

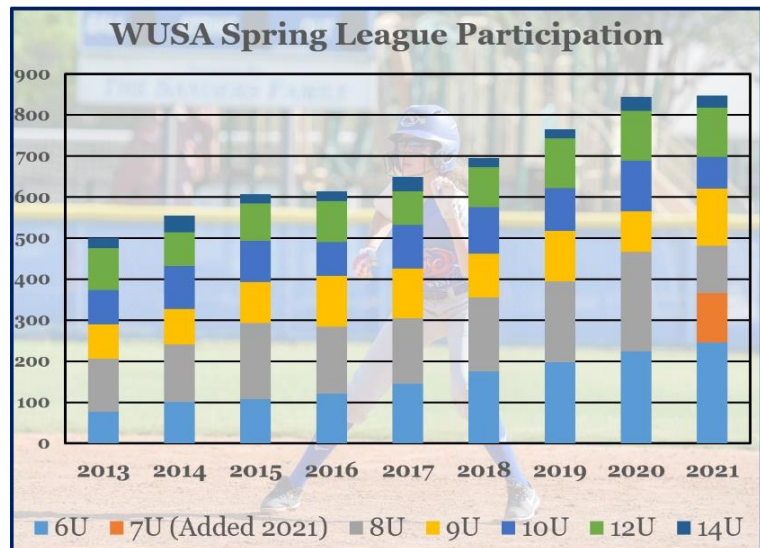


# West University Softball Association

## Winter 2020/Spring 2021 Newsletter

Dear WUSA families: We Made It! This double issue of our WUSA Newsletter is a microcosm of our league's journey leading into and through this successful spring season that was a bit off-cycle, adaptive to bumps along the way, a touch unconventional, but in the end crossed home plate for a triumphant walk-off win!

Let's lead off with Spring 2021 registrations and planning. As we planned the spring season, there were lots of unknowns, the first being the uncertainty of participation levels given the concerns with COVID. The week before registration closed (and the week after when handling many last minute requests) it was



clear you wanted softball back in your routine! The league exceeded registration levels from previous years. Once again, our 6U, entry-level division was the largest ever. This resounding interest predicts a strong future for the league in the coming years.

Given the challenges we faced as a league this spring, not only with Covid, but the freeze and some untimely, prolonged rain, we adapted and completed the spring with an amazing season-ending tournament week. Thank you to the parents, players, umpires, auxiliary, and tarps for your support along the way. As always, we hope that you made some great new memories and friends that will live with you for a long time!

We also want to highlight some of the key changes in rules we implemented, discuss partnerships the league has cultivated within our Houston area softball community, feature our auxiliary activities and touch on some of the future plans for the league.

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## Quality of Play: Impact of recent changes on league play

Starting in the spring of 2021, we introduced a new, stand-alone 7U division with specific rules aimed to advance player skills and maintain the competitiveness of the game. Having observed play in the division throughout the spring, the adjustments can be deemed a success. There is clearly a better match between the skill level of the players and the new rules for stopping the play.



All our parents and players know what a throw to the cylinder means!



More importantly, by breaking out 7 and 8 year-olds in separate divisions this spring, the 8U division was similarly strengthened in the level of play. A change in our 9U division a few years ago, introducing one inning of girl pitch, continues to prove to be valuable in improving play in the league. This move combined with the adherence to the WUSA age requirements for divisions have

increased the depth of players at these skill positions.

As girls age up into 12U and complete girl-pitch, having a larger number of girls interested and developing at the pitcher and catcher positions is necessary for sustaining



quality play for the growing number of girls in the league. We are encouraged by our trends and amazed at the talent of the girls! The pitcher/catcher clinics that are free to WUSA players and offered weekly by WUSA through our partnership with BreakAway Speed have been very well attended and further contribute to the development of our players.



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## Fun Outside the Lines

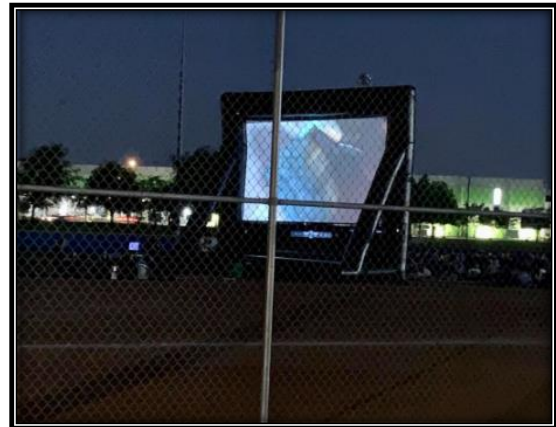
The spring season, as our more tenured families know, is more than just playing in the dirt! It usually includes a number of social activities, including the season kick-off Parade/Carnival, the Father Daughter Dance around Valentine's day, and the Adult Social/fundraiser at a local restaurant for fun and fundraising.

