



OCTOBER 2015

THE SPRING GAMES:

The latest information on
the World's largest
collegiate softball
tournament

IN THIS ISSUE

In the beginning . . .

Sometimes when planning where to go, it's helpful to know where you have been.



Dr. Dot Richardson, two-time Olympic gold medalist and the founder of THE Spring Games, on Field 1 a/k/a "The Stadium" after installation of the stadium seating at the field in 2010. Photo courtesy of A-Block media ©2015 PFX Athletics

Like most completely overwhelming projects, THE Spring Games started as an idea. It was 2007 and Dot Richardson, M.D., was working with South Lake Hospital to build a softball facility at the National Training Center. "We knew it could be great," Dr. Richardson says of the facility, "we just needed to make it happen."

After raising over \$3Mm to build four fields at what would become Legends Way Ballfields, the Hospital started construction. It wasn't quite in time for the first year of the Games, though. Bob Borak, Vice-President of PFX Athletics and the tournament director from the beginning, remembers the 2008 Games

vividly. "We played on the fields that actually had fences and moved games from one field to another to accommodate construction." There was no netting on what is now the stadium field, so parents and fans would throw foul balls back onto the field as they hit the dirt behind the umpire. "That's what I remember more than anything," Borak says. There were 64 teams that year.

Despite the construction issues, history tells us that Dot and Bob did something right. By year 2, THE Spring Games expanded to 117 teams and in 2015 hosted 305 colleges and universities. Coaches comment on the staff's ability to accommodate their scheduling requests and get the games in, come rain or shine. "It has grown because it is run well," says Greg Jones, head coach of Winona State University (Minnesota).

For 2016, Bob shares that we can expect "38 first-timers and over 50 of those original 64 who have been with us since the beginning." With five fields now at Legends Way and two additional sites to accommodate the teams, what used to take two months to prepare now takes all year. As it was in the beginning, Bob and his team are committed to continuing to improve the Games. Of course, if you ask Bob, he'll be the first to tell you "it never ends."



Welcome to Paradise

Unique housing options so close to the Legends Way Ballfields!

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Join us in a little prayer

Who says softball is a "heathen" sport? Check out the offerings at the ballfields this Spring!



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The September Bikes & Boards \$25.00 Gift Card Winner is:

CHRIS ENGEL, Dover, Delaware

Chris is a parent of the Wesley College Wolverines. This is the Wolverines' first year participating in THE Spring Games (welcome team!).

Chris manages the Wesley Softball blog (you can follow it at <http://wesleysoftball2016.blogspot.com>) and has been really promoting all we are doing at PFX Athletics and THE Spring Games.

We say "it takes a village" and we are thrilled that Chris has volunteered to be a part of ours! Congratulations, Chris!

Welcome to Paradise!

Haven't quite made travel arrangements yet?
Check out the Swiss Vacation Homes

Whether you are a keen water-sports enthusiast or just looking for a beautiful place to relax or golf, Swiss Vacation Homes has something for you. Located 30-40 minutes from the Orlando attractions (and 15 minutes from Legends Way Ballfields!), the Swiss Vacation complex is set on 450 beautiful acres.

With over 100 villas available for short-term rent (ranging from \$900.00/week to \$1,900.00 per week), the folks at Swiss Vacation Homes aim to please. When you call, ask for Samantha or Katty – they are awesome! If you are traveling with a team, they can help you arrange for housing all on the same street or at least the same section of the neighborhood (unless you want to be a little farther away, of course!).

This yet-to-be-discovered paradise is located in the town of Groveland (just west of Clermont) and is world-renown for its waterski features and facilities.



Photo courtesy of Swiss Vacation Homes

Here, you can make an appointment with the on-site water ski school, golf course, or tennis courts or, if you are more into passive recreation, rent a bike, go for a walk, or just relax on the patio at the café. The choice is yours!

Learn more about the Swiss Vacation Homes at www.SwissVacationHouses.com or on their facebook page @SwissVacationHouses.

To book your villa, email info@swissvacationhouses.com or call (352) 429-2178.

