



New Ulm Girls Fast Pitch Softball Association

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

2nd Weds. of each month. 6:30 p.m.
Check our website for agenda.
<http://www.newulmgirlsfastpitch.com>
New Ulm American Legion Club

SOFTBALL SIGN UPS

Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010
1:00 p.m.
New Ulm Senior High School Gym

FISH FRY (fundraiser)

Friday, February 26, 2010
11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
New Ulm American Legion Club

SOFTBALL TRY OUTS

March 20, 2010
New Ulm High School
Watch for details in The Journal

MEGA CARD (fundraiser)

Saturday, May 8, 2010
Oakwood Methodist Church

WINDMILL CLASSIC SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

18u, 16u, 14u, 12u, 10u
Saturday & Sunday
June 26 and 27, 2010
New Ulm Softball Fields

Pitching Clinic Dates

January 24
January 31
February 14
February 21
February 28
March 7
March 14
See times scheduled on page 3

Refer to
<http://www.newulmgirlsfastpitch.com>
for lots more information

2010 President's Message, Tim Loose

Greetings Everyone! On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want too wish you a Happy New Year and hope your Christmas season was blessed with the joy of being with family and friends.

2009 was another great year for NUGFP. We had 135 girls participate on 12 teams, including more than 20 girls in 8U, starting with skill development and in-house competition. We hope our 8U program continues to grow and we are always looking for feedback on how we can make this experience enjoyable and challenging for the girls. One option we are looking at for 8U is adding some games with a few area communities later in the season.

Our 2009 Windmill Classic was another huge success! New Ulm played host to 73 teams and their families. With over 170 games being played on 13 fields in the New Ulm Area, we are happy to report everyone found where they needed to be. A special thanks to the Courtland Recreation Association for sharing their community fields with us.

All teams represented New Ulm with our great softball tradition. Special congratulations go to our:

- 10U Red Flames who won Class B State Championship in Mankato!
- 14U Red Sox who finished 2nd at the 24 team Double-elimination MMFL State Tourney, finishing with a season record of 29-9!
- 16U Red Lobsters who represented New Ulm with a 9th place finish at Nationals in Wichita, KS!

I know many of you are starting to get the itch again to get out to swing the bat and throw a little. And I know many of you already kicked it in gear by attending the Jenny Finch Clinic in Rochester in December. Hopefully the clinic got the softball juices flowing again and brought those softball brain cells out of hibernation.

As always, there is no off-season for your board. Our monthly meetings continue throughout the year dealing with planning all our annual events. Included in this newsletter are key dates for 2010... please add them to your calendar now so you don't miss anything! Thank you to Brian Schuck for all his hard work on the board these past years. Also, welcome Brent Donner, who will be replacing Brian's position on the board.

Of course, our first item of business for the year is sign-up day on Sunday January 24 at 1 pm at the New Ulm Senior High School gym. Again this year volunteer hour sign-ups will be handled by giving consecutive numbers to parents at the door on a first-come, first-served basis to establish the sign-up order.

President's message continued on next page.....

For 2010, we will again be asking for a security deposit of \$125 for your volunteer hours. These checks will not be cashed as long as you work your shifts. Remember, we prefer your help, not your money. We are managing the required shifts differently this year. We have been short of manpower at the Windmill Classic Tournament, so we are asking each family to limit their shifts at the Fish Fry to one, with the remaining shifts being completed at the Tournament. Thank you for your help!

Also new uniforms will be coming this year! It was tough to find uniforms that match our existing shorts, so new shorts can be purchased from Nicklasson Athletics in New Ulm.

Pitching instruction will also begin the same day as sign-ups. The goal of these clinics is to get the beginning pitchers (and their parent/coach) started with understanding the basic fundamentals of pitching. We can also help more experienced pitchers work on enhancing their skills.

As always, we appreciate your suggestions for improving our organization. Please call or email a board member with new ideas. There is also a comment section on our web site – www.newulmgirlsfastpitch.com On behalf of the board of NUGFP, I want to thank you again for being involved in this great game of fast pitch softball and in our organization! Let's continue to work together with our mission in mind - to provide a positive opportunity for every eligible girl in the New Ulm area to play, and a chance to participate in fast pitch softball according to their ability, no matter what skill level they possess. Here's to 2010 – let's make it the best year ever, together!

