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# SIDELINES

Published for the parents, players and supporters of Springfield Youth Athletic Association

**MAY 2003**

Frank Staskiewicz, Jr., Editor

## Expectations and Goals

We're off and running with another diamond sports season. After all the success we had last season, it's tempting to expect, even demand, a repeat performance in 2003.

Well, that could happen. We have some solid coaches in place who do a good job of teaching fundamentals and helping the kids enjoy the game. Our teams will certainly be competitive and have a shot to be very successful this season.

However, I think it's wise to be cautious when setting expectations. If we aim too high, too much pressure can be placed on the kids and disappointment can result. If we aim too low, we risk taking the season for granted, not teaching enough, then underachieving.

But when we aim to simply work hard and commit to excellence, anything can happen. Wins can add up. Championships can result.

The same is true for our organization as we strive to be the best we can be. That's why the Board compiled a long list of goals for 2003 covering our entire program. A number of the goals focus on ball field improvements, because that's one of our greatest needs, but all of our sports are included.

We're now considering fences at City Park and Springfield Elementary. We've shifted our focus on lighting a field to Springfield Elementary, since it's adjacent to Buffalo Park's field and the concession stand there.

Our storage shed needs extensive work to make room for all of our football equipment. We're working toward getting our competitive volleyball and basketball programs up and running for next fall and winter.

These are just a few examples of our goals for 2003. We'll prioritize and pursue them as funding becomes available. You can help with the funding end of things by considering a contribution yourself, by spreading the word about SYAA among area businesses or your employer, and by pitching in when we need help completing work related to our goals.

Be sure to check with your employer about corporate giving programs that could benefit SYAA. A couple families have already made significant gifts by getting their employer involved in a gift matching program.

Now it's time to grab your lawn chairs and sunflower seeds and head to a ballpark. Enjoy the season with your families. And let's all remember to show our opponents why we're known for having some of the most supportive and respectful fans around.

**SIDELINES** is the official publication of: **SPRINGFIELD YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION** P.O. Box 409 Springfield, NE 68059

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We're online at [www.syaaonline.org](http://www.syaaonline.org)

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**SYAA**  
P.O. Box 409  
Springfield, NE 68059

Frank Staskiewicz, Jr.  
President

## BASKETBALL

Luke Shepherd, Commissioner

Summer is a great time for kids to get out and practice basketball. There are a lot of camps, leagues, and tournaments during the summer that can help your child become a better ball player. If you're a parent of a child who would like to participate on one of our competitive teams next fall and winter, watch for more information in our next newsletter, and our web site, about tryouts early in the next school year.

If you have an interest in coaching a competitive team, please let me know. We're hoping to conduct a coaching clinic with Platteview's coaches to help you learn solid approaches to teaching fundamentals and what it takes to coach and compete at a higher level.

## VOLLEYBALL

Leigh Ann Amerine, Commissioner

I am contacting coaches from Louisville, Gretna, and Weeping Water to see if they would be interested in a "season" for girls in the 5th and 6th grades. My idea is to play round robin-type tournaments at each school's home site. The season would last about four weeks sometime in August and September. Informational letters and sign up sheets will be available at Platteview's summer camp for elementary girls at the end of May. If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this season please contact me at 253-3969.

## FOOTBALL

Mike Williams, Commissioner

Registration for the 2003 football season is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Platteview High School during Coach Dave Herbener's youth camp. We're adding a 13-year-old tackle team this season, and that team will practice only once per week once the junior high football season begins. We'll again field tackle teams for 9- and 10-year old boys and 11- and 12-year-olds, plus flag teams for 7- and 8-year-olds.

Registration forms will be available at registration, or you can get one on our web site.

## BASEBALL

Gary Jacott, Commissioner

The baseball season is up and running. I encourage everyone to check out the composite schedule that will be posted on our web site, then try to support all of our teams when you can take in an extra game or two.

In early April we had a Buffalo Park clean-up day. I would like to thank the Pony 1, Pony 2 and Legion Junior's players, parents and coaches for all of the hard work to prepare the field, concession stand and batting cage for this season.

Throughout the course of the season, the coaches will be evaluating the players for possible selection to our Mustang, Bronco and Pony All-stars teams that will represent the Springfield community in the PONY district and state tournaments. The coaches will provide more details regarding this process near the end of May.

Have a great season everyone!

## 2003 SPRINGFIELD CLASSIC

The second annual Springfield Classic, a wood bat baseball tournament for Pony teams, will be held May 30 through June 8. Our Bronco teams will again play their games scheduled during the tournament run with wood bats too. We need a lot of volunteers from all our baseball, softball and tee-ball teams to make this event successful, so please help any way you can when someone calls seeking your assistance during the tournament.

More information on the tournament and skills competitions will be available very soon on our web site. Flyers will be distributed to our teams too.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BALL FIELDS

The ball fields at Springfield Elementary and Westmont Elementary came through the winter in excellent shape following renovation work last fall. The spring rains have really helped the new grass at Springfield Elementary's field. We're restricting use of that field to only games this season, which will give the new grass the best opportunity to take hold and thicken.

Our web site got a facelift this spring. Check it out to stay abreast of all the latest news and get information about our sports and teams.

[www.syaaonline.org](http://www.syaaonline.org)

Please consider a donation to SYAA to help us reach our goals for the organization. More information and contribution forms are available on our website.

## CALENDAR

### Thursday, May 8

Board meeting,  
7:00 p.m., Springfield Legion

### Saturday, May 10

Football registration  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Platteview High School

### Friday, May 30 or Saturday, May 31

Springfield Classic wood bat tournament begins  
Buffalo Park (through June 8)

### Thursday, June 12

Board meeting  
7:00 p.m., Springfield Legion

### Thursday, July 10

Board meeting  
7:00 p.m., Springfield Legion

### Thursday, August 14

Board meeting  
7:00 p.m., Springfield Legion

Please note board meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change. Anyone may observe meetings, but you should check with a board member to make sure the meeting schedule hasn't changed.

## THANKS TO THESE VOLUNTEERS

Mike Fauver – Mike donated a Swingaway training device for hitters, and he took time to teach our coaches how to assemble and store the device, as well as how to use it effectively.

Russ Hoskins – Russ is doing a great job as our field maintenance coordinator and handling the preparation of fields in Springfield.

Dick and Casey Webster – Dick and his son, Casey, are handling field maintenance duties in Westmont.

Todd Boggess – Todd is our baseball umpire coordinator and is responsible for making sure we have umpires for the many home games scheduled for our teams.

Scott Daly – Scott is our field scheduling coordinator who is doing a masterful job of scheduling teams to use fields for practices and games.

Please thank all these volunteers the next you see them.

**SYAA** is a non-profit youth sports organization dedicated to providing boys and girls in the Springfield, Nebraska, community a variety of opportunities to participate in sports and develop athletic and life skills through preparation and competition.