



WAA News

Online at: waawoodbury.org

email: waaexecdir@waawoodbury.org

September/October 2007

WAA Calendar

October Registrations At WAA BUILDING

WRESTLING VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday, October 16 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Tuesday, October 23 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Saturday, October 27 9:00 to 11:00 am
*These registrations will be At WAA
Building*

For More details on WAA go to:
waawoodbury.org

WAA Building
2630 Ojibway Drive
651-731-0100

Office Hours: 2PM to 6PM Monday to Friday

Support WAA at CHAMMP'S, THROWBACK'S, BONFIRE

Play WAA pull-tabs at these three
locations and support WAA.

Your support goes directly to WAA—
THANK YOU!

From The President

waaexecdir@waawoodbury.org

651-731-0100

SUMMER IS OVER.....That means that we are rapidly moving into the fall sports programs and at this time all are in session. Hundreds of volunteers put in literally thousands of hours to put a quality program on the field for your children. On top of the work that you see when you enroll your children, there are countless hours at field coordination meetings, coach's selection and then certification meetings, equipment inventory sorting and ordering, team selection and practice and game scheduling. There is a great deal of work that has been done and there is more to come.

WAA is moving toward having online registration available for all sports and all activities. Two years ago we purchased a database system from Vermont Systems incorporated called Rec-Trac. This program allowed us to combine the 23 separate databases that we had and we now have one solid data base for our membership which is managed and maintained by the staff at the WAA office. This database has an online registration Module that when installed will allow for each and every registration to take place on line. We are in the final stages of getting that module purchased and installed on our equipment so that we can handle all of the needs. The online registration process will be extremely handy for you the parent and it will also offer a method to streamline our data entry process and team formulation process. We just have to figure out how to pay for it. We are working hard to have all of this up and running by January 1st, 2008 so that all of the spring sports can be registered for online. We will let you know in the next newsletter if it happens or not.

The Traveling baseball people are working hard to put quality teams on the field in leagues that are within their skill levels. As with any sport that includes tryouts for positions there is and always will be controversy. The Traveling baseball board works very hard to insure that the tryout process is fair and equitable, judges are chosen and the process includes skill evaluation and game performance. When your child is chosen to play on a Traveling team that means that they did well in tryouts on that day. Likewise when they do

From The President

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(Continued from page 1)

not make the team that they hoped, it only means that they didn't do well on that given day. There will be other opportunities for your child to participate. Our Developmental program is strong and provides for great opportunities for young men to play baseball and develop their skills toward the goal of playing baseball at a higher level. Not making a team is not the end of the world. As parents, part of your responsibility to help you child understand these things and not exasperate the situation. Many times the parents are more disappointed than the children and that tends to translate into a situation that is not good for anyone, Please keep things in perspective.

As the Fall sports seasons progress, WAA cooperates with the school District to allow our Football and Soccer children to participate at half time during the High School home Football and Soccer games. The children participating are granted free admission if they are wearing their uniform but any parent accompanying them is required to pay at the gate. Please don't abuse this privilege. The school district has discussed eliminating that program because of some conflicts that they have had with our parents. This is generally very exciting and fun for the players getting to play in front of the large crowd under the lights. Lets all do our part to help the kids have fun and a great fall season.

On we go in the process of helping the School District get ready to open the new high School, East Ridge High will open in the fall of 2009 and the faces of the City of Woodbury and the City of Cottage Grove will change for ever, the boundaries that get chosen to service that school will create a new and exciting time when the people of these two Cities will have to adapt to a completely different mind set as to what they do in youth sports. At some point in the lives of kids, we direct them toward the team spirit of some high school. The colors you wear the mascots you choose are usually related to the school that you are gravitating to. The CGAA and the WAA have had discussion and will have more discussions about what we think the face of youth sports will be after the opening of the new school. If you are interested in taking part in those discussions, give me a call.

