

**CELEBRATING OUR 27<sup>TH</sup> SEASON**

**2022**



**FASTPITCH**

**[WWW.VOORHEES-STARS.SPORTSOFFICE.COM](http://WWW.VOORHEES-STARS.SPORTSOFFICE.COM)**

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**12U ★ 14U ★ HS**

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The dark days of the pandemic are mercifully over as we celebrate our 27th year on the diamond. The demand to play travel softball has not diminished. We can fondly recount the wonderful memories created in 2022: Mount Olive Dome winter training; the annual excursion to Mohonk Mountain, New York; the annual softball skills overnight camp in June; volunteer service activities, including the Raritan Headwaters Association's April Stream Clean-Up, America's Grow-A-Row Farm vegetable harvesting, and competing in tournaments that raise funds for charities dear to our hearts such as Fighting Children's Cancer Foundation. As our players approach their college years, they have been coached with an eye towards athletic commitment, academic excellence and charitable endeavors. It is not a quantum leap of faith to say player dedication on the softball field is a recipe for success in life. Abraham Lincoln once observed, "always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other." Exactly.

The STARS program is not for the feeble or the casual player. It's not simply about how well a teenager can throw, hit or run. We challenge every player to become the very best she can be through hard work crafting her skills, commitment and support for teammates, a "no quit" mentality, mental toughness and fighting through adversity, and achieving goals. During this fall's Figurelli Frenzy Tournament, I watched with amazement a 12U pitcher who had an artificial leg. This girl was a terrific player! She did not allow her disability to dampen the ability to perform and her leadership skills helped her team win. I suspect our players realized that they are blessed to compete in this difficult but rewarding sport that will create indelible memories long after they hang up their cleats.

We are living in precarious times. Inflation. Gas and oil prices. Open borders. Crime. Ukraine. Limited supply chain. Political polarization. Plummeting student test scores. Social media abuses. New COVID variants. Fentanyl. Biological males competing in female sports. Enough is enough. Despite this environment, teenagers have been able to escape the trials and tribulations of the world and thrive on the softball field. Personal interaction and hugs among teammates have replaced social distancing. The 16U STARS enjoyed the fruits of success as they were crowned champions of the Sparta Schools Out Tournament, beating several "elite" club teams along the way. This core has been together for over 3 years, and their mutual love and respect for each other shows on the field. We had 12U and 14U teams this summer, which had to be combined into one 14U team for fall competition. They experienced some growing pains and a stacked roster placed a premium on quality playing time.

Michael Jordan, arguably the greatest basketball player in history admits, "I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." Softball is a game of failure. A player who achieves a .300 batting average may crow about her success, yet that means she fails to get a hit in 70% of her plate appearances. An infielder can botch a routine ground ball for an error in the first inning, and feel like burying her head in the sand. That same infielder can "flush" her mistake, and win the game in the bottom of the 7th inning with a walk off hit. Our players recognize that there is always an opportunity for redemption, and persistence will eventually break through resistance. Valuable life lessons can be gleaned from the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

We wish to thank our softball families and local businesses who generously purchased advertisements to make this publication possible. The coaches owe profound gratitude to Kim Franco and Brian Spring, our reliable statisticians on Game Changer; Naomi Byank, the 14U scorekeeper; Neal Wallen, our umpire assigner; and Chrissy Spring, who took incredible photographs prominently displayed in these pages. We've been at this for 27 years now. Both locally-based and club or "showcase" softball teams come and go as autumn wheat blowing through the winds of time. I have yet to find a softball program that better prepares players for college success. The world is crying out for the contributions from these talented young ladies. Rest assured they won't let us down.

Mario Colitti  
Director



# MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE TEAMBUILDING EXCURSION

On June 5, 2022, the STARS continued its annual tradition by visiting Mohonk Mountain House, an 1869 National Historic Landmark, in New Paltz, New York. We visited the Victorian mansion and went canoeing in the glacier lake, nestled in the Shawangunk Mountains, a favorite destination for U.S. Presidents. The girls embraced the challenge of hiking in the 40,000 acres of pristine forest, and rock climbed 1,542 feet above sea level through rock scrambles and the Labyrinth, containing the daunting Lemon Squeeze.

[www.mohonk.com](http://www.mohonk.com)



(L to R): Caroline Colitti, Coach Mario Colitti, Allie Cavezza, Margot Huelsbergen, Nadine Sirico, Megan Wilson, Victoria Byank, Victoria McCann, Chloe Schlipf, Tori Wehmeyer, Brooke Wilson





*Hello Voorhees Stars!!!*

*A quick note from 2021 Olympian, TEDx speaker, and dog mom (Joey Lye) to let you know that I'm cheering for you this season! Nothing great that I've ever done in my life came without challenges and my hope in sending you this is that it gives you that little extra oomph you need when those challenges arise. All of the work you put in both on and off the field can seem like a lot. Living, and training, one day at a time has always been my best remedy for that. Lean on your teammates, trust the process, and - most importantly- have fun along the way!! All the best to you and to the entire program on this journey of growth, discovery, and softball!!*

*Go get 'em!*

*Joey*

---

*Joey Lye has 12 years of playing experience with the Canadian National Softball Team and 11 years of coaching experience in the NCAA Division I, including most recently at Bucknell University. In the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympic Games, Joey was Team Captain and led Team Canada to a Bronze medal. She played college softball at Williams College in Massachusetts and was a teammate with former STAR player standout Becky Sansone.*

# Hunterdon Review



*The Voorhees STARS girls travel softball program hosted its annual Overnight Softball Skills Camp at Crossroads Camp and Retreat June 24-26.*

TEWKSBURY TWP. – The Voorhees STARS girls travel softball program hosted its annual Overnight Softball Skills Camp at Crossroads Camp and Retreat June 24-26.

