



APRIL 2011 EDITION

**BANSHEE'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

WELCOME TO THE BANSHEE'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL ORGANIZATION'S 1ST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2011. OUR TEAMS ARE ALREADY HITTING THE TOURNAMENT CIRCUIT WITH GREAT SUCCESS AND WE ARE REALLY EXCITED REGARDING THE EXCEPTIONAL GROWTH OF OUR ORGANIZATION. WE ARE FIELDING TEAMS AT 10U, 12U (2 TEAMS), 14U, 16U & 18U THIS SEASON. PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND READ ABOUT THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR TEAMS OVER THE WINTER AND AS WE BEGIN OUR 2011 TOURNAMENT SEASON.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

PRESIDENT—BOB CASAGRAND  
 VICE PRESIDENT—DAVE MYERS  
 TREASURER—CHERI JAMES  
 SECRETARY—KATHY LUTZ  
 10U DIRECTOR—JIM TAYLOR  
 12U DIRECTOR—BRUCE BALDUS  
 14U DIRECTOR—TOM WALLACE  
 16U DIRECTOR—CHRIS EDWARDS  
 SHOWCASE DIRECTOR—JOE DIFILIPPO

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING UPDATE:**

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD ITS 1ST QUARTER MEETING ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 30TH, 2011. THE BANSHEE'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL ORGANIZATION WELCOMED ITS NEWEST COACHING STAFF TO THE PROGRAM AT THE 10U AGE BRACKET. JIM TAYLOR, JEN CAREY AND BRUCE BLOOME HELD LATE TRYOUTS AT THE END OF OCTOBER WHERE WE SAW STRONG INTEREST IN OUR 10U PROGRAM WITH OVER 25 YOUNG LADIES TRYING OUT AND VERY TALENTED YOUNG LADIES SELECTED FOR OUR NEW TEAM. THE BOARD APPROVED THE INDOOR PRACTICE SCHEDULE, HOSTED TOURNAMENTS FOR THE SPRING, AND THE STANDARD UNIFORM AND APPAREL OFFERINGS FOR THE 2011 SEASON. MR. MIKE FLAGLER DONATED A MAINTENANCE GOLF CART TO THE BANSHEE'S ORGANIZATION AND WE SURELY APPRECIATE THE GENEROSITY. ALSO, THE ORGANIZATION PURCHASED A MAINTENANCE GOLF CART WITH A PA GRANT RECEIVED. WE NOW HAVE A GROOMER AND TWO MAINTENANCE GOLF CARTS FOR OUR HOSTING TOURNAMENT USE. I TRUST MANY OF OUR TEAMS HAVE EXPERIENCED THE RE-MODELED CLUBHOUSE AVAILABLE FOR OUR TEAMS TO HIT AND PRACTICE PITCHER/CATCHER. THANK YOU TO BRUCE BALDUS, ERICH LICHTNER, TOM WALLACE AND BOB CASAGRAND FOR SUPPORTING THE RE-MODELING EFFORTS SO THAT OUR PLAYERS HAVE EXCEPTIONAL PRACTICE FACILITIES. ALSO, SPECIAL THANKS TO FRANCO D'ANDREA FOR ALLOWING US ACCESS TO THE CLUBHOUSE.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

MAY 8TH, 2011- 8:00 PM  
 CASAGRAND HOUSE

**BANSHEE'S WEBSITE UPDATE:**

THE BANSHEE'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL WEBSITE ADDRESS IS: [WWW.BANSHEESFASTPITCH.COM](http://WWW.BANSHEESFASTPITCH.COM). I HOPE ALL OF OUR BANSHEE'S FAMILIES TOOK A MOMENT TO REVIEW OUR WEBSITE. PLEASE SEND ME YOUR TEAM PICTURES AND STORIES AND I WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE OUR BANSHEE'S STORY FOR THE 2011 TOURNAMENT SEASON. PLEASE BE SURE ALL SUBMITTED PICTURES AND ARTICLES RECEIVE THE ADVANCE APPROVAL OF THE HEAD COACH OF YOUR TEAM BEFORE SENDING TO ME. ARTICLES AND PICTURES SHOULD BE SENT TO [ROBERT.F.CASAGRAND@LMCO.COM](mailto:ROBERT.F.CASAGRAND@LMCO.COM).

