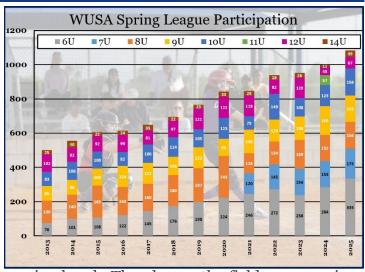


# West University Softball Association

# Winter 2024 – Spring 2025 Newsletter

Dear WUSA Friends and Families:

We concluded another amazing, record-setting spring program. We had record enrollment, and our players and families were treated to an amazing start to the year with a gorgeous WUSA Opening Day. However, first the rains came and then snow! We were delayed but



not deterred. We hit our stride after spring break. The play on the field was amazing and our WUSA community's passion was on display throughout the Spring.

The league emphasizes fun and skill development, but competition kicks up in the spring and that friendly competitive nature peaked during the end-of-season tournament. While we had to pivot some for the weather, the final day was a masterpiece. Players making great plays, fans cheering, and the campus was buzzing!

Our campus looked great and our ability to conduct our season on time even with the amount of inclement weather, is a testament to our investment in tarps; most recently at McGovern. However, tarps don't deploy themselves, so for that we owe thanks to our amazing ACES. The ACE's Program has become a staple of our ability to conduct our league business. We list our ACES is this newsletter and I want to thank each one of you for your support this spring.

This newsletter highlights what the league has done this spring to enhance your family's experience in the league from rules adjustments to facilities improvements. I hope every player and family added more great softball memories over the course of the spring and new friendships. Enjoy your summer and see you back for WUSA's Fall programming!

Mike Liebl - WUSA President 2024-2025

Pitcher & Catcher Sessions: Thanks again to our WUSA Pro Coaches Lacey Waldrop, Priscilla Riser and Valerie Quiroga and their affiliated coaches for supporting us this Spring. Clinics averaged over 40 participants each Sunday. WUSA needs players at these skill positions and we thank these coaches and players for their dedication and time to develop these unique skills. These collective efforts help to

ensure we have players at these skill positions for our growing league.

#### **Facilities & Equipment Updates:**

WUSA's commitment to investing in, and improving our facilities never ends. This spring we added new windscreens to our south campus locations as they were showing some wear and

tear. We added two new, 5-row stands for our South Campus on fields 1 and 3 where smaller, 3-row stands were there before. Those 5-row stands were filled during our end-of-season tournament

games and were nicely shaded by the shade structures installed spring 2024. With the support of a league sponsor, WUSA replaced the turf in our south campus batting cages and added turf to a batting cage at Bayland.



A facelift to our South Campus entrance signage was part of an overall update to our signage around WUSA. We added more prominent signage for our sponsors and replaced lightpole banners bringing a finished look to our campus.

This past winter, WUSA marked 10 years operating 3 fields at

Bayland Park (6400 Bissonnet St.). These fields were once used by Bellaire Girls Softball before that organization closed. WUSA assumed maintenance costs and primary use at a time when our league was half the size it is today. The decision may have seemed unnecessary then, but as



our league has grown demanding greater field space needs, this decision was prescient.

Two years ago, WUSA began more focused improvements to the space at Bayland that accelerated last fall and this winter. We have raised the playing surfaces quality to the level of all our other campuses. We installed turf and added lights to the batting cage near Bayland Field #3.

And while WUSA does not have full control of every element on the Bayland campus (e.g. restrooms), we continually update the space ensuring WUSA players and families have another great space to play softball. The flexibility these fields offer our WUSA operation cannot be understated. Bayland fields allow



us to offer more practice time slots at highly desirable times without having to schedule shorter practices or have teams share fields.

Lastly, this coming Fall, WUSA plans to have our Hitting and Fielding Pavilion open for use. This 90' x 90' structure will have a modular netting system that can be divided for multiple hitting/pitching lanes or opened up allowing a full infield practice.



