

**OCTOBER
2001**

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SIDELINES is the official publication of:

Springfield Youth Athletic Association, Inc.
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SIDELINES

News and Information for **Springfield Youth Athletic Association** Players, Parents and Supporters

THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME

Late last June four 13-year-old boys and eleven 14-year-old boys assembled to represent our community as its Pony all-star baseball team. My son was one of the younger players selected, so, as head coach of his younger Pony-age team during the regular season, I had the privilege of being an assistant coach for the all-stars. What transpired with this team in July provided me with one of my richest experiences as a coach and the father of a player.

Our coaching staff knew this team was loaded with talent. Our biggest challenge was developing team chemistry among the four players from the younger Pony team and eleven players from the older squad. Soon-to-be eighth graders meshing with future high school freshmen. Indeed a challenge.

At the first practice head coach Dixie Davis, Jr. made it clear age didn't matter. He stressed the importance of working hard together to be the best players, coaches and team we could be. He also made it clear we were together for one purpose – winning baseball games in the important month of July when baseball gets serious around here. After a few more practices it was clear this group bought into Coach Davis's team concept and mission to succeed.

The talent on the field was impressive. Our roster was loaded with gifted, well-rounded ball players who could get the job done in all facets of the game. As a bonus we had some very smart players. The next coaching challenge involved selecting starters, and in the process some players were asked to switch positions or accept a role as a sub after being a starter or steady player during the regular season. The unselfish response by the players involved was nothing short of inspirational and a model for all of our young athletes.

Two 13-year-old players earned starting jobs and played all but a couple innings. A third younger Pony played about 50 percent of the time, and the fourth played a valuable role in spot duty. The older players left in the dugout, while disappointed with reduced playing time, became keenly aware of the value of these moves and responded by being team leaders. They routinely patted guys on the back, warmed up pitchers, and stayed in games mentally. And when they were called upon to grab a bat or ball glove, they delivered when their teammates needed them to make a contribution on the field.

Then there were the all those wonderful fans dressed in red. Parents, grandparents, neighbors, friends, and other players showed up for games in impressive numbers. Our community really came out to support the team, and they were as much a part of the team's success as the players. We cruised through the district tournament with a 5-0 record and left Glenwood with a well-deserved championship and our ticket to the state tournament. We continued our solid play in the first two games at state, winning the first and losing the second by two runs. Our season ended with a disappointing loss in the third game, when we struggled through our worst outing of the post-season.

You can read all the details on our web site by visiting the baseball page. But you won't read about the heart, determination, and self-sacrifice exhibited by a group of fifteen inspiring young men who grasp the spirit of the game of baseball. You won't feel the support produced by a large following of classy fans dressed in red, some keeping water jugs iced and full, others making sure players stayed cool, hydrated and fed. And you won't get a sense of the tremendous amount of pride we all felt for our community and our team.

Our Pony boys of summer played great baseball and made everyone involved very proud. As did our Bronco baseball team and 10 and Under softball team that also competed in state tournaments last summer. Throw in the current success of our young football program, and our organization, which includes you, has a lot to be proud of today. Our challenge is to maintain the excitement, continue to build pride, and strive for excellence in all we do.



Frank Staskiewicz, Jr.
President

FROM THE FOOTBALL COMMISSIONER

By Mike Williams

Our first tackle football season ended October 21. The team of nine- and ten-year-old players completed a perfect season at 7-0. The 11- and 12-year-old team finished with a 3-4 record. Both teams competed against teams from the intramural Panther League in Council Bluffs.

The Panther League had about 270 players sign up. Kids range from having lots of prior football playing experience to being first year players. The top 20-25 players in each age group are picked to compete in the more competitive Heartland League in Omaha. The remaining players are drafted onto seven teams of 15-18 players in each age group. Those teams compete amongst themselves and against Springfield.

I believe this has made a pretty good match with what we are putting on the field. There is an added bonus though, you see, since Panther wanted their teams to play some away games. Each Panther team traveled to Springfield once, which allowed us to play all our game at home in the Platteview High School stadium.

We also have our flag football program still in place for the younger kids who want to get involved. We had enough players' register to put together two teams. The flag teams are coached by Mike Buskirk and Scott Daly. They're playing in the Bellevue Junior Sports Association (B.J.S.A.). I feel this program is very important, since it gives our kids a chance, at an early age, to learn fundamentals of football, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Our flag teams are doing well in the B.J.S.A league. Heading into the final week of the season the Colts (Buskirk's team) are 6-1, and the Lions (Daly's team) are 3-4. The two teams will play each other to wrap up the season Sunday, October 28. Although I don't judge a coach's success by only his won-loss record, I know these guys are doing a great job of teaching the game and making it fun for the kids. Keep up the good work guys!

I want to inform everyone that the football banquet is scheduled for Sunday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Sarpy Co. fairgrounds. Louise Jacott has been hard at work planning this since the beginning of the season. A lasagna dinner will be served followed by a short program. Cost of the tickets is \$4.00. Kids six years old and under pay only \$1.75. Tickets are available from coaches.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Officer elections will be held in February. Char Iske will step aside as Treasurer after three years of hard work and dedicated service. The remaining Board members are willing to continue their service, but nominees for all four positions will be accepted at the January Board meeting. Contact any current Board member if you're interested in an officer position.

FROM THE BASEBALL COMMISSIONER

by Jeff Kreifels

It is that time of the year that the weather cools, leaves fall, and our focus is on football. With the exception of the Major League pennant races and the World Series, baseball takes a step back to allow the fall sports seasons to occur and be enjoyed. Autumn is, though, a good time to discuss ideas and set goals for the next baseball season.