**INSIDE THIS EDITION**

BOARD UPDATE	1
WEBSITE UPDATE	1
UNIFORM UPDATE	1
2012 TRYOUTS	1
HATTERS SOFTBALL	1
10U NEWS	2
12U BLACK NEWS	2
12U RED NEWS	2
14U NEWS	2
16U NEWS	2
SHOWCASE NEWS	2

**UNIFORM AND CLOTHING UPDATE:**

THE BANSHEE'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL ORGANIZATION WEBSITE ORDERING PROCESS CLOSED APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH AGO. ALL OF OUR PARENTS SHOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED THE NEW APPAREL ORDERING WEBSITE OFFERED BY DON LEN INC. THANK YOU ERICH LICHTNER, OUR 16U HEAD COACH, FOR HIS HARD WORK IN MAKING THIS ORDERING OPTION A REALITY. THE WEBSITE ORDERING PROCESS WAS DEVELOPED TO STANDARDIZE AND SIMPLIFY ORDERING FOR OUR GROWING ORGANIZATION. THE VISION IN STARTING WEB ORDERING WAS TO ALLOW PARENTS TO ORDER AT HOME RATHER THAN HAVING THE HEAD COACH OR TEAM MOM TAKING ORDERS AND COLLECTING CHECKS AT THE FIELD TAKING VALUABLE PRACTICE TIME AND ULTIMATELY RESULTING IN DELAY IN ORDERING. WE ARE REQUESTING PARENT FEEDBACK REGARDING THE WEBSITE ORDERING PROCESS SO THAT WE MAY CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR ORDERING SYSTEM AS WE MOVE FORWARD. WHEN AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS OURS, ORDERS PERSONALIZED APPAREL, IT IS DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING FOR THE COACHES AND VENDOR TO ABSOLUTELY GET EVERY ORDER CORRECT AND TIMELY. BY HAVING THE WEBSITE, WE TRULY HOPE TO MINIMIZE COACH AND PARENT TIME IN ORDERING AS WELL AS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS IN THE APPAREL DELIVERY TO OUR PLAYERS. IN ORDER TO KEEP THE APPAREL COST DOWN, WE NEED TO ORDER IN BULK QUANTITIES. AS A RESULT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE TWO ORDERING SEASONS (FALL & WINTER) EACH YEAR. THE ORDERING WEBSITE IS NOW CLOSED UNTIL NEXT SEASON.

**2012 TRYOUTS:**

BANSHEE'S TRYOUTS FOR THE 2011-2012 SEASON ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEKENDS OF AUGUST 20/21 AND AUGUST 27/28, 2011. WE WILL BE LOOKING TO RUN TEAMS AT THE 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U & SHOWCASE AGE BRACKET. TIME AND LOCATION WILL BE ADVERTISED ON OUR WEBSITE BY THE END OF JUNE 2011. PLEASE GET THE WORD OUT TO INTERESTED ATHLETES AS WE CONTINUE TO GROW OUR PROGRAM WITH THE VERY BEST TALENT IN THE MONTGOMERY/BUCKS/CHESTER AREAS.

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE:**

JULY 15TH, 2011

IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE INTERESTED IN COACHING AT THE 10U AGE LEVEL, PLEASE CONTACT BOB CASAGRAND AT 610-310-0546. INTERESTED CANDIDATES WILL BE ASKED TO COME IN AND MEET THE BOARD PRIOR THE TRY-OUT DATES.

**HATTERS SOFTBALL UPDATE:**

THE BANSHEE'S ARE THRILLED TO REPORT THAT OUR OWN SHOWCASE COACH, MR. JOE DIFILIPPO, WAS SELECTED AS THE HEAD COACH FOR THE HATBORO-HORSHAM HIGH SCHOOL HATTERS SOFTBALL TEAM. MANY OF OUR BANSHEE'S PLAYERS PLAY WITHIN THE HATTERS PROGRAM. LAST YEAR OUR HATTERS HAD A VERY SUCCESSFUL SEASON MAKING IT TO THE PA "AAAA" SEMI-FINAL GAME AT SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY BEFORE FALLING IN A GREAT GAME TO THE ULTIMATE STATE CHAMPIONS - MT. LEBANON HIGH SCHOOL FROM THE PITTSBURGH AREA. WITH TEN OF THE 12 HATTERS PLAYERS RETURNING THIS SEASON. WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER EXCITING RIDE. I ENCOURAGE OUR YOUNG PLAYERS TO COME OUT AND WATCH THE HATTERS PLAY. YOU WILL GET A REAL TREAT!! CONGRATULATIONS, COACH D AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR LADY HATTERS IN THEIR PURSUIT OF A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.