The camp was not held since 2019 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Softball players from Hunterdon, Morris and Warren counties, ages 10-16, immersed themselves in softball boot camp, run by former professional softball player Lisa Iancin, and enjoyed swimming in the pool, participating in high ropes challenges, hiking in the Ken Lockwood Gorge, and entertained by the Lizard Guys.

STARS' high school players assisted with instruction for the younger girls, and earned volunteer service hours.

This is the only overnight softball camp in northern New Jersey and the girls had a memorable experience with gorgeous weather.

The team plays its home games at Tewksbury's Old Turnpike School and Voorhees High School.



## September 10, 2022, Califon

Looking west into the Ken Lockwood Gorge on the 1898 Hoffman's Crossing Bridge that spans the South Branch.



(L to R): Lianna Dyeovich, Paige Ansbach, Brookelynn Townsend, McKenzie Townsend, Allie Cavezza, Sophia Alcivar, Victoria Byank, Mia Bergmann, Sarah Munz, Maria Tramutola, Nadine Sirico, Megan Wilson, Chloe Schlipf, Margot Huelsbergen.  
Missing from photo: Renee Holahan, Charlotte Mosier.

### 12U

Paige Ansbach  
Lianna Dyeovich  
Sydney Hammer  
Renee Holahan  
Margot Huelsbergen  
Victoria McCann  
Sarah Munz  
Brookelynn Townsend  
McKenzie Townsend  
Maria Tramutola

Coaches:  
Greg McCann  
James Townsend

### 14U

Vanessa Agostino  
Sophia Alcivar  
Mia Bergmann  
Victoria Byank  
Allie Cavezza  
Charlotte Mosier  
Jordan Roehrig  
Chloe Schlipf  
Nadine Sirico  
Megan Wilson  
Ava Zielinskie

Coaches:  
Brian Cavezza  
Mario Colitti



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**June 18, 2022**  
**Schools Out 14U Tournament, Station Park, Sparta**



*How do you shut down a slapper? Chloe Schlipf baffles the Lady Ravens' slapper with a change-up*



# September 18, 2022, 14U Long Valley Tournament, Palmer Park



*The jury is deliberating: which STAR player will be awarded the MVP medal by the opposing team?*



*All smiles as we celebrate a victory against the Wallkill Valley Thunder*

# 10 Commandments of Softball

1. Thou shalt use your lower half while batting to drive the ball
2. Thou shalt not get upset about things over which we have no control like an umpire's bad call or the weather
3. Thou shalt flush mistakes and refocus on the next play
4. Thou shalt stretch all muscles before every game irrespective of the temperature
5. Thou shalt always give 100% and "leave everything on the field"
6. Thou shalt respect your opponents, coaches and umpires
7. Thou shalt refrain from negative body language if you disagree with an umpire's call
8. Thou shalt resist the temptation to touch your cell phone during the game
9. Thou shalt never criticize a teammate's miscue lest ye shall be judged
10. Thou shalt play other sports in the offseason but continue to train and prepare for March



*We are so proud of you Allie. Good luck in everything you do  
and keep up the hard work.*

*Mom & Dad*

**STARS**  
FASTPITCH

# The True Cost of Travel Softball

Written by Greg Cruthers and re-printed with author's permission, <http://softballjourney.com/index.php/big-blog>.

I've been putting off writing this article for a few reasons. It will likely be misinterpreted by some people, while possibly offending others. Regardless, I can't put it off any longer. My goal for this post is to help parents make the best decisions for their daughters and families concerning their options on playing travel softball. I will even share with you how much I paid for my youngest daughter's travel softball career.

First of all, I am a strong advocate for travel softball. Two of my daughters played travel softball at different levels for years. That is where they learned the game, fundamental and advanced skills, how to handle failure and success, how to deal with getting cut, how to earn playing time and to compete against other teams. They did not learn these things in the recreation league and certainly not in school.



Given recent events such as school boards forcing varsity coaches to take players back onto their teams which they've cut....well...my respect and patience for school sports is dwindling. The mix of travel and social players on school teams and the culture of political correctness often fans the flame of the Everybody Gets A Trophy fire. I could write an entire book on that topic alone, but I digress. This has a lot to do with why I am only coaching travel softball now.

So, I will assume everybody understands the value and benefits of playing travel softball. As for specific advice on where or which team/club your daughter should play, that is out of the scope of this article. However, there are many things you can consider to help you when making a decision to join a team/club.

## Player Fee

These can range from a couple hundred dollars for entry level B teams/clubs to thousands for elite teams/clubs. Fees typically include uniforms, bags, helmets, tournament entries, player registrations in sanctioning bodies like ASA, team insurance and facility rental (indoor/outdoor). It is also worth noting that player fees are greatly affected by the cost of the tournaments they are in. The entry cost of tournaments ranges from about \$375 to \$3,500 (yes that is not a typo).

## Examples:

A friend pays \$400 for the year for a 12u local team. The fee in my club, college exposure teams, was \$1,350 last year. Other exposure clubs in my region range from \$1,900 to \$3,500. The last 2 years my daughter played on a nationwide team, the fee was \$2,000 per year. And I've been told some fees elsewhere exceed \$5,000. Oh yes....get your calculator apps out and do the math for 7-8 years. Yikes!

## Tournaments

Spectators have to pay gate fees to get into most tourneys. They range from \$5 to \$10 per day to \$20 to \$40 per week/weekend. Some parks do not allow you to bring in coolers or your own food. Some do not allow you to bring your dog. You can easily spend \$200 for a year per person on gate fees, \$300 on concession stand food/water/gatorade and hundreds on kennel fees. And let's not forget those tournament t-shirts & hoodies your daughter wants.