Responsible use of league funds, along with the generosity of our WUSA families during our fundraising events such as Hit-A-Thon week and Adult Social combined with the founding donations from several current and previous WUSA families made this capital project possible. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors for all you have given.



# WUSA 2025 Spring Season Final Standings

Congratulations to our division champions and runners-up for the 2025 Spring Season!

Divison	Champion	Runner-up
7U	Fireballs (Halprin)	Sandstorm (Zachry)
<b>8</b> U	Aliens (Doustan)	Nebula (Munro)
9U	Foxes (Delisi)	Badgers (Howard)
10U	Moccasins (Kim)	Kingsnakes (Baird)
12U	Explosion (Landrum)	Crush (Castillo)

2025 Spring Season End-of-Season Tournament Standings

Divison	Champion	Runner-up
7U	Quicksand (Chulick)	Sandstorm (Zachry)
<b>8</b> U	Aliens (Doustan)	Moonbeams (Powers)
9U	Foxes (Delisi)	Wolves (Aschman)
10U	Kingsnakes (Baird)	Vipers (Johnston)
12U	Explosion (Landrum)	Crush (Castillo)

# **WUSA Auxiliary Updates**

Our auxiliary facilitates so many of our operations that get our girls on the field and make the fan experience great in a number of ways. The Auxiliary coordinates all our cool WUSA Swag from clothing to yard signage. They also spearhead our concessions program. This Spring Season again, our auxiliary organized player uniforms and yard signs

plus all the great events this spring like Hit-A-Thon. The program raised over \$35,000 for support of our college scholarship program and the new hitting pavilion.

The WUSA Adult Social was a great event at the Marque II. The dueling pianos and mechanical bull were a hit all night, but the bull hit harder. You will see tons of WUSA families sporting custom Cowboy hats now and the event raised additional funds for our WUSA hitting pavilion helping us reach our goal. All attendees had a great time.

Father-Daughter night was a hit again this year with watching an outdoor movie on the WUES field and fun in the scout house.



Special thanks to our WUSA auxiliary Co Chairs, Staci Vetterling and Katie Driscoll as well as our Concessions Chair, Shana Thorvilson. Get involved with this amazing team. Email <a href="mailto:auxiliarywusa@gmail.com">auxiliarywusa@gmail.com</a> to learn more.

### **WUSA College Scholarship Recognitions**

Fourteen WUSA alumni were honored with a WUSA scholarship to help support them

in their 1st year of college. This was truly an amazing class of student athletes who spent their entire softball careers through 14U with WUSA. (Pictured from left to right: Mikayla Liebl, Jordan Roberts, Abby Woo, Reagan Moriarty, Claire Murray, Sophie Donalson, Ava Skow, Meaghan Lande, Sophia Deutschen, Catherine McConn, Avery Peaks and Kate Hale. Not pictured Julia and Vivian Sullo)



# WUSA "ACES" Program Keeps Going Strong

WUSA's –  $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$ ssociates  $\underline{\mathbf{C}}$ ommitted to  $\underline{\mathbf{E}}$ xcellence in  $\underline{\mathbf{S}}$ oftball (ACES)" role is our league's introductory volunteer group that complements our Auxiliary. ACES are recognizable in their distinctive blue shirts, and blue hats with the ACES logo. WUSA ACES open and close our campus, support various tasks to maintain the facilities and provided support to our umpire crew and managers for impartial rules interpretations. This spring with the inclement weather, our ACES were vital to deploying and removing our field tarps so we could stay on schedule. We are indebted to these volunteers this spring.

Joining the WUSA ACES program is another way to support the league beyond involvement in your daughter's team. Email the <u>WUSA helpline</u> if you have an interest in joining for the next season (Fall 2025 and Spring 2026).

