

Aunt Rosie's tournaments start this weekend

A record 128 teams, including 22 in the open division, will take the field this summer in the 19th annual Aunt Rosie's International Girls'/Women's Fast Pitch Softball Tournament which gets underway June 22-24 at the Audubon Recreation Center in Amherst.

A total of 30 teams in the 16 and under division will begin the five week-long tournament on Friday morning. Games in the 16 and under division will continue on Saturday and conclude with the championship game on Sunday afternoon.

Other Aunt Rosie's divisions will play on the following weekends, including 14 and under (June 30-July 2), 12 and under (July 6-8), open division (July 13-15), and 18 and under (July 19-22).

All slots for the 2007 Aunt Rosie's are full and there is a waiting list of approximately 20 teams. The open division, with no age limit, began play in the Aunt Rosie's last year when 15 teams were entered. According to Tournament Director Bob Nowak, the jump to 22 teams is attributable to the fact that the Amateur Softball Association Women's Major (open division) National Championship Tournament was played in Amherst in 2006 and returns again in 2008.

"I think more open division teams are forming and gearing up to play in the Nationals next summer," said Nowak. "A few years ago there were only one or two open division teams in Western New York. This year, seven Western New York teams are regis-

tered to play in our tournament. We are thrilled to have been a catalyst for the growth of open division women's softball in our area."

The Western New York teams which will compete in this year's Aunt Rosie's women's open division are Amherst Lightning Gold, Mustangs White, Mustangs Blue, WNY Extreme, Amherst Lightning Weisenborn, Amherst Lightning Brooks, and Chautauqua Crush.

One of the major incentives for teams to play in the Aunt Rosie's is the number of college coaches who attend. This weekend, 15 college coaches are expected to attend the 16 and under tournament. Next month, 25 coaches are expected for the 18 and under tourney. Exposure at the Aunt Rosie's has resulted in many girls

receiving college scholarships. A recent example is Kerry Ulmer of Williamsville North. She sewed up a scholarship to Canisius College after coach Mike Rappl saw her play in last year's Aunt Rosie's.

The Aunt Rosie's is also known as the place to shop for hard to get softball apparel. In addition to personalized tournament T-shirts, custom made on site, more than 60 different softball theme T-shirts will be available. There will also be a variety of softball shorts, hats, visors, license plate holders, pillow cases, underwear, and other novelty items for sale. Nowak gets them through a network of four differ-

ent suppliers, one in Philadelphia, one in Cincinnati, and two in the Midwest.

The ASA Major Division National Championships are played at the Amherst Girls Softball complex at the Audubon Recreation Center. The ASA Championship Tournament is run by the Metro Buffalo Region of the ASA in conjunction with the Aunt Rosie's Tournament Committee. The Aunt Rosie's is the largest ASA sanctioned girls'/women's fast pitch softball tournament in the Northeast and one of the ten largest such tournaments in the country.

For more information, contact Peter Rupp at 462-4849.

Fencing

Williamsville trio wins ratings

It was a good couple of days to live in Williamsville this past weekend, as three Williamsville residents earned ratings through the United States Fencing Association.

Kevin McMahon earned his D rating in foil for winning the unrated foil event Friday night in the third annual Hooves of Thunder Tournament. Scott Seier earned his E rating in saber for winning the open saber tournament Saturday, while Sam Goddard earned his E rating in epee for winning the open epee event.

The tournament was hosted by the Fencing Center of Buffalo, 777 Maryvale Drive, Cheektowaga and featured 32 fencers from all over Western New York.

McMahon won three of his four pool bouts to earn the third seed in the unrated foil event and breezed through the direct eliminations. He ousted Buffalo's Chuck Farnsworth in the semis, 15-2, and Buffalo's Anne Doebler in the finals, 15-6. Farnsworth, Doebler and Getzville's Victoria Licata earned their E ratings in foil for placing in the top four.

McMahon is the owner and operator of the Fencing Center of Buffalo.

Seier won five of his six pool



Williamsville's Kevin McMahon, second from left, earned his D rating through the United States Fencing Association for winning the unrated foil event in Friday's Hooves of Thunder Tournament at the Fencing Center of Buffalo. Pictured with him are bronze medalist Victoria Licata, left, silver medalist Anne Doebler and bronze medalist Chuck Farnsworth.

bouts to take the first seed in the open saber event. After a bye in the quarterfinals, he edged out East Amherst's Larry Finklestein, 15-14 in the semis and Buffalo's Scott Dewey, 15-11, in the finals.