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### **10U TEAM NEWS:**

THE 10U BANSHEES ROUNDED OUT THEIR ROSTER JUST AS THE WINTER WORKOUTS GOT INTO FULL SWING. THE GIRLS WORKED REALLY HARD ALL WINTER AND HAD EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE THROUGHOUT THE WINTER MONTHS AS THE GIRLS SHOWED THEIR TRUE DEDICATION TO THE GAME OF SOFTBALL. THE COACHES AND GIRLS WERE SO ANXIOUS TO GET OUTSIDE AND PLAY AGAINST SOMEONE OTHER THAN THEMSELVES, THEY ENTERED THE PONY NQ SJ GATORS SPRING BREAKOUT IN MARCH. WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF AN OUTDOOR PRACTICE, THE NEWLY FORMED 10U BANSHEES FINISHED A VERY RESPECTABLE THIRD, WHILE GOING 2-2 IN THE TOURNAMENT. THE 10U BANSHEES ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE NEWTOWN ROCK SPRING CLASSIC IN APRIL. DUE TO THE WEATHER, THE TOURNAMENT WAS LIMITED TO 2 GAMES ON SATURDAY IN WHICH THE GIRLS WENT 1-1 AND WERE A "HOME" TEAM ON SUNDAY WHERE THEY GOT THEIR FIRST "SUNDAY" VICTORY OVER THE NEWTOWN WHITE TEAM. BOTH TOURNAMENTS THAT THE 10U BANSHEE TEAMS HAVE PLAYED IN, THEY EVENTUALLY FELL TO THE TOURNAMENT RUNNER-UPS. THE COACHING STAFF IS AMAZED AT THE PROGRESS THESE GIRLS HAVE MADE IN A FEW SHORT MONTHS AND LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR CONTINUED GROWTH.

### **12U BLACK TEAM NEWS:**

OUR TEAM HAS BEEN WORKING VERY HARD DURING THE FALL & WINTER MONTHS. THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO GET IN OVER 20 FALL GAMES IN WHILE FINISHING .500. WE HAVE HAD EXTRA TEAM BP ON SUNDAYS, PITCHING ON THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS AND TEAM PRACTICE ON SATURDAYS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THE HARD WORK OUR YOUNG GROUP PUT IN ALL FALL & WINTER WILL PAY OFF THIS SPRING! THE TEAM IS LOOKING FORWARD TO AN AGGRESSIVE SPRING SCHEDULE. CURRENTLY SCHEDULED ARE 11 PONY, ASA & USSSA TOURNAMENTS, 1 ROUND ROBIN & 2 SCRIMMAGES. INCLUDED ARE EVENTS AT THE STING, X-TREME, PEGASUS, JENNIE FINCH'S DIAMOND NATION & TWO HOME BANSHEE'S TOURNEYS. WE HOPE TO FINISH THE 2011 SEASON BY ATTENDING ASA PA STATES & ASA EASTERN NATIONALS.

THE TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SOFTBALL TEAM HOSTED OUR 12U BLACK TEAM ON SUNDAY MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> WHEN THE OWLS PLAY THE DAYTON FLYERS. OUR BANSHEE'S PLAYERS WERE EXCITED TO HAVE THEIR NAMES ANNOUNCED & ENTERED THE PLAYING FIELD WITH THE TEMPLE PLAYERS FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AND INTRODUCTIONS. WHAT A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR OUR YOUNG ATHLETES!!

TONELLI'S PIZZA DID A FANTASTIC JOB IN ALLOWING A FUNDRAISING NIGHT FOR OUR TEAM. ALL WHO ATTENDED ENJOYED EXCELLENT PIZZA, DRINKS AND OUR PLAYERS ENJOYED THE SOCIAL OPPORTUNITY TO BOND AS A TEAM.

### **12U RED TEAM NEWS:**

THE BANSHEES 12U RED CONCLUDED THEIR INDOOR WINTER PRACTICES AND STARTED OUTDOOR TRAINING IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON. ON FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>, THE TEAM TRAVELLED TO THE WYOMING VALLEY SPORTS DOME IN WILKES BARRE. ORIGINALLY THEY WERE SCHEDULED TO GO TO THE GENERATIONS SPORTS DOME IN WILLIAMSPORT, BUT GOT WORD THAT IT HAD COLLAPSED UNDER MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF SNOW. THE GIRLS WORKED VERY HARD AND ENDED UP WITH A 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE FINISH! CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 12U RED TEAM! WE HOPE THIS MOMENTUM CARRIES US INTO THE SEASON WHICH IS QUICKLY APPROACHING! OUR FIRST TOURNAMENT IS THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>. WE ARE ALL EXCITED TO START THE SEASON AND WISH THE GIRLS MUCH SUCCESS!