2024 - 2025 WUSA ACES

2024 - 2023 W OSA ACES					
Andrew Beaupre	Andrew Driscoll	Brent Hodges	Christian McMurray	Gavin Reichman	Carlos Valdez
Ryan Brauer	Drew Firestone	Chris Howard	Andy Mejia	Frank Rivas	Tom Vetterling
John Brollier	John Galfione	Mike Kim	Will Mejia	Ben Roberts	Dave Wall
Brad Bucher	Russell Gray	Chad Kuck	Matt Moake	John Robertson	Carter Wiley
Chip Cavanaugh	Justin Gregg	Colin LaForge	Paul Monsour	Robert Rutherford	Lee Wright
Travis Covington	Tracy Hale	Kevin McCarthy	Jamie Nodler	Lawrence Saenz	STU SOFTB
Alan Crane	David Halpin	Jenny McCarthy	Dan Oska	Alfonso Sanchez	E TATE
Rhett Davis	Ted Hartz	Jim McDade	John Plumb	Jeff Sandford	
Lee Donovan	Marco Hirvensalo	Greg McEldowney	Seve Ramirez	Michael Thorvilson	A.C.E.S.

# **WUSA Spring Season All Stars**

Congratulations Spring Season All-Stars. Players were nominated-by and voted-on by the respective division managers. Twenty-two players were afforded the opportunity to represent their division in an All-Star Game following the end-of-season tournament. The action on the field was great & showcased the supurb talent and skills of players in the league as we continue this WUSA tradition!

7U Blue Team	<u>7U Red Team</u>
Manager – David Halprin	Manager – Bill Zachry
Rocky Chulick	Sloane Bormaster
Anna Driscoll	Louise Delisio
Mia Halprin	Margot Gregg
Sophia Jankovic	Grace Lyons
Maeve Kelly	Julia Monsour
Julia McConathy	Victoria Perkins
Kelly McDowell	Samantha Salciccioli
Isabella Palaskas	Olivia San Angelo
Quinn Sabat	Millie Tripplehorn
Susie Seidel	Ella Van Buskirk
Mili Subramanian	Lucy Zachry

	, ,
9U Blue Team	9U Red Team
Manager - Paul Delisi	Manager – Chris Howard
Genevieve Avery	Mackinley Brauer
Gabby Delisi	Delaney Donovan
Tessa Jebbitt	Reagan Grimm
Emmy Jung	Emma Howard
Charlotte Kuck	Madeline Howard
Annabelle Landrum	Penny Hughes
llana Lee	Addison McDade
Sabrina Scheet	Mila Middleton
Allison Voie	Josephine Oska
Kat Westin	Julianna Wall
Amaia Young	Emma Watts

Manager – Jorge Castillo
<u> </u>
Stella Boyd
Ava Castillo
Aviana Chang
Alexis Freshwater
Emily Garland
Ellis Gorski
Sari Jones
Lauren Martin
Julia Shidler
Ava Stewart
Mae Walker

<u>8U Blue Team</u>	<u>8U Red Team</u>
Manager - Tiffany Munro	Manager - Wakeford Thompson
Abigail Bucher	Lucy Bear
Sophia DeLaTorre	Emma Doke
Sadie Firestone	Riley Giga
Izzy Funk	Amelia Heins
Hannah Judkowitz	Camille Johnson
Brooke Kaplan	Alexandra Mathews
Charlie Nelson	Wellesley McKenny
Savannah Ramirez	Brighton Powers
Reagan Roe	Rylan Ripper
Wimberly Standiford	Allie Thompson
Elise Warner	Jackie Walters

10U Blue Team	10U Red Team
Manager - Rhett Davis	Manager - JB McAlister
Maiseyn Clarin-Jante	Gemma Baird
Samantha Gray	Madison Beleiff
Wilhelmina Hartz	Abby Castillo
Josie Johnston	Addison Gubitz
Adalyn Kim	Emily Hong
Macey Liebl	Emma Pasche
Sammy Moake	Ellis Reniers
Danica Rajevac	Brooklyn San Angelo
Remi Roe	Isla Shaftel
Brooke Stewart	Charlotte Shih
Annabelle Whitley	Julia Skaug



#### 2025 WUSA Graduates Recognized

WUSA officially started our WUSA Graduates recognition program this year. Players who have participated in 8 or more WUSA recreational seasons and competed in a WUSA 14U CO-OP Spring Season are considered WUSA graduates.