One important topic being developed is the drafting and adoption of a policies manual. Just a couple of the subjects getting consideration include how we select coaches and teams, and the distribution of uniforms and equipment. President Frank Staskiewicz and myself discussed such matters and felt that, although we have a pretty good handle on how we operate, it was in the best interest of the organization to put these policies in writing. This manual would be used as a reference tool when someone questions our methods in the future. By next spring the manual should be ready for use, and the 2002 season will get off to a great start and go smoothly.

FROM THE SOFTBALL COMMISSIONER

by Jim Bowers

Right now there isn't much going on in softball. I'll be calling coaches from this past season about coaching next season. I would like to have coaches established by registration time, because that is one of the main questions asked at registration.

The 8 & Under, 10 & Under, and 12 & Under teams will compete in the Todd Valley League again next season. Girls in the older age groups should get together well before registration to decide if they want to field a team in 2002, and avoid the confusion we had last year.

I'm still seeking a volunteer that would be willing to work with me to learn the Softball Commissioner duties and eventually take them when I step down. After 20 years in this role, 2002 *will* be my last, and I'll vacate this position in February 2003.

Want to know more about our organization, the sports we sponsor, and our teams? Visit our web site the next time you're logged onto the Internet. We're online at:

www.goodlifeoutdoors.com/syaa

A BIG "THANK YOU" GOES OUT TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO PITCHED IN TO MAKE OUR FIRST SEASON OF TACKLE FOOTBALL A HUGE SUCCESS.

SUMMER POST-SEASON SUCCESS

Last July our three all-star baseball teams, and our 10 and Under softball team, competed in post-season tournaments. Congratulations to all the players and coaches on your post-season achievements, and to all the parents and fans who supported you. All of you represented the Springfield community with class.

Here's a brief rundown on how they did.

Softball

The girls ventured to Hastings for the state 10 and Under tournament where they finished 1-2. A few weeks earlier the team played very well while going 2-2 in the Todd Valley League tournament.

Baseball

The Pony all-stars (13- and 14-year-old players) swept through their district baseball tournament unbeaten. Along the way they outscored the competition 58-18 in Glenwood. They finished the season 1-2 in the state tournament to wrap up a fantastic post-season run for S.Y.A.A. Visit our web site to get all the details.

The Bronco All-stars (11- and 12-year-old players) won a dramatic semi-final contest in Carter Lake. They had to play the championship game immediately afterwards and fell to Suburban. But as runners-up they advanced to the state tournament, also hosted by Carter Lake. The Broncos lost a pair of close games at state to finish 3-4 in tournament play.

The Mustang All-stars (9- and 10-year-old players) lost a tie-breaker and thus a chance to move into the semi-finals of their district tournament at Ashland. The team finished their exciting season with a 3-1 record in the tournament play.

10 and Under Softball

Shannon Block	Cassidy Spurck
Justine Buskirk	Andrea Staskiewicz
Camille Dalton	Morgan Stoddard
Tiffany Groves	Kelsey Swanson
Anita Mace	Dana Turner
Katie Newton	Alexandria Webster

Head Coach: CeCe Mitchell
Asst. Coach: Joanne Swanson

Pony All-stars

Jacob Brun	Tyler McNair
Dixie Davis III	Kyle Oiness
Drew Fauver	Doug Sheehan
Andy Fillingsness	Brad Staskiewicz
Justin Hoskins	Derek Van Dyke
Ben Iske	Clint Williams
Brett Kreifels	Kyle Wilson
Sam Malone	

Head Coach: Dixie Davis, Jr.
Asst. Coach: Frank Staskiewicz, Jr.
Asst. Coach: Paul Caudill

CALENDAR

November 8, Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.

November 11, Football Banquet, 2:00 p.m., Fairgrounds

December 13, Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.

December 15, Newsletter material deadline

January 11, Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.

January tbd, Baseball, softball, tee-ball registration

Monthly Board meetings are open to all and are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Our regular meeting site is the Springfield Legion Hall. However, the date, time and location are subject to change due to the availability of the hall. Only members of the Board of Directors are sent meeting reminders. If you plan to attend a meeting, you're encouraged to contact a Board member to confirm the meeting will be held as scheduled.

Bronco All-stars

Nick Bowen	Kyle Lane
Michael Carlson	Michael McGill
Aaron Clouse	Beck Oiness
James Dalton	Tyler Percifield
Blaze Glinsky	Jared Streeter
Jacob Hoskins	T.J. Turner
Aaron Jeffery	Wyatt Wirges
Andy Jordening	

Head Coach: Don Dalton
Asst. Coach: John McGill
Asst. Coach: Kevin Carlson

Mustang All-stars

Tyler Carlson	Sam Kohlбек
Joseph Fauver	Brett Lane
Matthew Gilleland	Tyler Reed
Jacob Herbener	Zach Rose
Travis Jacott	Brandon Schram
Zachary Johnson	Jim Walter
Andrew Kalin	Garrett Wirges
Matthew Katusin	

Head Coach: John Kohlбек
Asst. Coach: Mike Kalin
Asst. Coach: Roger Rose

2001 DIAMOND SPORTS SPONSORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

We received a significant number of contributions through memorial fund and wedding gifts. Jim and Lisza Bowers requested memorials to S.Y.A.A. upon the passing of Jim's sister and Lisza's mother. Paul and Jane Caudill requested contributions to S.Y.A.A. in lieu of wedding gifts upon their marriage last August. Thanks to the Bowers and Caudills, and everyone else who contributed. Total contributions exceeded \$4,000.

S.Y.A.A. THANKS THESE SPONSORS OF THE 2001 DIAMOND SPORTS SEASONS.

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