Sign Ups – Sunday, January 24, 2010, 1:00 p.m. New Ulm Senior High School Gym

PARTICIPATION FEES AND FISH FRY TICKETS WILL NEED TO BE PAID FOR

- **Volunteer hours for 2010 will require all families to work at least two shifts at the Windmill Classic Tournament. Only one shift will be available per family at the Fish Fry.**
- Volunteer time will be three shifts per family or 2 shifts for 8U. See note at the bottom of this section for details.
- Each family will be given a number at the door when they come for Sign-ups on January 24th. This is the order that will be used to sign-up for your volunteer time.
- **Each player in 18u, 16u, 14u, 12u and 10u will be required to purchase shorts from Nicklasson Athletics to be used as uniform shorts.**
- Rule changes and other expectations will be discussed.
- It is important for players and at least one parent to attend the sign up meeting.

Fees:

- For the 7 and 8 year olds (or 1st and 2nd graders), fees will be **\$30.00**.
- For all other players the fees will be **\$70.00** per player. Each additional player would be **\$40.00**. Each family has to sell **12 fish fry tickets at \$9.50 each**. The total cost for a family with one player would be **\$184.00**. The total cost for a family with two players would be **\$224.00**.
- **An additional check will need to be written at sign-ups for prepayment of volunteer hours in the amount of \$125.**

If you are not signed up by the fish fry, the fee will still include the sign up fee plus the \$114.00 fish fry fee. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS!** You will receive your fish fry tickets at the time of the sign ups. If you sell the tickets, you can keep the money. 7 & 8 year olds are not required to sell fish fry tickets.

Volunteer Hours:

- For the 7 and 8 year olds (or 1st and 2nd graders), two (2) shift will be required per family.
- For all other players, **THREE (3)** shifts will be required per family. Shift hours will vary, and will be clearly marked on the volunteer sign-up forms. It is your responsibility to make sure you have your shifts covered.
- Shifts can be fulfilled with one shift at the Fish Fry, and the rest of the shifts will need to be completed at either the Windmill Tournament or one of the other events going on.
- **If you do not attend sign-ups, you may sign up for your volunteer hours at the Fish Fry or contact Holly Portner at 359-4418 or email hportner@newulmtel.net.**

Winter Pitching Clinic

New Ulm Girls Fastpitch has one of the best pitching training programs in Southern Minnesota. Why is our program successful?

- *We encourage our pitchers to learn the proper mechanics of the pitching progression. Learning the proper form is a tool for them to correct themselves.*
- *We teach that pitching is a process learned over time, like reading or playing an instrument. It requires practice.*
- *We have parent volunteer coaches who have learned and are willing to share their knowledge.*
- *Vogel Field House offers a great place for clinics.*
- *The Shed offers a free practice facility for our members.*
- ***MOST IMPORTANTLY**, we require parents to be part of the process: catching, coaching and encouraging practice. A pitcher is more successful when a parent becomes a "student of the game".*

WHAT: Pitching Instruction for Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Pitchers.

WHO: All interested in learning to pitch, girls interested in improving their pitching, and girls interested in learning new pitches. Any girl in NUGFP who wants to pitch.

WHERE: Vogel Field House

WHEN: Sunday Afternoons 3:00 Beginning Pitchers
4:00 Intermediate & Advanced Pitchers

- **Beginning Pitchers:** No experience with "pitching progression". No game experience. **PRE REGISTER with Tim Loose at timlo@bolton-menk.com**
- **Intermediate Pitchers:** 1-3 years of game experience. Familiar with the Vogel Clinic. Just show up!
- **Advanced Pitchers:** 3+ years of game experience, can hit spots and have a change-up. Just show up!

EQUIPMENT: The pitcher needs to bring a catcher (preferably a parent), gloves, court shoes.

COST: FREE!