## Travel Costs

Some teams do in-state or the nearby circuits of tournaments with few hotels necessary and no flights or car rentals. For younger age groups like 12u & 13u (non-high school ages), there is no need to travel further excluding a year-end National tourney. And 10u, which I am not an advocate of, should stay within the surrounding counties. The younger age groups usually play more tourneys, since they are not restricted by state high school regulations (can't play travel ball during school season). At \$50 to \$100 per weekend on gas, you would spend \$600 to \$1,200 per season. Add another \$300 to \$500 for traveling back and forth to practices through the year. And oh yea, you need to eat when you're on the road. Tack on another \$1,000 for the year.

For 14u to 18u, especially college exposure teams, your travel costs are probably something your mind subconsciously blocks out. Math is suddenly a skill that escapes you. You can break these into two types: Regional and Nationwide. Regional teams may do the in-state or nearby circuits with players only looking for close to home college softball opportunities. Nationwide teams are filled with players chasing the big time D1 dream (playing on ESPN in the college world series). The difference in costs between these is astounding.



## Examples:

First, a regional team with one out of state tourney (5 hours) like my club's 14u team. Two of those tourneys required hotels for most families (\$1,000 total) plus the cost of gas and food mentioned above. So, the total cost of travel could be like \$3,200 for the year, which is a drop in the bucket compared to my next example.

Next, how about one year my daughter played on a nationwide team? In the fall they traveled to Chicago

(6 hours), Indianapolis (5 hours), did 4 local tourneys (within an hour) and then to Orlando (\$1,200 flight (3) plus car rental \$300). The summer included one local tourney, Chicago, New Brunswick NJ (10 hour drive), Indianapolis, Boulder CO (\$800 for 2 plane tickets & \$300 for car rental), Oklahoma City (drove 15 hours with 5 total family members) and Huntington Beach CA (daughter and I flew from OK directly then home (\$900), rented a car (\$300), while others drove home from OK).

Another cost with this kind of extensive travel is from sight-seeing and tourism. While my daughter and I didn't buy many souvenirs, we did tour the mountains and beaches, rafting, horseback riding, minor league baseball game, etc. I don't have an exact dollar amount, but let's just say it was about \$1,000. That would put that year's travel cost (hotels, gas, flights, car rentals, food, entertainment) to at least \$12,000. And suddenly the \$2,000 player fee that year seems insignificant.

*\*Note - I understand not all states have restrictions on school players playing travel ball during their seasons. My state of Michigan is in the dark ages as far as that goes. I believe the day is coming when players will stop playing school ball and only play travel softball.*



## Practices - In/Off-Season & Winter Workouts

Usually coach's will have a field they can use for free....close to their home. Your cost will be in time and gas. Will you have to leave work early? Eat on the road? How far away do you live from the field? Traffic? My drives as a parent over the years were 45-60 minutes one way....with no snow/ice/freezing-rain/accidents. There are players in my club now who have 2 1/2 hour one way commutes. Some teams, nationwide exposure teams, have players from multiple states who never come to practices/winter workouts.

## Additional Training & Lessons

Pitchers require lessons. Hitters require lessons. Fielding instruction usually comes from team practices, winter workouts, camps and clinics. Lessons range from \$20 to \$80 per half hour. If a player attends 26 lessons at \$40 per half hour, that's \$1,040 per year...plus gas (\$300) and often late nights eating in the car on the way home. Double that cost per year (\$2,080) if your daughter also takes hitting lessons.

## College Camps & Clinics

Once your daughter begins chasing the dream to play a high level of college softball, it becomes necessary to attend numerous college camps and clinics. The price of these ranges from \$50 to \$500 (and for special week long camps over \$1,000). I'm not referring to girls who play on B level teams that end up at the local JUCO school...which by the way....there is nothing wrong with. I'm talking about players getting attention from D1, D2 and even NAIA schools. And sometimes their camps are where you first get on their radar.

When my daughter was being recruited by many of the local D1 schools, we did almost every camp they wanted her to do. Had I known then what I know now....sigh. Let's just say I spent approximately \$1,000 per year on camps during her freshman, sophomore and junior years plus the related costs already discussed.

*\*Note - I've written about the importance of camps before as well as when to avoid them (cash cows).*

## Not So Hidden Costs

Cleats (\$50 - \$100 per year), bats (\$300 - \$400 per year), batting gloves (\$30 to \$60 per year), extra uniform socks and pants (\$100 per year), sliding shorts (\$100 per year for two), spirit wear (\$200 per year), additional maintenance and wear and tear on your car (easily \$1,000 per year), time off work (cannot estimate, but I did take some unpaid time off during her final two years of extensive travel) and miscellaneous expenses like attending team bonding events, fundraising, special hair ribbons, etc. (\$500 per year???)

## Skills Videos & Recruiting Services

When you want to be recruited, get on a coach's radar whether nearby or far away, you need to show them what you've got. This is done now with 3-5 minute skills videos that demonstrate your skills. Coach's can evaluate from anywhere they have an Internet connection. As I have written about before, coach's do not simply go hang out at tournaments to find players. They go to tournaments with lists of players they are already interested in to see how they do in actual games.

Some parents or coaches will put together amateur skills videos for players for free or a very small fee, upload them to Youtube or Vimeo for free and then it's up to the players to take the time to market themselves (for free). There are numerous services out there who will create a skills video for you and market the players as well. Prices range from a few hundred dollars to you've got to be kidding me. Worse yet, some services have such bad reputations amongst college coaches that their emails (and links to your daughter's videos) are blocked. And those who send things in the mail, get tossed in the trash without even opening them.