What's the Difference, WAA or WYAL

Each year the process of choosing coaches and selecting traveling teams can get fairly contentious. We try hard to provide a safe, fun and educational experience for the children of Woodbury. Every year there are those that feel that we don't meet their expectations and decide that they should play with WYAL.

So! What's the big deal? is there really a difference?

There are a few huge differences between WYAL and WAA. First and foremost we are all trying to give children a place to play ball. The basic differences are, the WAA strives to choose our team through a fair and equitable selection process. We do not allow pre-chosen, or hand picked teams. **The WYAL encourages pre-selection** and only uses their evaluation days as a tool to identify each child's abilities. This can create a very unfair situation for the children of Woodbury. Many times the people that go to WYAL, go only after our teams have been formed and they were dissatisfied with some result. Either they don't like the coaches' selection or maybe their child didn't make the team they thought they should have. What ever the reason, they usually solicit and take a few kids from teams that were already selected and that creates a problem for our organization in the fact that now we have to redefine the teams. Many times, I receive calls from parents wanting to know why their children were not selected to go to WYAL. My only response to them is that it is not our doing. WYAL seems to be the place to go if you are not happy with something in WAA. I would suggest that if the effort exerted to make a WYAL team was redirected to help create a stronger WAA, many hard feelings would be avoided.

I would like to point out that WAA is a 501 3 C Not for profit organization recognized by both the State of Minnesota and the Federal Internal Revenue Service **WYAL is not.**

The Woodbury Athletic Association puts forth a program where any child can play even if they don't make the traveling team. (We have a strong developmental program) **WYAL does not.** We offer fee assistance to those that are less fortunate, **WYAL does not.**

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The short of it all is this, the WAA tries hard to insure fair and equitable tryout processes for our traveling teams, are there ever problems, YES, but we work to correct them when we hear of them and we hold our people to a very high standard when it comes to dealing with the kids of Woodbury. If you chose to join a WYAL team, have fun and I hope that your season is successful, I would however encourage each and every one of you to explore the reason behind the WYAL team.

If you are asked to join a WYAL team and are not sure about it, feel free to call me and I will try to be as fair as practical in our discussions as to what is best for your child. I have seen many people go to WYAL over the years; some enjoyed the experience some did not. Some that went are now back in WAA and are very vocal about people not leaving. I think we can work out whatever the issues unless you want to perform a team.

Gene Johnson

BASEBALL

TRAVELING BASEBALL

Traveling Baseball will be holding Fall Tryouts for the 2008 teams this September 8th and 9th. All levels will have independent evaluations. Team selections will be announced by the end of week of tryouts and teams will be posted on our web site.

Please check our web site for complete details on tryout information, fees, and team selection details. www.woodburybaseball.org

All players are welcome to tryout regardless of prior travel baseball experience. Three levels of play will be offered.

Coaching Opportunities: Coaches that are interested in coaching Travel Baseball may apply at our website. We are looking for additional parent and non-parent coaches.

2007 WAA Board Members

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waaexecdir@waawoodbury.org

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SOCCER

State Tournament Results

The Woodbury Soccer Club's Competitive league was well represented at the MYSA's State Tournament this year with 2 Girls teams and 4 Boys team participating. We wish to congratulate our U11 C2 Boys team, the Woodbury Hot Spurs, for winning their age group. Congratulations boys!

Summer Camp

Our inaugural Technical Excellence Camp was held July 16-20 this summer and was a huge success with 115 participants. We have heard some very positive feedback from the kids and their parents, along with a few suggestions for future camps. We are very excited by the results of this camp, and look forward to next summer's camp with great enthusiasm.

Spring 2008 Classic Tryouts

The Premier and Classic U11-U18 tryouts were held in August this year, but the U9-U10 tryouts will be held once again in September at the Courtly fields. The times for each gender/age group are as follows:

Sunday, Sept 9 – U9 boys/girls @ 1:00-3:00pm,
U10 boys/girls @ 3:30-5:30pm

Sunday, Sept 16 – U9 boys/girls @ 1:00-3:00pm,
U10 boys/girls @ 3:30-5:30pm

We strongly encourage that your child participates in at least one of their two available sessions, ideally both. Please notify us prior to September 8 of any absences so we can alert the evaluators ahead of time. To do so, please contact either of the Competitive Directors or the Tony Englund –
D i r e c t o r o f C o a c h i n g a t
englund@woodburysoccer.com.