NOTE: Catchers will be brought in the last two weeks of the session for training and to gain experience working with pitchers. Contact Tim Loose (507.380.9344 - timlo@bolton-menk.com) if interested in participating in the catching sessions and for equipment reservation.

Player Training

Players can take advantage of the following to improve their game in the off-season.

- **Winter In-House Pitching Clinics at Vogel. FREE**
- **The Batting Shed** New *Bata* pitching machine can be setup for fastball and changeup. **FREE.**
- **Sports Institute, Mankato** Batting and Pitching Lessons. Speed, Power and Agility. 507-38SPORT www.siMankato.com
- **College and University Softball Clinics** Mankato State, University of Minnesota, Gustavus and others. Check their website for information on pitching clinics, catching clinics, fielding and batting clinics.

Coach Training

The strength of our program relies on the quality of coaches we provide for our players. We rely on parent volunteers. New Ulm Girls Fast Pitch offers many opportunities for coach training.

- National Sports Clinic, Friday and Saturday January 8-9, 2010 in Minneapolis \$89.00 paid for by the Association for all interested in attending.

Coaches are currently needed in 8U. If you are interested, please contact Dan Reinhart.

Team News

New Ulm Red Sox finish 2nd at State

At the MMFL State A 14U Softball Tournament the New Ulm Red Sox's took 2nd place. The tournament was a 24 team double elimination tournament. The Red Sox got off to a good start by beating the tournament favorite, North Branch, in a 1-0 classic pitcher's duel. New Ulm then defeated Irondale 7-1 and the Mankato Peppers 6-3. New Ulm then suffered their first loss 7-6 to Winona. New Ulm then got back on track with a win over Minnetonka 7-2. They then made it back to the championship game where they had to beat Winona two times to be crowned champs. They took the first game 8-3 to force a final showdown. The Red Sox's battled the entire game. The score was tied 2-2 after 6 innings before Winona blasted a home run to take a 4-2 lead heading into the bottom of the seventh. The Red Sox didn't die as they got back to back one out singles and a wild pitch to put runners at 2nd and 3rd, but the rally then ended. The Red Sox finished the season with a 29-9 record.

2009 New Ulm 16's 'Red Lobsters'

The 2009 New Ulm 16's 'Red Lobsters' finished off their season with an impressive 25-12 season record. New Ulm finished 2nd in the Southern Star League, behind LeSueur-Henderson. In tournaments during the season, they finished 1st in the New Ulm Windmill Classic, 2nd in the Mankato Summer Sizzler tourney, 2nd in the State ASA 'B' tournament, and finishing 9th in the Northern 'B' Nationals in Wichita, KS. (They're scheduled tournament in Austin was 'tornadoed out'.) Rochester, Mn proved to be their nemesis at state and nationals defeating New Ulm 1-0, & 2-1 at State for the Lobsters only losses, and again 2-1 in a winners bracket play showdown at Nationals. New Ulm finished with a team batting average of .294 for the season.

2009 NUGFPSA Expense Summary

The annual budget required to provide the best softball experience possible for the most number of girls is substantial.

2009 Annual Expenses for NUGFPSA (approximate)	\$ 85,000
Fundraisers	\$ 68,000

Note that for 2009 the average budget came to roughly \$500/player in our association!

Below are some examples of areas in which the NUGFPSA dedicated our financial resources in 2009. Some of our more significant expenses were:

Softball Building Expenses	\$ 6,899
Field groomer	\$ 2,090
Softball Equipment	\$ 2,822
Softball Tournament Entry Fees	\$ 7,540
Umpires (League & Windmill Classic)	\$13,820
Field prep	\$ 640
Insurance	\$ 750

For a detailed budget report for 2008 please refer to newulmgirlsfastpitch.com

Softball Building

The keys for the softball building can be picked up at Shyd's Body Shop. The address is 911 20th North. The sign out book and keys will be in a mailbox. If you need to schedule the building for high school practice or for your team, please contact Tim Anderson at 507-276-0173.

Please support our web-site advertisers/sponsors:

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Nicklasson Athletics	Bolton & Menk	Minnesota Valley Funeral Home