



The 411 from the Fast Club

At the Fast Club board meeting 10/16/2019 an idea was presented to set up a regular newsletter to keep our members informed of what is going on with the club. In this publication you will find some dugout humor, some meeting notes, maybe even a sales pitch to get more people to attend our meetings. I sincerely hope the information is a hit.

I'll start with an update on fall activity. Travel teams are set for 2020. We have our first ever 8u team, a 10u team, a 12u team and two 14u teams. We are looking for a coach for the recently added 14u team. 8U had a practice last night, 10U met a few weeks ago, 12u did some fall tournaments and 14U had a couple practices and then shut down for a couple months. Oshkosh West Varsity Coach Tim Kohl led a group to put away the batting cages and wind screen. The facility is put to bed for the winter.

League registration will open in January of 2020, we discussed a couple ideas to get the word out far and wide to increase the number of teams playing at all age levels. Our summer 2019 seven-week season was a success with nearly 100 young ladies on 12 teams from 4 years old to 11 years old.

Fast Club is very fortunate to have sponsors for our program. On board this past summer were [4Imprint](#), [BEEZ Electric](#), [Jaeger Sports](#), [Omni Glass](#), [Thrivent Financial](#), [Provident Financial](#), [Oshkosh Trophy](#), [Sawyer Creek Orthodontics](#), [Pixels Arcade](#), [Hullar Electric](#) and [Fox River Brewing Company](#). Community involvement is key to the success of this program. We couldn't make it happen without these generous companies. The club is already securing sponsorships for 2020, please email oshfastclub@gmail.com if you are interested or know of a company that could potentially help.

During the off-season Fast Club will purchase some new equipment for our league players. We need tees, balls, catcher's equipment, bats and batting helmets.

The club is discussing training opportunities for the off season as well. There will be camps after the new year for all players put on by Coach Kohl though the YMCA. Look for the information on the YMCA flyers, www.oshkoshfastclub.com and Facebook as soon as it comes out. Since we are on the topic of information, the club is looking for more places to get the word out. We truly believe that Oshkosh is hardly aware of who we are and what we do. If you have a group or social media page that would be willing to share our message please let me know oshfastclub@gmail.com.

Great News from Ray Maurer at the Oshkosh Parks Department! Southside Lighted (Spanbauer Park) has been completed and is available for booking this spring. The field rehab included new outfield grass

and fence, an improved infield and adults will no longer play there. The field is for youth 6u to high school girls fastpitch. Traditionally the Eagles Club has run concessions at this diamond. The city will get back to me if this is going to continue or not.

Rainbow Park (Syd Supple's legacy field) is also mostly complete. The scoreboard has yet to be set. The city is waiting for frost in the ground. A dedication/ribbon cutting is going on Saturday 10/19 at noon.

This is great news for our sport, now we need more girls to play fastpitch!

Did you know that fast pitch softball was started in Chicago in 1887 as an indoor recreation by newspaper reporter George Hancock?

First NCAA Women's College World Series was held in 1982, the first-ever WCWS was held in 1969 in Omaha, Nebraska sponsored by the Amateur Softball Association and the Division of Girls and Women's Sports.

Softball debuted as an Olympic medal sport in 1996. U.S. Olympic team member Dot Richardson, who hit the game winning home run in the 1996 gold medal game is an orthopedic surgeon. Tickets were SOLD OUT for every game of this Olympic tournament.

Why is a softball called a softball? You must have asked yourself this question numerous times, especially if you got hit in the face by one of these. The name softball dates from 1926, but there is no clear explanation where the name comes from. Some say that the name originates from the first ball, intended for indoor play, that was bigger, softer and squishier. Since then, the ball hardened but the name stuck. Others say that the name comes from the method used to pitch and the fact that it is not wound as tightly as a baseball. But other than name, there's really nothing soft about softball.

Facts from allaboutfastpitch.com

Thanks all, pray for a short winter and dry spring, see you at the diamond!

Dan Bergin

Oshkosh Fast Club