Indoor Recreational Soccer The Woodbury Soccer Club welcomes you to the winter 2007 indoor recreational program.

The primary objective in this youth soccer recrea-

tional program is for the young player to have fun, with the emphasis on sportsmanship, good play, and following the laws of the game.

Recreational players in Pre – K and Kindergarten will be playing on ¼ of the field with pug nets. 1st grade through 4th grade will play on half the field and depending on the number of 5th and 6th graders that register they could play full field or on half of the field. Depending on the number of players registered, the teams could be comprised as follows: 1st and 2nd grade players of the same sex, 3rd and 4th grade players of the same sex, Co-Ed 5th and 6th grade team or teams will be comprised of one grade level and the same sex.

The winter indoor recreational program lasts approximately 6 weeks, starting the week of October 28th and the last game will be on December 17th, no games will be held on the Thanksgiving weekend. The practice schedule is tentatively as follows:

Monday – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Pre K & Kindergarten Boys/Girls & 1st and 2nd grade Girls

Monday – 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – 3rd and 4th Grade Girls and Boys

Tuesday – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Boys 1st and 2nd Grade & 1st and 2nd grade Girls

Tuesday – 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – 5th and 6th Grade Co-Ed / 3rd and 4th Grade Boys

Thursday – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. – Boys 1st and 2nd Grade / Pre K & Kindergarten Boys/Girls

Thursday – 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – 5th and 6th Grade Co-Ed / 3rd and 4th Grade Girls

Games will be held on Saturday between 8:00 a.m. thru 6:00 p.m. Each player will play a minimum of one-half of each game. As with all other commitments, it is expected that players attend practice on a regular basis, inform the coach of anticipated absences, and arrive at the field on game day at the time designated by the coach.

Cost

Pre Kindergarten \$ 65.00

(must be at least 4 years old by Oct.28)

Kindergarten \$ 65.00

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade \$ 75.00

5th and 6th grade

\$ 85.00

Registration

Online registration will open on September 1st and run until October 15th, with late fee starting October 1st. In person registration can be done at the WAA building which is located at 2630 Ojibway Drive. The hours are M – F from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. until September 10th and after that time all registration will be done online. Late registration begins on October 1st and lasts until October 15th. There will be a \$20 administrative fee for anyone withdrawing after they have registered. After October 15th you will be placed on a waiting list. No refunds after October 15, 2007.s

Every effort is made to resolve scheduling conflicts. However, those requests must be noted in the registration form. Please honor your team assignment. We have a wonderful group of coaches and players. A new team is a new opportunity to make new friends.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a head coach, WAA will waive the fee of the child whose team you coach. We will offer coaching manuals free of charge to all coaches, and encourage parents who have never played the game to consider getting involved.

Best regards,
Colleen Hase
Indoor Soccer Recreational Coordinator
c-hase@comcast.net

What about the RAIN?

The City of Woodbury offers a convenient way to keep you informed on field closings in Woodbury.

Subscribe to this service today by visiting the city's website at www.ci.woodbury.mn.us and select "In Touch" on the lower left of the screen. You may request Email notification for Recreation-weather alerts/schedule changes and the city will email you when the fields are closed.

VOLLEYBALL

A huge **Thank you and Congratulations** to 120 girls who attended the Summer Volleyball Camp! Also thanks to M1 Volleyball and Dan Brown for serving as Camp Directors. The girls did an amazing job in Hot, hot weather. We look forward to continuing our relationship with M1 in the future to provide a fun, instructional summer camp.