I won't name the companies, that in my opinion, you should stay away from. I can only advise you to beware, talk to people, check the local forums and whatever else you have to do before shelling out thousands of dollars to buy their lofty promises. I can however recommend a friend of mine, Brian Chidester of College Bound Jocks. I've known him for sometime now. His superstar daughter Amanda was in the same club as my daughter, was an all-american at Michigan, is on Team USA, is a coach in Duke's new softball program and plays professionally now. His prices range from \$500 to \$1,700 (at the time of writing this article). My daughter was one of his first players when he began the business and I believe it is, unless you get lucky, an absolute necessity.



## Summing It Up By Example

Example 1: 12u player doing local tourneys in surrounding counties with no additional lessons (\$2,500 - \$3,000 per year).

Example 2: 12u player doing in-state nearby more competitive tourneys plus weekly lessons (\$4,000 - \$5,000 per year).

Example 3: 14u - 18u player doing in-state nearby college exposure tourneys plus weekly lessons, attending camps and a skills video (\$7,500 - \$9,000 per year).

Example 4: 14u - 18u player doing nationwide tourneys at the highest level of play, weekly lessons, attending camps and a skills video (\$22,000 - \$25,000 per year).

## Conclusion

Just to estimate what I really paid over the years for my youngest daughter. She played 1 year like example 1, 3 years similar to example 2, 2 years like example 3 and 2 years like example 4. So, the math that I had been blocking out of my head for all these years adds up to between \$73,500 and \$86,000.



And right now at this moment....you are doing your own math on what you're true cost of travel softball is for your baby girl, aren't you? I hope this helps you think about all of your options and the true long-term costs of travel softball. I think back to when my Dad said, ***"They're charging \$80 to play little league now. Back when you played it was free."*** Well let's just say I won't be sharing this post with him now, will I?

And lastly...I would definitely do it all over again, but there are things I'd do differently. I probably could have saved \$20,000, but hindsight is 20/20, isn't it? We treated each of our tourney trips like vacations as well and I wouldn't trade all the time I got to spend with her for anything. She's living her dream now and will be a senior this year. Blink.....and it's over.





*Good Luck Paige!  
Play Hard!*

*Love,  
Mom, Dad, Grandma  
and Grandpa*



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**September 24, 2022, Landing Park, Roxbury**



**September 10, 2022, Califon, NJ**



*A re-enactment of the Sirens on the rocks of Scylla in  
Homer's Greek epic poem, "The Odyssey".*

**STARS**  
FASTPITCH

# SUPER



# STARS

D.E.P. # 0016767

Paul Munz



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## **October 9, 2022, Morris Plains Municipal Field**



*Super Twins McKenzie Townsend ready to attack the strike zone while Brookelynn Townsend stands sentinel at second base*

**CONGRATULATIONS, CHARLOTTE,  
ON ANOTHER GREAT SEASON...**



**GO STARS!!!**



**LOVE, MOM & DAD**





*Congratulations to the University of Oklahoma Sooners, who became national champions for the second year in a row and sixth time in program history. Oklahoma defended its crown with a 10-5 victory over Texas in Game 2 of the 2022 Women's College World Series Championship Finals. The Sooners swept the Longhorns in the best-of-three series that also included a blowout 16-1 win in Game 1.*

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PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES WHICH  
ADVERTISE IN THIS PUBLICATION.  
THEY HAVE GRACIOUSLY SUPPORTED US  
SO LET'S RECIPROCATE!

*Our profound thanks and appreciation goes to Coach Ken Steiner and Second Impressions, [www.2ndimpressions.com](http://www.2ndimpressions.com), for artistic, design and publishing assistance, without which this publication would not be possible. Coach Ken led the STARS High School team to three straight Mid-State Girls Softball League Championships from 2015-2017, and now spends his little spare time umpiring softball games.*



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**STARS**  
FASTPITCH

# Voorhees STARS volunteer at America's Grow-A-Row

Published: Aug. 31, 2022, 10:40 a.m.



Players Maria Tramutola, Mia Bergmann, Charlotte Mosier, Allie Cavezza and Victoria Byank proudly display the bountiful fruits of their labor.

By Community Bulletin

On Aug. 29, the Voorhees STARS softball travel teams volunteered at America's Grow-A-Row Farm in Pittstown.

The teenagers traded in their softball gloves for gardening gloves and baskets to harvest zucchini and cucumbers from the fields.

On that day, volunteers at the farm picked more than 4,200 pounds of ripe vegetables, which will be donated to local food banks and those who suffer from fresh produce insecurity.

America's Grow-A-Row is a nonprofit organization that donates 2.5 million pounds, or 10 million servings, of farm fresh produce annually to food banks, soup kitchens, and food pantries in New Jersey, New York City, Philadelphia and eastern Pennsylvania, and, through the Mid-Atlantic Regional Cooperative, the greater northeast region from Maine to Virginia.

Established in 1996, the Tewksbury-based Voorhees STARS are Hunterdon County's oldest travel softball program, and a nonprofit organization whose players, ages 11 to 18, participate in local charitable events throughout the softball seasons.

For more information, go to [www.voorhees-stars.sportsoffice.com](http://www.voorhees-stars.sportsoffice.com).

