



PANTHER PRESS

JANUARY 2007

## PANTHER VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS END 8-MONTH BREAK

After eight months of waiting, its time to dust-off the knee pads and hit the courts!

Over the next two weeks all players should receive a call from their new or returning coach informing them of 'what's up'. Teams, practice times and practice schedules are still being finalized, but at this time we have close to 130 Panther players for the 2007 season. Looks like we are growing!

In February Sportsbridge will be offering 4 Friday evening clinics to help get both players and coaches back into the swing of things. The cost of the clinics will be \$10 each. Skills to be covered are passing, setting, hitting, serving, and blocking. Clinics will be open to all registered AYL volleyball players. In addition to improving skills and meeting other players, this will give everyone a chance to see the new Sportsbridge facility located at 82 East Inverness Drive.

The season begins on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> for all 5/6 and 7/8 year olds. Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> will be the season opener for all 9/10, 11/12, and 13/14 year-old teams. So that the 2007 season can be a success, your coach will be asking parents to please help out as a line judge, score keeper, or timer. It is an AYL rule that the home team provides a scorekeeper, or they will be forced to forfeit games until one can be located. AYL will be offering a scorekeeper and line judge clinic in the near future to help reduce any fear you might have of working "the table".

Parents are encouraged to get out and purchase knee pads and all black shorts, but please hold off on the jerseys at this time. Coaches need to send in numbers so that we do not have any duplicates on the roster. Performance Sports (Broadway & Ridge Road) is our official Panther store. While you are there, check out the new Panther Volleyball tees!

GO PANTHERS!

## FOOTBALL

The Panthers have announced four 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys who have been named by their coaches and the Panther Board as 3D (Determination, Dedication and Desire) Football Players of the Year for 2006. Please congratulate Chris Barber, Josh Escue, Taylor Foss and Taylor Schmidt. We will be recognizing 3D Players of the Year in all sports. Only 8<sup>th</sup> graders (5<sup>th</sup> graders in basketball) are eligible.

### Panther Contact Information

[www.panthersports.org](http://www.panthersports.org) · [info@panthersports.org](mailto:info@panthersports.org)



## BASEBALL

The 2007 Panther baseball season is just round the corner. Many of the AAA and Majors players have started their winter workouts in preparation for the season and the A and AA players will not be far behind. Please keep an eye on the Camps and Clinics link on our website. Many of the local offerings will be tracked here. If you know of any that are not listed please send an email to [baseball@panthersports.org](mailto:baseball@panthersports.org) to have the information posted.

Thank you to all of those that have registered to play baseball in 2007. A lot of exciting things are in store! The consolidation to a single season has the AYL Baseball Board of Directors optimistic that past issues related to the multiple seasons are just that -- in the past! Please keep a close eye on the AYL ([www.aylsports.com](http://www.aylsports.com)) website for updated information related to the 2007 season including schedules in mid-March, the annual Rockies outings, the end of season tournament and much, much more.

Please remember, if you are new to the Panther baseball program or are transferring teams, please do not purchase uniforms with numbers until you have had a chance to clear your selection with your coach. Your delegates are hopeful that rosters will be distributed to coaches the second week in February so you will have plenty of time to get that desired number on your jersey. Early roster distribution will be dependent on the volume of late registrations as these push the team creation process further into February.

Your coach will be asking about no-play dates. Each team will be allowed four of these this year. The no-play dates allow coaches to specify dates that their team will not be available to play. The types of situations this may cover are lack of players due to participation in other sports, tournaments, vacations, school outings, etc... Please notify your coach when you are contacted or shortly thereafter so that he or she can get the team information compiled and sent into the league. Let's not have any forfeits this season due to lack of players!

Please feel free to send your baseball comments throughout the season to your delegates at [baseball@panthersports.org](mailto:baseball@panthersports.org).

Best of luck to all the Panther teams in 2007!

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## BOOSTER CLUB

The Panthers are starting a Booster Club in order to better support the youth of our community and to help fulfill our mission statement. Please check out the website to see how you can join. For application and/or questions email [info@panthersports.org](mailto:info@panthersports.org).

Please support our Boosters!!

*Panther Youth Sports is an organization designed to provide young athletes a positive experience in a variety of sports. Our mission is to focus the experience on four key aspects of sports:*

- *to allow children to learn and experience either one or multiple sports*
- *to provide positive adult examples to children*
- *to provide a venue for children to learn good sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership*
- *to let children have fun in sports*

*This is accomplished through an all volunteer organization, run by parents whose focus is the children which we serve.*

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