While these events were postponed as we opened the season, the league committed to revisiting the spirit of these events as the health of the community allowed.



Our auxiliary came through again! While we did not have the opportunity for a Parade/Carnival this year, our WUSA Movie Night that replaced the father-

daughter dance was a HUGE success. The combination of great weather and a general hunger to enjoy a show with friends safely contributed to a relaxing, fun, and memorable evening for Dads and Daughters alike! The event was so well attended and reviewed, we may keep it on the schedule for coming years, no matter the gathering restrictions!



For the grown-ups, our first ever outdoor Crawfish and Cornhole Adult Social hosted at South Campus was yet another great event hosted by our WUSA Auxiliary. The event gave those hard-



working parents and coaches a little time to play as well. Congratulations to Brandon Bailey and Steve Roberts who took home a set of custom cornhole boards as a prize for the winning team.



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## **WUSA & University of St. Thomas Host College Softball at South Campus**



The [University of St. Thomas](#) began hosting collegiate softball games at our WUSA South Campus this spring as they fielded a women's NCAA Division III softball program.

UST hosted several home games on our South Campus Field 4 Location. While families were not able to watch the games from the stands due to Covid precautions, our WUSA girls and

parents took in the action from the outfield while also stealing some tips during the UST player's pitching & hitting warm-ups. We look forward as a league to our continued partnership with UST, their coaches and players.



## **WUSA South Campus Location Proves Valuable to Local Schools' Softball Programs**



This spring WUSA showcased the value of our facilities to advancement of girls' softball in Houston outside our league play as well. WUSA served as the host home fields for several local schools. These schools' softball programs were enhanced by the partnership with WUSA and the level of middle school softball played at our south campus location was incredible. We saw "Big-girl" homeruns, defensive gems, and outstanding pitching from these

middle school teams. We are proud to be in a position as a league to support these schools as our league is the recreational softball home to so many of these players and families.

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## WUSA College Scholarships

WUSA once again, in part through the generosity of our league sponsors, offered graduating seniors who are alumni of WUSA college scholarships. Four impressive WUSA alumnae Cole Johnson, Meridian Monthly, Peyton Howard and Julia Sanchez each received an award. WUSA plans to continue to offer these college scholarships to deserving former players who gave so much of their energy and spirit to our league over the years. Check out WUSA's website to learn more about our college scholarship program including the application requirements and deadlines for future years.

## South Campus Upgrades

WUSA continues work on planned updates to our facilities by expansion of the South Campus concession building and the addition of a covered pavilion between Fields 4&5. Other planned updates include the addition of dedicated warm-up space for pre-game throwing and pitching. These spaces will provide improved safety to players and spectators. WUSA seeks donations to support this exciting expansion. If you are interested in contributing to WUSA's capital improvement projects, please contact us.



## Sponsorships



We are deeply appreciative for our sponsors who helped us offer so many great softball experiences to our WUSA families this spring season. Please support [our sponsors](#) for 2021. WUSA has several sponsorship opportunities at different price points and can create customized sponsorship opportunities to meet a sponsor's specific interest. To learn more about our sponsorships and how you can become a WUSA sponsor, please [contact us](#).

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From all of us at WUSA, enjoy the memories of our spring season and accept our best wishes for a great summer of more softball, vacation or whatever you have planned. Join us again in the fall for another, can't miss WUSA Softball season.

**Michael Liebl**

WUSA Executive Vice President





*Pictures in this issue are courtesy of Miguel Strauss - WUSA Board Member*



***UPCOMING EVENTS***

- May 2021 – WUSA Tournament Teams Take to the Fields across Houston
- Late July 2021: Fall Ball Recreation League Registration Opens
- Mid-September: Fall Tournament Team Registration and Tryouts

If you missed any of our past newsletters, link to them here:

[Fall 2020](#)

[Summer 2020](#)

[Spring 2020](#)

[Winter 2019](#)

[Fall 2019](#)

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