### **14U TEAM NEWS:**

THE 14U BANSHEE'S ARE OFF AND RUNNING. OUR FIRST TOURNAMENT WAS A USSSA QUALIFIER PLAYED IN QUAKERTOWN. THE GIRLS STARTED OUT SLOW WITH TWO LOSSES BUT FINISHED OFF SATURDAY WITH A NICE WIN WHICH EARNED US THE 12 SEED OUT OF 18 TEAMS HEADING INTO SUNDAY. THE GIRLS STARTED OUT SUNDAY WITH A THRILLING COME FROM BEHIND WIN AGAINST THE FILLIES FASTPITCH, A STRONG TEAM FROM NEW JERSEY. OUR DAY THEN CAME TO AN END WITH A TOUGH LOSS TO A VERY STRONG DELAWARE DYNAMITE TEAM. THIS TOURNAMENT WAS A GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR THE GIRLS AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO KEEP WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE AND GET READY FOR OUR UPCOMING PONY SCHEDULE. WE ARE TAKING THE WEEK OFF FOR EASTER AND THEN OUR FIRST PONY TOURNAMENT IN PHILLY.

THE COACHES ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE GIRLS EFFORT AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE HARD WORK DURING THE LONG WINTER MONTHS WILL PAY OFF WITH GREAT PLAY IN OUR UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS. OUR SEASON WILL CULMINATE IN A TRIP TO PONY NATIONALS IN CARY, NORTH CAROLINA.

### **16U TEAM NEWS:**

THE 16U TEAM IS WORKING EACH WEEK TO IMPROVE ITS OFFENSIVE POWER WITH HITTING INSTRUCTOR, LARRY ROBTISON AS WELL AS OUR DEFENSIVE SKILLS. WE HAVE FINALLY HIT THE DIAMOND AFTER A LONG WINTER AND OUR PLAYERS ARE VERY EXCITED TO BE TOGETHER WORKING AS A TEAM. WE WILL BE GOING TO LAUREL MARYLAND IN APRIL FOR A TEST RUN OF OUR SKILLS AGAINST SOME VERY TOUGH MARYLAND TEAMS. OUR PLAYERS ARE ALL ACTIVELY INVOLVED WITH THEIR HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS. CONGRATS TO OUR PLAYERS ON THEIR HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS: SAMANTHA LICHTNER—TWIN VALLEY HS; NICOLE CASAGRAND-HHHS; MARIA SPINOSA-HHHS; AMANDA COSTELLO-LITTLE FLOWER; KATE MIMS-UNIONVILLE HS; RENEA PETRUCCI-DOWNTOWN EAST HS; ALLY MILLIGAN-DOWNTOWN WEST HS; MICHELLE RAUCH-NORTH PENN HS; COURTNEY MILLER-PARKLAND HS; DARIA EDWARDS-HHHS; KATE YANDERS- BETHLEHEM CATHOLIC HS. OUR FOCUS IS IN PROVIDING OUR PLAYERS WITH VISIBILITY AT COLLEGE SHOWCASES. WE WILL BE TRAVELING TO COLORADO TO PLAY SOME OF THE BEST TEAMS IN THE NATION AND OUR CULMINATING EXPERIENCE WILL BE IN PURSUIT OF ASA NATIONALS IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

### **SHOWCASE TEAM NEWS:**

THE SHOWCASE TEAM HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR A VERY BUSY SUMMER SCHEDULE STARTING ON MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND IN NEWTOWN PA. THE TEAM HAS BEEN WORKING HARD BOTH ON AND OFF THE FIELD, WITH INDOOR PRACTICES AND VARIOUS FUNDRAISERS FOR THEIR COLORADO TRIP OVER JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>. WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN TOURNAMENTS AND SHOWCASES THROUGHOUT THE TRI STATE AREA ENDING AT ASA EASTERN NATIONALS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MELISSA SPINOSA, DANIELLE DIFILIPPO AND JESS WHITE ON THEIR COLLEGE CHOICES.

ALSO WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OF OUR BANSHEE PLAYERS GOOD LUCK DURING THEIR HIGH SCHOOL SEASONS. KEEP LOOKING FOR OUR TRYOUT DATES IN AUGUST.