Seier won a bronze medal in the open saber event at last year's Hooves of Thunder Tournament.

Goddard won three of his four

pool bouts to earn the third seed in the open epee event. He eliminated Seier, 15-7, in the semifinals and Ron Zysk of Niagara Falls, 15-4, in the finals.

Goddard just completed his sophomore year at the University of Toronto. He previously won the 2005 Hooves of Thunder epee event and placed second in the 2005 open foil event.

Licata, won a bronze medal in the open foil event Saturday, losing to eventual champion Matt Krueger of Cheektowaga in the semifinals, 15-9.

Rovers soccer edge Condors

The Amherst Rovers defeated the Clarence Condors, 4-3, in an girls U12 outdoor soccer travel game on June 11.

Clarence scored early but Amherst responded with two quick goals of their own. The first came on a beautiful corner kick by Colleen Stelley that looked like it curved toward the goal, deflected off the goalie and into the net. Sarah Snyder made a beautiful pass forward to Courtney Sugarman, who deflected a low shot off the goalie's leg and up into the net for the second goal.

Clarence nearly tied it, but Julia Struble somehow kept the ball out of the net during a flurry of shots and rebounds right in front of her. But for most of the rest of the half, it was Amherst putting on the pressure, led by Maria Laforneya, who nearly scored several times, including one off the post and another just over the crossbar.

Clarence did manage to find the net once more to send it into halftime all tied up. It seemed like the luck might be with Clarence when they scored to go up 3-2 midway through the second half, but Amherst tied it at 3-3 when Audrey Parenti blasted in a rebound. The play was set up with a beautiful crossing pass by Kali Karnes that left Julia Struble alone on the far side. The goalie made a great save but was beat cleanly by Parenti on the rebound. Mia Laforneya's luck finally changed as she scored the game-winner when she intercepted a goal kick, beat two defenders to get in close and bounced it off the inside of the far post and in.

Amherst nearly got a clincher late when Allie Troncone's shot was deflected across to Meredith Parenti, who sent it toward the net but the goalie made a diving save.

Offensively, Julia Newton made an impressive drive deep into Clarence's corner and then made a nice centering pass to create a scoring chance.

Joy Thompson made two Clarence players look like they were sleeping when she took the ball from right under their noses and drove past them deep into Clarence's end. It was one of several strong charges by Thompson.

Defensively, Amherst's defense helped sustain pressure by pinching up to midfield. Sarah Snyder and Jade Brooks both stuffed Condor players several times near midfield. Clarence's only recourse was to blast the ball all the way down the field and then try to chase it down. It led to several scoring opportunities. Chelsea Stachura made some good saves on such breaks, coming out to intercept the ball or making difficult saves. Brooks and Snyder also kept them in check by running down breaking Clarence players from behind.

Revolution U-12 travel wins U-13 battle with Dragons

The Amherst Revolution U-12 girls soccer club took its act on the road and rolled into nearby Clarence Soccer Center for a U-13 match against the rival Dragons. The Revolution

defeated the Dragons, 5-1.

The Revolution played a strong game full of tenacious defense and good ball movement but was unable to cash in some good scoring oppor-

tunities early in the match.

Playing a strong team oriented game were Carissima Cutrona, Nika Berrafato, Shannon Doughty, Kaitlyn Neese, Kaitlin Walsh, Sara Eichhorn, Katie Cohen, Alyssa Cartwright, Hannah Dreger, Cathryn Mahon, and Angela Sobotka. Goalkeepers Christine Murphy and Francesca Carra played their usual outstanding game.

The game changed when Courtney Kramer's perfect pass to Margaux Gill put it past the Clarence goalkeeper to make it 1-0 midway through the first half. Annie Garcia found the back of the net late in the first half, making for a 2-0 advantage at half.

Alicia Girard netted the Revolution's next goal a perfectly placed corner shot. Girard's tremendous hustle led to her second goal, a powerful shot from 18 yards out. The Dragons didn't quit making it 4-1 on a scrum in front of the Revolution net.

Gill closed out the scoring for the evening with a beautiful blast from the middle of the field.

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