Fall Recreational Volleyball will start the second week of September. Girls who are signed up and have not heard from their coach should contact Pam Sullivan at woodburyvb@comcast.net or 651-738-7601. This year Woodbury is running our own league for grades 3-6 at Woodbury Junior High. 7th and 8th graders had two options this year. The first option is to play on a team and compete in the league at Carver Elementary. The second option was to participate in a fall clinic that will work specifically on basic skill development. All rec teams are full. We look forward to having a great inaugural season of the Woodbury Rec fall league.

The winter Junior Olympic or JO as it is more commonly known will start with tryouts in November. This year we will have a team at 12's, two teams at 13's, 14's and 15's. If there is enough interest we may have a 16's team. Sign-ups for winter JO Volleyball will take place at the WAA building on the following dates and times: Tuesday, October 16th from 6:30p.m. to 8:00p.m., Tuesday, October 23 from 6:30p.m. to 8:00p.m. And Saturday, October 27th from 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Winter tryouts are tentatively scheduled for 12's, 13's and 14's for Tuesday, November 6 and 15's and 16's for Monday, November 12th. There is a practice tryout evening tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 5th. These dates and times will be finalized and communicated at registration.

If you have any questions regarding Woodbury Volleyball please contact Pam Sullivan at woodburyvb@comcast.net or 651-738-7601.

BASKETBALL

Basketball Season Begins

September marks the start of the 2007-08 WAA Basketball Season. Thanks to those that registered during the registration dates. Late registrations are available at the WAA Office during its hours of operation (M-F, 2 – 6 p.m.). Late registrations in the Travel program carry a \$40.00 late fee while the 3rd – 12th grade in-house program now requires a \$20.00 late fee. Our 1st and 2nd grade program – open to boys and girls – does not add a late fee to its registration fee of \$65.00. Please register as quickly as possible so we can plan accordingly.

Scheduling

Thanks to Kevin Kieger for filling the vacant position of Facilities Manager (Scheduler).

Key dates will be posted on our WAA Basketball web site at www.waa.woodbury.org/Basketball/

A letter to the parents will be sent out in mid September 2007.

Important tentative dates for parents:

- Travel parents meeting (LJH Cafetorium): Thurs., Sept. 20, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- 1st/2nd grade parents meeting (LJH Cafetorium): Thurs., Sept. 27, 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
- In-House (3rd – 12th grade) parents meeting (LJH Cafetorium): Thurs., Sept. 27, 7:45 to 9 p.m.

Important tentative dates for players:

- Boy's traveling tryouts (LJH): Sept. 29 or 30 & Oct. 6 or 7.
 - Girl's traveling tryouts (LJH): Week of Oct. 1.
 - In-House 3rd – 12th grade shootarounds begin the second week in October.
- 1st and 2nd grade begins the first week of November.

Again, please check the website for all scheduling information pertaining to the start of the season in September and October.

Traveling Coaches:

Interviews will be taking place in mid to late September. We will contact you with that information as soon as they are set up. Please let us know if you want to be considered for coaching.

Steve Pittman

WAA Boys Basketball Director

WRESTLING

Wrestling Registration at WAA Building

Tuesday, October 16th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Tuesday, October 23rd from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 27th from 9:00 to 11:00 am

GOLF

The young golfers of our community honed their game throughout this past summer. Awesome shots shared with good friends helped make this summer fly by. During the last week of golf participation awards and trophies were handed out.

If by chance you were not on the course this week, please stop by the WAA Offices to pick yours up.

Thank you to all for a great summer!

**THANK YOU TO ALL
WHO VOLUNTEER**

SOFTBALL

The softball season was a huge success due to the efforts of countless volunteers, parents and players.

A special thank you goes to the coaches of over 70 teams. Also I would like to thank the in-house grade commissioners: Michele Heitpas, Todd Tolkinen, Jill Bremseth, Guy Hartwig, George Yoshida, Jill Miller, Barb Slagerman, Grant Erickson, and Mary Koonce. Without all of these coaches and commissioners the season could not happen.