JOIN OUR GROUP ON FACEBOOK

If you have not already, join our new "THE Spring Games" group on Facebook. Be sure to tell your parents and fans!

FACEBOOK.COM
THE SPRING GAMES (Public Group)



Photo courtesy of A-Block Media
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Speaking of our new website: you can register your team for the 2016 Adopt-A-Team program online at www.PFXAthletics.com by going to THE Spring Games page and clicking on the Adopt-A-Team image. Register soon as participation is first come, first served!

Check out our new site

New and improved, the PFX Athletics website has more up to date information than ever!

You asked, we listened! We had a lot of requests last year to keep our website more up to date and to be able to provide newer information via the website.

Thanks to Gary Leland and his company, www.SoftballWebsites.com, we are now able to update stories, articles, photos, and other information directly to our regular site.

Whether you are a coach interested in your schedule for THE Spring Games or information on the Adopt-A-Team program, a player looking for things to do on your day off or places to eat, a parent looking for

information that you missed in a recent update, or a fan wanting to find out everything you can about the Games, our new website should give you what you need.

Please keep in mind that we are still learning how to use this site and updating the content. By spring, we should be pros! While we are updating and learning, though, let us know what you like and don't like so we can keep improving. Like you, we are always working hard to get better!

Check us out at: www.PFXAthletics.com

ENTER TO WIN!

This month's contest is to see how many of you are able to "rally" your teams and fans to support your school. We are having a contest to see which school can get the MOST people to join THE Spring Games Facebook Group in the month of October.

The Prize: \$25.00 Gift Certificate to Clermont Waterfront Bikes & Boards!

How to enter: Get your players, parents, and fans to join THE Spring Games Facebook Group by October 25 for a chance to win. When they join, their first post should include the name of your college. The team with the most posts wins! The winner will be announced in our November Newsletter.



Contest brought to you by:

Clermont Waterfront Bikes & Boards

What you need to know

Spring is just around the corner!

FAST FACTS

297

Teams registered as of October 1, 2015
(Regular Registration Deadline)

0

The number of teams currently on the registration reserve list.

Teams are still encouraged to register for THE Spring Games; however, until we confirm field availability this month, we will not be confirming registration or accepting payment for those teams. Once invited, wait-list teams will have 48 hours to confirm their availability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can always reach us on Facebook (@PFX Athletics) or via email. For Spring Games information, you can reach out to:

BOB BORAK

BBorak@PFXAthletics.com
(352) 241-4585 ext. 700

Registration is officially CLOSED!

With registration for THE Spring Games is closed, you may be wondering: what happens next?

We are looking at each day we have teams to identify what dates, if any, we have additional field availability. If we have room, we will allow teams to register for those days (only). Here's what you can expect the next few months:

- October: Wish lists are going out this month and are due back by November 1. You should have already received your invoice for the Games; if you haven't, please call us right away.
- November: we will be working on the schedule. You can keep an eye on The Facebook Group for fun stuff but don't expect to hear from us otherwise.
- December: we will see you at the NFCA with the first draft of the schedule. Change requests will be due by December 15, 2015 so we can have the final schedule to you by the first of January.

Say a little prayer ...

The Sermon on the Mound is back!

Last year, we offered The Sermon on the Mound for the first time. This year, we currently have three organizations involved with the Sermons: Real Life Church, Youth with a Mission (YWAM), and the Church at South Lake.

It goes like this: several times a week, one of these organizations will be offering 30-minute sermons (at no charge) in which your teams and fans can participate. These sermons will be at each complex so you can sharpen your game and your faith at the same time!



Photo courtesy of A-Block Media
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Organizations offering Sermons and activities this year:

Real Life Church:

1501 Steve's Road, Clermont
www.real.life/clermont

Youth with a Mission:

15411 CR 455, Montverde
www.ywamorlando.org
* also offers a team-building rope course, tours, food, and more!

Church at South Lake:

1860 Hancock Road, Clermont
www.churchatsouthlake.com

For more information email:
THESpringGames@PFXAthletics.com