



### **Wills Park Update**

Well, believe it or not the Spring Baseball season at Wills Park is quickly approaching. Spring 2010 registration is open and can be accessed through our website at [www.wpyba.org](http://www.wpyba.org). I would encourage you to register early, we are expecting some age groups to fill and fill quickly this spring.

The year 2009 was a terrific one at Wills Park. We implemented a very successful summer program providing baseball for 150 players that would otherwise not be playing baseball during the summer. Based on the success of the program, we plan to make it stronger and better in 2010. More on the summer program as we get closer to the season.

A key change in the 11/12s last spring was the division of that age group into a National and American divisions with the National division playing an interlocking schedule with Roswell. We will again be dividing the 11/12s as we did last year. Additionally, the board has voted to extend the National/American program to the 9/10s. More detail provide inside this letter.

We just completed a very successful fall season at Wills Park. We saw substantial player increases in 11/12s, 13-15s and the 16-18s. A great deal of new faces playing baseball at Wills Park which we hope will translate into an equally strong spring season. So register early.

Opening day is March 6<sup>th</sup>. We had a lot of fun last year and hope to have even more for opening day 2010. If your company is interested in participating in the opening day activities, sponsorship, vendor, etc., please contact Jill Durham at [durham@wpyba.org](mailto:durham@wpyba.org) or Shawn Hampton at [Hampton@wpyba.org](mailto:Hampton@wpyba.org).

You may have notice a few changes at the park last season. The turf in the hitting cages not only saves baseballs but looks great too; makes for a better experience for the players and coaches. We have also covered some of the bleachers to help protect the dedicated fans from the sun (and to some extend the rain). We would love your feedback on other

ways that we can improve the park and baseball experience for you and your family. Please feel free to contact any member of your board with suggestions.

The fields have taken a beating this year with all the rain. Our hats off to the City of Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Department for all the work and effort to make Wills Park playable under some exceedingly difficult circumstances. The folks at the city do a great job day in and day out to prep the field for our players.

**5s and 6s – Something New This Spring**

The 5s and 6s will not have the traditional evaluations that have been conducted in past seasons. This spring the 5s and 6s will follow the following schedule:

January 30, 1:30pm to 3pm – League-Wide Player Clinic
January 31, 2pm to 3:30pm – League-Wide Player Clinic
February 6, 1:30pm to 3pm – League-Wide Player Clinic
February 7, 2pm to 3:30pm – League-Wide Player Clinic

The 5s and 6s will be drafted on February 9<sup>th</sup> with first practices for those age groups on February 13 and an Opening Day Jamboree on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Key Dates**

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Registration</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>Register early</b>
National Division Tryouts For 9/10s & 11/12s	1/9 1pm to 4pm 1/10 2pm to 4pm	Mandatory tryout for consideration to play in the National division. 9/10s on field 1 11/12s on field C
Recreation Evaluations 7s – field 3 8s – field B 9/10s – field 2 11/12s – field C 13-15s – field 4	1/23 – 1pm to 4pm Rain Date is 1/24 – 1pm to 5pm	All players must be at evaluations.
1 <sup>st</sup> Practice	1/30	
Evaluations for 16-18s	2/13, time TBD Rain Date is 2/14	Location: Field A
<b>Opening Day</b>	<b>3/6</b>	<b>Lot’s of Fun</b>

## **National Division Tryouts**

As indicted, we will have a National Division and an American Division in both the 9/10s and the 11/12s for the spring season. Tryouts for both age groups is Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. Players must be present at the tryouts in order to be drafted onto a National Division Team. Players that do not make one of the National Division Teams will be drafted onto an American Division Team. Only players that have registered and paid will be allowed at the National Division Tryouts.

The National Division will play an interlocking schedule against the four Roswell Select teams. So there will be games at both Wills Park and at Hembree Park.

## **Coaching**

If you are interested in coaching this spring, please send an email to [Drakeford@wpyba.org](mailto:Drakeford@wpyba.org). Coaches are being selected now.