This year, we honored 23 players and families who have shown dedication to the sport, embraced the values of the league, and have made WUSA their softball home for well over 4 years. These 23 players combined, played over 250 seasons with WUSA! Ten of them started in our 6U divison as Bumblebees, Stars, Wild Things, and

Shamrocks while others got their WUSA start a little later in life as 8U Fireballers or on the Inferno or Hailstorm! Still others joined WUSA at 9 or 10, as Lions and Anacondas.



To celebrate their time through WUSA,

graduates received a custom bat with their name on it. Congratulations to our WUSA graduates. We wish you well as you continue your softball journey on a WUSA Tournament Team, with your Middle-School, and for some, your in HS teams.



#### **WUSA Alumni Playing College Athletics**

Over the years, WUSA has been the formative home for many incredible softball talents and athletes. Three WUSA Alumni who are making the move to play collegiate sports were recognized during our All Stars Games celebration.

**Julia Sullo** played over 10 WUSA seasons through 14U when she started HS Softball at St. Agnes Academy. You will find no player more excitable, and fun to watch than Julia. She has committed to playing softball at WashU for the 2025-2026 season.

Sophie Donalson played 12 recreational WUSA seasons and numerous tournament team seasons with WUSA. Sophie is a testament to all the things WUSA stands for. She is a positive, fun teammate, she is relentlessly committed to self-development, and she is a reslient competitor. Sophie moved her way from WUSA's 10U Tide tournament team, to our elite 12U and 14U Wave teams before beginning her high school careeer at Bellaire. Sophie will play college softball at Texas Lutheran University this Fall.

Annie McCarthy played WUSA over 12 recreational seasons and unnumerable Summer and Fall tournament teams. She played WUSA through 14U until starting HS softball at St. Agnes Academy. Annie had distinguished freshman and sophomore softball seasons before aiming her talents fully toward field

hockey. Annie is committed to playing college field hockey at Bellarmine University.

This spring WUSA saw the return of **Cole Johnson** to our South Campus facilities, but this time as a University of Texas at Dallas Comet when she played against the UST Celts. Cole played WUSA through 14U and and her mother, Tammy, served on WUSA's Board for a number of years. It was a homcomming of sorts for Cole and Tammy being back at WUSA after all these years.



Images from the Spring Season (Photos Courtesy WUSA Auxiliary, Cheney Chang & Will Mejia)





# **WUSA 2025 End-of-Season Tournament**

# **Champions and Runners-up – Congratulations!**

7U 8U



9U 10U



**12U** 





#### **Sponsorships**

Thank you to <u>our sponsors</u> who's generosity continues to allow WUSA to provide a topnotch softball experiences. When you have the chance, please tell a sponsor thank you for supporting WUSA. When you have the choice, <u>support our sponsors with your</u> <u>patronage</u>. Sponsorships are available at different price points and WUSA can create customized opportunities that may meet your interest. To discuss, <u>contact us</u>.

From all of us at WUSA, we hope you added new memories and new friendships during the Spring 2025 WUSA season. Have a wonderful summer and see you in the Fall!

# Michael Liebl WUSA President



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Fall 2025 Season Early Bird Registration July 20th July 25th
- Fall 2025 Season Regular Registration July 26th August 22nd
- Fall 2025 Season Late Registration begins August 23rd
- Fall 2025 Season Manager Meetings August 24th, 2025
- Fall 2025 Season Practices Begin Week of September 1st, 2025
- Fall 2025 Season Concludes November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

Summer – Fall 2024

Winter 2023- Spring 2024

Summer - Fall 2023

Winter 2022 – Spring 2023

Summer – Fall 2022

Winter 2021 - Spring 2022

Summer - Fall 2021

Winter 2020 - Spring 2021

Fall 2020

**Summer 2020** 

Spring 2020

Winter 2019

Fall 2019

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