash for Cash" USSSA C NIT. This year's tournament will be held March 15-16.

Last year's Worth-Bud Light Commie Currens Memorial USSSA Women's NIT was won by D & S Engineering, which rallied from a 7-0 1st inning deficit to outlast the Battin' Bullets 11-9 in the championship game. The popular kick-off event for area women's teams will be April 5 in 2008.

Riverstar's two mixed NIT's - the 9th Annual Worth-Bud Light-Mike Adler Memorial Mixed NIT April 26, and the 17th Annual Worth-Bud Light-City Slam Mixed NIT May 29 - feature berths to the ever-popular USSSA Mixed World tournaments. This year's U-Trip Worlds are in Lexington, South Carolina (C and E) and Lake Buena Vista, Fl. (D).

High Octane rallied for two runs in the bottom of the 7th to stun Wessel Sports 20-19 in the championship game of the 2007 Mike Adler. And in the City Slam, Arni's/Prime Players outslugged Dented Bats 21-18 in the winners' bracket finals and 20-16 in the championship game of the C division, while Bomb Squad spanked Sizzle Softball 18-7 in the deciding game of the D.

Riverstar Park Manager Bill Chard again has high expectations for his park's mixed NIT's due to a solid base of teams at his park and the high interest shown in the midwest.

"We sanction almost 100 mixed teams at the park every year, and we expect to have all the out of town teams back this year," said Chard. "We've had teams from Washington DC, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky."

Riverstar's second C NIT, slated for June 28-29 this year, was claimed by Goodfellows last summer. The Butler, Oh., club swept past six opponents to best a monster 31-team field. The event will feature a paid USSSA C World Tournament berth to Sterling Heights, Mi. plus \$600 in travel money (based on 17 teams). The tournament will also award a berth to the USSSA D World in Lake Buena Vista, Fl.

The 30th Annual U. A. National Tournament had 42 entries from a dozen states and Canada last season. Lansing #333 Black rolled to their fourteenth A crown, steamrolling Louisville #502 in the finals to bag their tenth straight title. Cincinnati #392 Red held off New York #1 11-5 in the second championship game to outlast a 24-team B field, while Portsmouth #577 blanked Monroe #671 10-0 in the C finals.

The next largest event held at Riverstar each year is the Worth-Bud Light-Cincinnati Recreation Commission-USSSA Mixed Couples State Tournament, which has been held at the park for the past eighteen years. Scheduled for August 25-26, the event had 38 teams in four divisions in 2007. The tournament features class C, D, E and E-Rec divisions.

Riverstar's other USSSA state tournament will be September 13, when the Worth-Bud Light-Ohio USSSA Mixed Fall State is slated.

"We enjoy the mixed and women's programs at our park," says Chard. "We offer mixed leagues every night of the week except Wednesday, and women's leagues on Wednesday and Friday."

Other noteworthy special events being held at Riverstar in 2008 will include the new St. Patrick's March Madness Week of Suds March 17-22, the Queen City Classic BASA NIT May 17-18, the Turner Construction National Tournament July 26, the 2nd Annual Wessel Cup E-Rec, the BASA World Tournament September 5-7, the Two-N-Out.com Conference Championships September 13, and the Fall Cash Classic Equalizer October 11-2.

USSSA qualifiers are held for men's class C, D and E teams, including "Super" qualifiers on April 6 (D-E), May 10 (C-D), June 22 (E) and August 2 (D-E). The C-D and D-E "Super" qualifiers boast an \$1,100 payout, while the E features an \$800 purse. Five E World qualifiers - scheduled for May 11, June 22, June 29, July 20 and July 27 - will give the winners a paid berth to the USSSA E World Tournament September 11-14 in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Most USSSA Men's tournaments at Riverstar are co-sponsored by Worth Sports Company and Bud Light. And most are one-day affairs. One day round robins are conducted on many Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Several offer special prizes and awards, including jackets and league fees.

Riverstar features five lighted, fenced diamonds with concrete dugouts and an infield and outfield irrigation system, scoreboards, batting cages, heated and air-conditioned concession area, a children's play area, restrooms and showers, a pro shop, and paved parking lot.

For additional information call Riverstar Park at 232-4283, or visit the park's website at www.wesselsports.com.

2008 RIVERSTAR PARK TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

2008 USSSA MEN'S QUALIFYING AND NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

March 14-16 7th Wessel Sports "Bash for Cash" "D" NIT
March 15-16 7th Wessel Sports "Bash for Cash" "C" NIT
April 6 "E" "Super" National Qualifier \$1,500 Payout
May 10 "C/D" "Super" National Qualifier \$1,100 Payout
May 11 "E" State/National/World Qualifier
May 31-June 1 Billy Backman "E-Rec" City Slam
June 21 "E" "Super" World Qualifier \$800 Payout
June 22 "D/E" State/National Qualifier
June 28-29 "C/D" NIT
June 29 "E" State/National/World Qualifier
July 19 "Major" NIT
July 20 "E" State/National/World Qualifier
July 27 "E" State/National/World Qualifier
August 3 "D/E" "Super" National Qualifier \$1,100 Payout

2008 MEN'S FRIDAY ROUND ROBINS

April 4, April 11

2008 MEN'S SATURDAY ROUND ROBINS

July 12, August 9, August 16, September 20, September 27,
October 18, October 25

2008 MEN'S SUNDAY ROUND ROBINS

July 13, August 10, August 17, September 21, September 28,

October 19

2008 MEN'S SPECIAL AWARD ROUND ROBINS

March 9 - Sunday Bash For Cash Warm-Up/Drawing Party
March 14 - Friday Bash For Cash Tune-Up
August 2 - Saturday Fall League Fee
September 1 - Monday 1 Pitch Jackets
October 26 - Sunday 12 Turkeys

2008 MEN'S MILLER LITE SATURDAY NIGHT ROUND ROBIN SERIES

April 5, April 26, May 3, May 10, June 21, June 28, July 12, August 2, August 9, August 16

2008 MIXED TOURNAMENTS

April 26 Mike Adler "B/C/D/E" NIT
May 31 Billy Backman "B/C/D/E" City Slam NIT
August 23-24 "C/D/E" Ohio State Tournament
September 13 "B/C/D/E" Ohio Fall State Tournament
October 5 "C/D/E" Customer Appreciation

2008 WOMEN'S TOURNAMENTS

March 15-16 "Bash for Cash" World Qualifier
April 5 Commie Currens "C/D" NIT
September 14 "C/D" World Series Tune-Up
October 4 "C/D/E" Customer Appreciation

2008 RIVERSTAR PARK SPECIAL EVENTS

March 14-16 7th Wessel Sports "Bash for Cash" WSL/ASA
March 17-22 St. Patrick's March Madness Week of Suds
May 17-18 BASA NIT - Queen City Classic
June 13-15 U. A. National Tournament
July 26 Turner Construction National Tournament
August 30 2nd Annual Wessel Cup "E-Rec" Tournament
September 5-7 BASA World Championships
September 13 Two-N-Out.com Conference Championships
October 4 "C/D/E" Customer Appreciation
October 11-12 Fall Cash Classic "Equalizer"

2008 BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

March 28-30 Advantage Sports - March Madness
April 12-13, 19-20 USSSA Spring Swing
April 26-27 Advantage Sports - Spring Classic
May 3-4 USSSA Mid-May Classic
May 24-25 USSSA Memorial Blast
June 7-8 USSSA West Chester Sluggers NIT
July 4-6 USSSA Extravaganza NIT