# State of New Jersey



## THE SENATE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

By Senator DOHERTY and Assemblymen DiMAIO and PETERSON

**WHEREAS**, The Voorhees Stars, the highly esteemed nonprofit girls softball team based in the Township of Tewksbury, marks its Twenty-Seventh Anniversary in 2022; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey send warm greetings and salutations to the Voorhees Stars Girls Softball Team upon this auspicious occasion and are pleased to pay tribute to its illustrious history of community service; and,

**WHEREAS**, For nearly three decades, the public-spirited players of the Voorhees Stars Girls Softball Team have dedicated their time and energy off the field to such worthy causes as Grow-A-Row, providing fresh produce to families in need, and Raritan Headwaters' Stream Clean-Up, removing trash, plastics, and other debris from the Raritan watershed, which supplies drinking water to millions of local residents; and,

**WHEREAS**, Under the leadership of Head Coach Mario C. Colitti, the members of the Voorhees Stars Girls Softball Team have flourished in an environment which promotes the highest standards of sportsmanship and citizenship, and which requires the development of several skills and the application of continued industry and initiative; and,

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's young people who set their goals high, who persevere in the pursuit of those goals, and who reach their desired milestones and accomplish their objectives stand as an example and an inspiration to their fellow citizens of all ages; and,

**WHEREAS**, Through their steadfast commitment in benefit of others, the athletes of the Voorhees Stars Girls Softball Team have earned the pride and admiration of their families, their community, and this Legislature; now, therefore,

*Be It Resolved by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

That this Legislature hereby salutes the Voorhees Stars Girls Softball Team upon its Twenty-Seventh Anniversary, commends its meritorious efforts in furtherance of the common good, and extends sincere best wishes for continued success and vigor in the years to come; and,

*Be It Further Resolved*, That a duly authenticated copy of this resolution, signed by the Senate President and the Assembly Speaker and attested by the Senate Secretary and the Assembly Clerk, be transmitted to Voorhees Stars Girls Softball Team.

Attest:

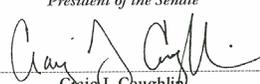


Linda Metzger  
Secretary of the Senate



Dana M. Burley  
Clerk of the General Assembly

  
Nicholas P. Scutari  
President of the Senate

  
Craig J. Coughlin  
Speaker of the General Assembly

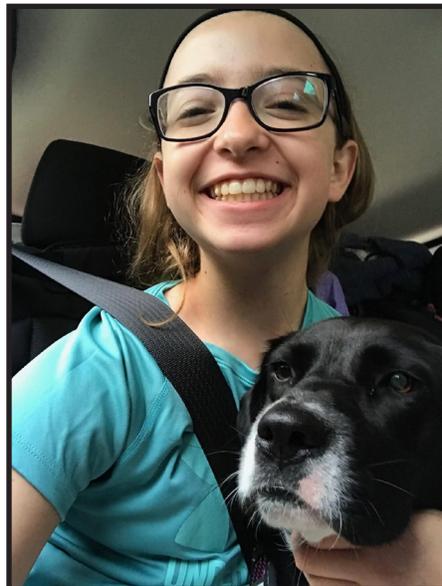


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**Hey Nadine!**

**You are doing a great job and we are so proud of you!  
We wish you an awesome STARS' season!!!**



**Love Dad, Mom, John J. and Saphy!**





*February 27, 2022, Winter Training, Mount Olive Marauder Dome, Flanders*



Congratulations STARS!  
Thank you Coaches Mario and Brian for  
your dedication to the team.



The Huelsbergen Family



**October 6, 2018**  
**Voorhees High School, STARS-Michele Smith Clinic**



*Charity softball clinic raised money for Make a Wish Foundation.  
Kean University softball player Olivia Zengel, Coach Margie Acker, Michele Smith,  
players Dana Knapp, Erin Hollyfield and Emily Sabo*



*Renee,  
We are so  
proud of  
you! Keep  
following  
your  
dreams!  
Love,  
Mom &  
Dad*

**September 24, 2022**  
**Figurelli Frenzy 14U Tournament**  
**Landing Softball Complex, Roxbury**



Coaches Mario and Brian with the 14U players and Steve Figurelli's widow, Fran Figurelli.

Making a donation to The Fighting Children's Cancer Foundation, [www.fccf.info](http://www.fccf.info), in between games at the Figurelli Frenzy Tournament. The tournament raises thousands of dollars for providing financial assistance for medical bills and related expenses to families whose children have been stricken with cancer. This charity was established by the late Steve Figurelli, who coached Roxbury travel softball until his untimely death in 2016.

# 2022 Figurelli Frenzy Award Winners



14U Fig Award Winner Chloe Schlipf



16U Fig Award Winner Emme Franco

In 2016, Roxbury Softball established the “Fig Award” to be given to a player on each participating tournament team in Steve Figurelli’s memory. Steve cared for others on the field—always helping his teammates and players, hustling, and respecting umpires and opponents. Every player was important to Fig, and he spent just as much time coaching his bench players as he did the more talented girls. A high premium was placed on commitment and consistency. Fig believed in things that were more important than a single game: the life lessons learned and camaraderie gained by being part of a team would be remembered by his girls long after their playing days ended.

**October 9, 2022**

**Hiding in the woods, Byram Township, Sussex County**



Back Row (L to R): Emma Guidera, Kiera Spring, Brooke Wilson, Caroline Colitti, Tori Wehmeyer  
Boulder Girls (L to R): Sophie Guzzino, Amelia Montana, Savannah Horincewich, Sophia Charleston, Emme Franco  
Missing in photo: Val Agostino, Allyson Schwint

**HS**

Val Agostino  
Sophia Charleston  
Caroline Colitti  
Emme Franco  
Emma Guidera  
Sophie Guzzino  
Savannah Horincewich  
Amelia Montana  
Heather Ryden  
Allyson Schwint  
Kiera Spring  
Tori Wehmeyer  
Brooke Wilson

Coaches:  
Mario Colitti  
Mike Montana



**July 13, 2022**  
**Old Turnpike School Field, Tewksbury**



*Tori Wehmeyer daring the hitter to get the ball past the hot corner*

---

**October 9, 2022**  
**Byram Township Municipal Field, Sussex County**



*All eyes are fixed on Sophia Charleston getting the sign for the next pitch*

**GREAT JOB TO OUR  
EMMA BELLE  
AND TO ALL THE**

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**STARS**  
FASTPITCH

**July 15, 2022**  
**Ponytail 16U Tournament, South Plainfield**



*Some inside heat will brush that batter away from my plate:  
Caroline Colitti bearing down on an unsuspecting hitter*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STARS  
FOR 27 YEARS OF SUCCESS!**