## **Milton HS Baseball Clinic**

Milton HS will conduct a player clinic on February 28<sup>th</sup> at Milton HS. The clinic is open to players 7 years old to 12 years old. You may register for the clinic when you register for the spring season. Cost is \$20 per player and includes a t-shirt.

Clinic will be conducted by Coach Ray, his staff and his players – great opportunity to learn with a strong emphasis on fundamentals. Coach Ray of the Milton HS Eagles is a strong advocate of teaching fundamental baseball to kids – learn the right way of doing things early in your development.

## **Play-up Requests**

The park has seen a rather dramatic rise in requests from parents for their child to play up, e. g.; request that an eight year old player be allowed to play in the 9/10s. The park will have in place for the spring season a new policy regarding play-up requests as follows:

- All players must register and pay in their legitimate and actual playing age.
- Once appropriately registered, parents may requests that a player play-up by sending an email to either [Drakeford@wpyba.org](mailto:Drakeford@wpyba.org) or [Hampton@wpyba.org](mailto:Hampton@wpyba.org).
- Players requesting to play-up must be evaluated at both the legitimate age group and the requested play-up age group. For example, an eight year old requesting to play in the 9/10s must be evaluated at both the 8s and the 9/10s.
- If a player is evaluated in the top 1/3 of the play-up age group, they will be allowed to play up. If the player does not evaluate in the top 1/3, he/she must play in their age appropriate age group.

Why are we doing this? Over the past few years we have missed players in the draft or drafted the same player in two different age groups. This new procedure is intended to alleviate that problem.

### **What a Season!!**

Wills Park Out-of-Park All-Star Teams and Travel Teams enjoyed a great deal of success during the summer of 2009.

#### OOP

9yr old Wills Park Sharks  
Manager - George Davenport  
SCRA Shootout - Champion  
Eastside Bonanza - Champion  
Showdown at Hobgood - Runner Up  
Dizzy Dean State - Champion  
Acworth World Series Warm Up - Champion

Wills Park 12s Blackhawks  
Manager: Dan Ganter  
Lake City (Acworth) Classic Champs  
Kennesaw Pre-State Tournament Runner Up  
(12U) - 'B' States - 3rd Place

Team: 11u Wills Park Pirates  
Manager: Mark Faerber  
Won: Acworth Firecracker Tournament  
Won: Dizzy Dean "B" Division State Championship

7 Year Old OOP Wills Park Mustangs  
Manager - Joe Sander  
Won the Sportsmanship Award at the B state tournament

WP 8 year old Predators  
Manager – Jon Cohen  
Dizzy Dean State Champions  
Dizzy Dean District Runner-Up

#### Travel

9 year-old Travel - Wills Park Scorpions  
Manager – Kent Hamrock  
Champions - "Grand Slam World Series" @ Frank Brown Park - Panama City FL  
Champions - "Battle at The Bridge" @ Webb Bridge Park - Alpharetta GA  
Champions - "Super Series Shootout" @ Heritage Park - Dalton GA  
Champions - "Stars and Stripes Shootout" @ Harrison Park - Marietta GA  
Runners Up - "USSSA Sub State Qualifier" @ Central Park - Cumming GA

Wills Park Bulldogs  
Manager – Ed Alba  
BPA Dalton Spring Champions  
West Georgia Slugfest Runner-Ups  
Acworth Warrior Invitational Runner-Ups

Checkout this website for some great baseball drill to help you prep for the coming spring season:

<http://www.qcbaseball.com/index.html>

ENJOY THE OFF SEASON!!!! Get ready for some great baseball starting in January with evaluations.

Work hard during the off season – get out on some of those sunny Sundays and play baseball with your family and friends.

Study hard – keep those grades up.

Have fun and be safe – we want to see you around the park this spring!!!! And oh yeah, bring a friend.

**Your Wills Park Youth Baseball Association Board:**

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