The in-house season ending tournament was held on July 13, 14 and 15th. Congratulations to all of the teams that competed and had fun. Thanks to the efforts of Jill Miller and Lori Wolf for coordinating concessions for the tournament and to Peg Dierberger for organizing the volunteers who worked in the concession stand during the tournament. A special recognition and thank you has to go to Jill Miller. She coordinated the in-house program, was commissioner for 4th grade and ran the in-house tournament. A big thank you also needs to go to the umpires and the umpire coordinator Lydia Derrick.

The traveling season was also very successful. There were eleven teams and 4 of them qualified during the season for a national tournament. Congratulations to all of the teams for their hard work and efforts.

Keep an eye on future newsletters and the softball website for information regarding pitching, catching and our winter clinics.

If I have missed thanking anyone I apologize. A softball season requires the efforts of so many people. I want to again thank everyone for their time and efforts throughout the season and we will do it all again next year.

TRACK

The WAA Woodbury Track Club had strong representation this season with over 200 participants in the in-house program and over 25 children in the competitive program. The club had a strong showing at its three Woodbury Home meets. Our annual ice cream social and awards ceremony took place at Ojibway Park on Tuesday, July 24th. If you were unable to attend the awards ceremony, you can contact Corey to arrange picking up your child's trophy.

A large number of athletes competed in and qualified for the USATF and the AAU Junior Olympic Track & Field Meets, with several of them advancing to finals. Woodbury track & Field was represented by 20 athletes at the region V111 meet. They returned with 16 medals! Our Bantam Boys and Girls won the 4X100 and the 4X400 respectively. Woodbury also had a strong participation level in both the Stillwater and North Star Meets.

Thank you to all of our dedicated parents who donated their time and efforts in volunteering at our home meets. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by both the Coaches and the Club. A special thank you to all of our coaches who donated many hours and a lot of effort to our program!

This year's coaches were: Pre-K/Kind-head coach-Brock Eastlund-assisted by Jeff Blodgett-1st grade-head coach-Jacquie Kirk-2nd grade-Rob Class, Erik Grinde and Jill Whisler 3rd grade-coached by Guy Hummel and Jamie Kujawa-4th grade coached by Mike Henning & Kim Eastlund-5th grade and older who were coached by sprinting coaches Steve Dahlman and Brooks Berg and long distance coaches Mark Grenfell and Kim Orf. Our shot & discus was coached by Dave Bosch and "Team Woodbury" was coached by John Patterson & David Pomfret. Thanks to all of these coaches for their many dedicated hours of coaching and training. Thanks also to all of our parents that stepped in and volunteered at our home meets. Without all of their help, we would not be able to host our three home meets!

Thanks for a great season!!

Woodbury Athletic Association

October Registrations :

Wrestling and Volleyball

Tuesday, October 16 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Tuesday, October 23 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 27 9:00 to 11:00 am

These registrations will be At WAA Building

For More details on WAA: waawoodbury.org

WAA Building 2630 Ojibway Drive 651-731-0100 Office Hours: 2PM to 6PM Monday to Friday

American Sport Education Program - ASEP

SPORT NEUTRAL COACHING CLINIC'S

WAA offers ASEP Sport Neutral Coaching Clinics to all coaches of any WAA team. (ASEP training provided by the American Sport Education Program.) If you are planning to coach and have not yet taken this required training, please plan to attend a clinic as soon as possible.

Future dates and times are listed on the WAA website waa.woorbury.org. For your convenience classes are offered in Woodbury and usually at the WAA Building. **Registration is a must**, email waaexecdir@waawoodbury.org.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Class size is limited

Mark your calendar for **future registrations**:

Traveling BASEBALL - September

WRESTLING - October

SOCCER July - Summer Competitive

September - Winter Recreational

October - Winter Competitive

U6-U8 - February

Fall Recreational—May/June

DEVELOPMENTAL BASEBALL - February

SOFTBALL - February, March/Travel Tryouts

GOLF - February

TRACK - February

VOLLEYBALL—May/June and October

BASKETBALL—May/June

FOOTBALL—May/June