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**September 25, 2022**  
**Figurelli Frenzy Tournament, Roxbury**



*Kiera Spring swipes second and calls for time-out as the crafty Montgomery, New York shortstop tries to push her foot off the bag and apply the tag*

# October 9, 2022 Byram Township Municipal Field, Sussex County



*Everyone's on the move as Sophie Guzzino smashes a single up the middle against the Lenape Valley Blazers*

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**June 22, 2022, West Milford**



*Safe or Out? You guessed it: Brooke Wilson tags out the doomed West Milford runner at home plate*

**STARS**  
FASTPITCH

**July 13, 2022**  
**Old Turnpike School Field, Tewksbury**



*Meals on Wheels: Amelia Montana flying into second with a double in a 4-3 victory over West Milford*

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**September 25, 2022**  
**Figurelli Frenzy Tournament, Roxbury**



*Emma Guidera is locked in and ready for the next pitch*

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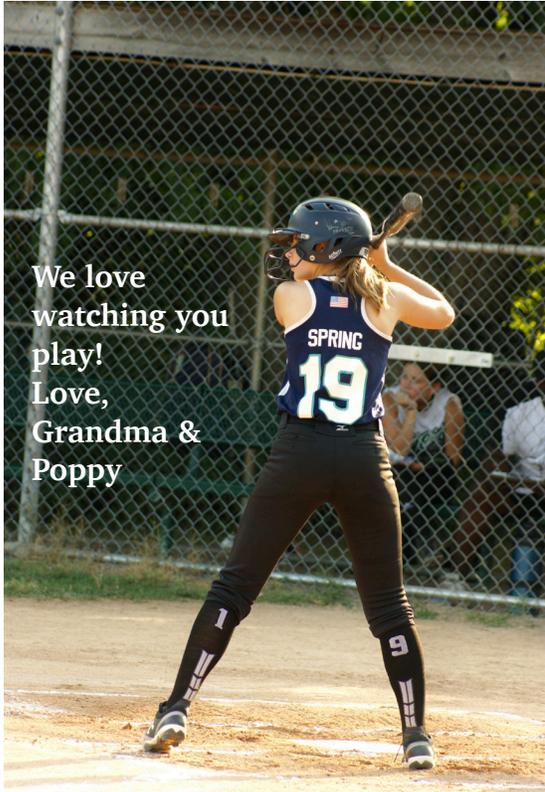
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**STARS**  
FASTPITCH



We love watching you play!  
Love,  
Grandma & Poppy



To our favorite centerfielder,  
We love you #19!

The sun came out today.  
We're born again,  
there's new grass  
on the field.  
Put me in coach,  
I'm ready to play.  
Look at me.  
I can be centerfield!



**September 25, 2022**  
**Good Luck Allyson!**  
**Love, Dad**



*The element of surprise works to perfection for a bunt single by Allyson Schwint*





Nothing has made us happier than watching you play over the years!

[We are so proud of you, Emme – GO STARS!](#)

< Mom, Diggy, Abby, Gramma, Grampa, Lela, Uncle J and Kathy >

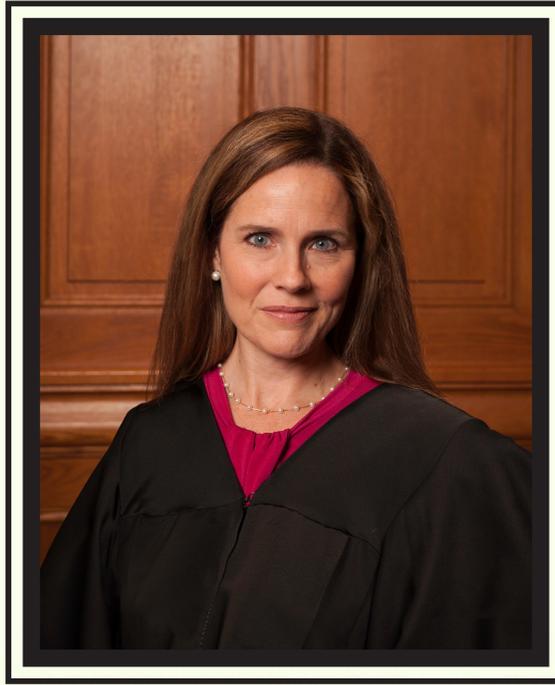


## September 25, 2022, Figurelli Frenzy Tournament, Roxbury



*Kiera Spring ignores the third base coach's temper tantrum after a bad umpire call*





CHAMBERS OF  
JUSTICE AMY CONEY BARRETT

Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington, D.C. 20543

September 12, 2022

The Voorhees Stars  
c/o Coach Mario C. Colitti  
55 Bissell Road  
Lebanon, NJ 08833

Dear Stars:

Congratulations as you celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> season of Voorhees Stars softball! That is a remarkable run, one which I know you and previous teams are proud to be a part of. It is inspiring to read about young women like you working to better your community by volunteering with the charitable causes you have helped. Keep up the good work.

I'm also going to offer a quotation from Teddy Roosevelt: "Comparison is the thief of joy." Whether you judge yourself to be better or worse off than someone else, comparison is never a recipe for happiness. So don't look to your left or your right as you move through life. Instead, look straight ahead and do your very best.

Sincerely,

*Amy Coney Barrett*  
Amy Coney Barrett

**July 13, 2022**  
**Old Turnpike School Field, Tewksbury**



*Savannah Horincewich looking for a pitch to drive into right center*

*Slapper extraordinaire Heather Ryden ready to put pressure on the opposing infielders*



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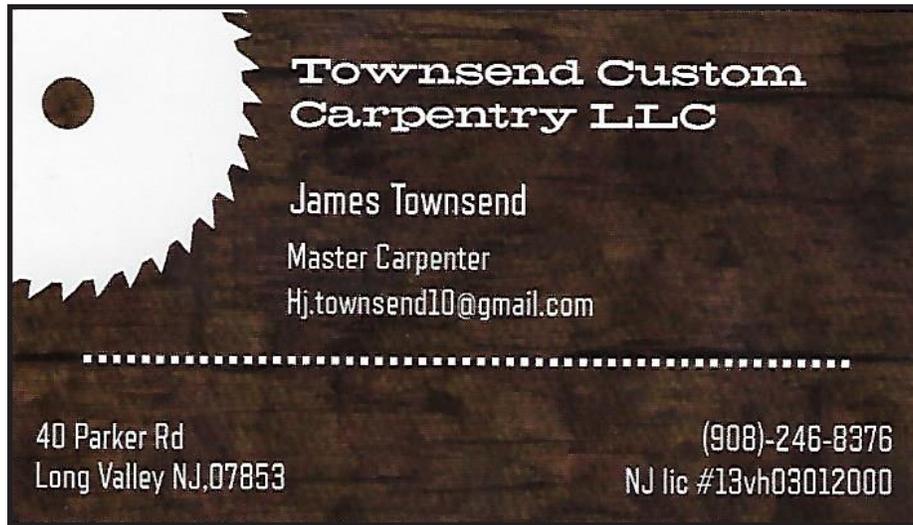
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**July 13, 2022**  
**Old Turnpike School Field, Tewksbury**



*Emme Franco runs into a collision  
with the West Milford catcher blocking  
home plate. You make the call.*

**OBSTRUCTION:** The act of a  
defensive team member:

**B. Who impedes the progress  
of a runner or batter-runner  
who is legally running the  
bases unless the fielder is;**

**1. In possession of the ball**

2022 USA Softball Official Rules

# STARS



**Congratulations Tori and the 16U Stars  
for another great season!**

**STARS**  
FASTPITCH

# BLAST FROM THE PAST



*The most dominant STARS team in history was the 2003 16U squad, which trumpeted a 32-3 record in tournament and league games.*

## *Stars Reunion Wedding In Vermont*



*Back row: Meghan Klein, Tori Sansone, Robb Sansone (head coach),  
Kaitly Sansone, Joe Rimar (coach), Becky Sansone, Hannah Rimar*

*Front row: The STAR Bride – Elena Rimar*



# **STARS ACCOLADES: 27 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND COUNTING**

2022 Sparta Schools Out Tournament HS Champs  
2021 Jefferson Fall League HS 2nd Place  
2019 MSGSL HS 2nd Place  
2018 MSGSL 10U 2nd Place  
2017 MSGSL HS Champs  
2016 MSGSL HS Champs  
2015 MSGSL HS Champs  
2015 MSGSL 12U Blue - Playoff Runner-Up  
2014 MSGSL 12U Blue - 1st Place  
2013 Heat Up with ICE Tournament 10U 2nd Place  
2013 Long Valley Atalese Tournament 10U 2nd Place  
2012 MSGSL 14U Champs  
2011 Mount Olive School's Back Tournament 12U 2nd Place  
2010 Old Bridge Fun in the Sun 12U Champs  
2009 MSGSL Undefeated MSGSL HS Champs  
2008 MSGSL 14U Champs  
2007 West Jersey Challenge 14U Champs  
2006 MSGSL 16U Champs  
2006 Greenwich Tournament 12U Champs  
2005 Readington Tournament 14U Champs  
2005 Mount Olive Tournament 14U Champs  
2005 MSGSL 16U Champs  
2005 Mount Olive Tournament 16U Champs  
2003 North Edison Tournament 16U Champs  
2003 Mount Olive Tournament 16U Champs  
2003 Readington Tournament 12U Champs  
2002 MSGSL 16U Champs  
2002 North Edison Tournament 16U Champs  
2001 Readington Tournament 10U Champs  
1998 MSGSL 16U Champs



# SPARTA SCHOOLS OUT TOURNAMENT 16U CHAMPIONS

June 19, 2022, Sparta High School



*Who needs more than 9 players to win a single elimination championship?  
The 16U girls won the championship game 12-0 over the  
Hudson Valley, New York, Raptors.*

*(back row L to R): Coach Mike Montana, Amelia Montana, Tori Wehmeyer, Heather Ryden,  
Savannah Horincewich, Emme Franco, Caroline Colitti, Coach Mario Colitti*

*(front row L to R): Brooke Wilson, Megan Wilson, Kiera Spring*



*Val Agostino loaded for the Montgomery, New York Devils' pitcher's best stuff*

**STARS**  
FASTPITCH

# STARS FASTPITCH HALL OF FAME

Created at the conclusion of the 2003 season to honor the careers of our players who have been voted in by the selection committee after meeting the following criteria:

1. Played in the STARS program for a minimum of 5 years;
2. Completed last year of age eligibility- nominated by coach of that team;
3. Received minimum of 75% approval vote from coaches' committee.

**FOR EXTRAORDINARY PLAYING ACCOMPLISHMENTS, INTEGRITY, SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE STARS PROGRAM**

## 2003

Becky Sansone  
Kelly O'Reilly  
Susan Longworth  
Jenn Mansilla  
Elena Rimar

## 2005

Sara Baker

## 2006

Kelly Carver  
Karren Bogda

## 2007

Emily Blair  
Colleen Duff  
Hannah Rimar  
Amanda Minchin  
Lyndsay Magenheimer

## 2008

Julianne Wildrick  
Kaity Sansone

## 2009

Victoria Borsetti  
Tori Sansone  
Nicole Simila  
Andi Schell

## 2014

Morgan Clemens

## 2015

Grace Borsetti  
Erin Tiger  
Melissa Will  
Sara Varga  
Kat Roncoroni

## 2016

Shannon Oswald  
Julia Governali

## 2017

Alanna Pearson\*  
Kyra Hollenbach

\*Alanna is the all-time Stars pitching leader in wins, strike-outs, shut-outs, ERA, and holds several batting records. She was the inspirational leader of the Stars' High School Division teams, winning three consecutive Mid-States Girls Softball League Championships from 2015-2017.



**July 9, 2022**

**Warren-Hunterdon USA Softball 16U Tournament, Hillsborough**



*Back row (L to R): Savannah Horincewich, Caroline Colitti, Kiera Spring, Sienna Cardell, Megan Wilson, Emme Franco*

*Sitting (L to R): Val Agostino, Brooke Wilson, Tori Wehmeyer, Amelia Montana*

**October 30, 2022, Roxbury Halloween Tournament**



# The Washington Post

## 'More than ordinary baseball': The inspiration for 'A League of Their Own' turns 75

By Jacob Bogage

May 31, 2018 at 7:00 a.m. EDT

Both ballclubs stood on the base paths as Jesse I. Pavey, the mayor of South Bend, Ind., stepped to the mound May 30, 1943, for the All-American Girls Softball League's ceremonial first pitch. It reportedly was wild.

So were the 12 years of women's professional softball and baseball that succeeded it and inspired the film, "A League of Their Own," starting with the first three games played on the last day of May.

The Peaches of Rockford, Ill., had come 180 miles east to face the South Bend Blue Sox and inaugurate another professional American sport in the name of "patriotism," "healthful recreation" and "wholesome, exciting entertainment," according to game programs.

Major League Baseball parks sat empty during World War II, and Chicago Cubs owner Philip Wrigley devised a plan to fill them, and boost domestic morale. He drafted a team of baseball advisers to modify existing women's fast-pitch softball rules — a smaller ball, longer base paths, stolen bases — and fronted the money for four teams in the industrial Midwest that would play a 108-game schedule at local high school fields and municipal stadiums in 1943. (The league's name was changed to the All-American Girls Baseball League midway through the first season, and then again to add "Professional" to the name at the end of that same year.)

If the first season was a success, the league would expand and start to fill minor and major league parks. (It was, and it did.) In the meantime, he'd pay young women between \$45 and \$85 a week — more than a factory girl could make, and almost as much as a minor leaguer, according to the Miami News — to play ball during the day and take "charm school" classes in the evenings.

The first games 75 years ago were all he could have desired and more.

"A group of girls invaded the male stronghold of professional baseball Sunday night and proved there's more to the 'powder-puff' brand of the game than meets the eye — but what meets the eye is nice, too," the United Press news wire service reported.

South Bend and Rockford were tied at 3 through five innings when a pitchers' duel broke out that held the crowd on edge.



Margie Peters pitched into the 13th inning for the Peaches when South Bend's Lois Florreich smacked a double into left field and came home when "Lillian Jackson let the ball roll through a pair of shapely legs" for a 4-3 win, wrote the United Press news wire service.

The late game was even more dramatic.

Rockford rattled off a four-run rally in the top of the eighth inning to go up a run, but the Blue Sox countered with four runs of their own in the bottom half of the frame to pull out a 12-9 barnburner.

In Kenosha, Wis., the hometown Shamrocks beat the visiting Racine (Wis.) Belles, 8-6, the same day.

Racine evened the series with a 6-3 rain-shortened win the next night. Mary Nesbitt threw five innings of one-hit ball for the Belles.

Second baseman Charlotte Smith, who was 2 for 2 at the plate the night before, was perfect again in four at-bats Monday, including a double and scoring the game-winning run. She hit .316 that year in 53 games, according to the league website's historical archive.

South Bend won the regular season pennant with a 58-50 record, but Racine won the playoff championship after a best of five series.

"It was more than ordinary baseball," the UP wrote after the first games in South Bend. "It was a new career for career girls and another milestone for the national pastime."



Chicks Pitching Staff with Manager Max Carey.  
(Courtesy of the Northern Indiana Historical Society)

*The 1944 Milwaukee Chicks pitching staff poses with manager Max Carey.  
(Milwaukee Journal Sentinel via AP)*

**LOOKING BACK....LOOKING FORWARD**

**WELCOME TO THE 2022 SEASON!**

**TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS OF STARS FASTPITCH WE  
WELCOME YOU INTO THE COMMUNITY EFFORT THAT MAKES  
THIS PROGRAM HAPPEN.**

OUR PROGRAM HAS A RICH HISTORY- WE TAKE GREAT  
PRIDE IN TEACHING OUR YOUNG ATHLETES VALUES AND  
SKILLS NECESSARY TO BE SUCCESSFUL BOTH AS SOFTBALL  
PLAYERS AND GOOD CITIZENS.

Whether you are a veteran or newcomer to our program there is a  
common thread we all share:

spending time with our children in a sport we all enjoy and building  
memories that will last a lifetime.

We started 27 years ago with 10 players on one team. Through  
2022 we have counted hundreds of graduates from our program  
that remain connected to their STARS playing days.

Through 2022 STARS players have:

1. Competed at the varsity level at area high schools
2. Achieved All Conference, All County, All State Honors
3. Played showcase travel softball
4. Earned Division I college scholarships
5. Played in the Division III College World Series Championships

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR YOUNG ATHLETES  
ENJOY YOUR STARS EXPERIENCE!**

**MARIO COLITTI, DIRECTOR**

**STARS FASTPITCH**





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**STARS**

FASTPITCH

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**T**eamwork

**A**ttitude

**R**espect

**S**pirit