

# Buffalo granted 2010 Empire State Games

Buffalo will once again host the Empire State Games in 2010, following an announcement from Governor David A. Paterson on Friday.

The event, officially called the Hugh L. Carey Empire State Summer Games, is one of the largest amateur athletics programs in the nation, features nearly 6,000 of New York's finest athletes participating in 28 different Olympic-style sports. The Buffalo Games will mark the 33rd year of the program and will run from July 21-25 in 2010.

Buffalo will benefit from the projected \$10-12 million in economic activity generated by the Games. The Games are a program of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (OPRHP), and in addition to the nearly 6,000 athletes, are expected to draw 15,000 to 20,000 spectators.

"Buffalo has some of the most enthusiastic sports fans in the world," said Governor Paterson. "The passion, energy and athletic ability that New York's young athletes put on display in the Empire State Games will impress everyone. The thousands of people who visit Buffalo for the games will also give local shops, restaurants, hotels and other small businesses something to cheer about."

Excited by the announcement, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown said "on behalf of the residents of Buffalo, we are thrilled to host the Empire Summer Games again. Ath-

letes and spectators of the Games will feel at home in Buffalo, because we are a city that knows how to celebrate sports, host large-scale events and roll out the welcome mat for everyone that comes here to visit."

The 2010 Games will mark the fifth time Buffalo has hosted the Empire State Summer Games. The Games last came to Buffalo in 2003, and were previously held in the city in 1995, 1986 and 1985.

The Games will be hosted in a number of local facilities including the University at Buffalo, Niagara University, Daemen College, Buffalo State College, D'Youville College, Canisius College, and other local and municipal venues.

"Citizens of the Buffalo area have always been great hosts for the Empire State Games, said Commissioner of OPRHP, Carol Ash. "We are looking forward to building a great network of volunteers and supporters to make the 2010 Games a tremendous success."

The Empire State Games were the first of its kind in the nation when established in 1978 by Governor Hugh L. Carey. The Empire State Games is a program of the OPRHP, and sponsored in part by the New York Lottery. The games now encompass summer and winter sports, as well as competitions for seniors and the physically challenged.

Cities interested in hosting the Games submit a proposal for review by the State Parks Empire State Games

office. Criteria include accessibility from other points in the state, ability to house thousands of athletes, availability of hotel accommodations for families and visitors, suitable athletic venues, access to medical facilities, and the commitment and support of a sizeable volunteer base from the local organizing committee and sponsors.

The 6,000 athletes from across the state, from age 12 to 75, will compete over a four-day period in 28 different Olympic-style sporting events in Scholastic, Open or Masters divisions. Events for the summer games will include men's and women's basketball, tennis, boxing, volleyball, softball, baseball, ice hockey, diving, swimming, synchronized swimming, weight lifting, gymnastics, track and field, soccer, sailing, cycling, canoe/kayak, lacrosse, judo, archery, wrestling, bowling, field hockey, fencing, shooting and rowing.

Through the years, many athletes have been part of the Games and moved on to national, international and Olympic competition. Games' alumni include world champions, Olympic gold medalists, college and high school All-Americans, professional athletes in the NBA, NFL, MLB and NHL, as well as figure skaters, skiers, soccer players and many more.

The 2008 Summer Games will be in Binghamton July 23-27, and the 2009 Summer Games are slated for the Mid-Hudson Valley July 22-26.

## Summer ESG tryouts continues through June

Tryouts for the Western Region's teams for the 31st annual Empire State Games, which will be held July 23-27 in Binghamton, are currently underway and will continue through June.

All participants must be New York State residents and a resident of the Western Region as of April 30. For more information on eligibility, including restrictions about age, visit [www.empirestategames.org](http://www.empirestategames.org).

Below is a listing, by sport, with gender, dates, times and locations for the tryouts. However, all dates, times and locations are subject to change. For more information on tryouts, contact the regional office at 836-3910.

### Open Division

- Athletics: Track and Field (MW): June 21; 9 a.m.; Brockport State College; Decathlon (M) and Heptathlon (W); June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Orchard Park High School [Bring pole, shot, discus, javelin and starting blocks]
- Basketball (M): June 14; 10 a.m.; Medaille College, Buffalo; June 15; 10 a.m.; Nazareth College, Rochester
- Canoe/Kayak (MW): June 17; 7 p.m.; University of Rochester Wilson Blvd. Launch Site, Rochester
- Rowing (MW): June 27; 3 p.m.; Genesee Waterways Center [Athletes must register online prior to June 22 and contact Will Greene at 585-271-6072.]

- Sailing (MW): June 14; 9 a.m.; Saratoga Sailing Club, Saratoga Springs; contact Allen Miller at 518-885-5510; June 21; 9 a.m.; Newport Yacht Club (Irondequoit Bay), Rochester; contact Jim Cuddihee at 585-266-8686.

- Shooting - Skeet/Trap (MW): June 14; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Rochester Brooks

- Soccer (W): June 14; 3:30 p.m.; East Rochester High School

- Swimming (MW): June 13; 5 p.m. warm-up; June 14; 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. warm-up; University at Buffalo, Amherst Campus [Entries will close on June 11.]

- Synchronized Swimming (W): June 15; 9 a.m.; Sweet Home High School, Amherst

- Weightlifting (MW): June 18; 11 a.m.; Steel Mill Gym, Lackawanna

### Scholastic Division

- Athletics: Track and Field (MW): June 21; 9 a.m.; Brockport State College; Decathlon (M) and Heptathlon (F); June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Orchard Park High School [Bring pole, shot, discus, javelin and starting blocks.]

- Field Hockey (W): June 15; 9 a.m.; Irondequoit High School

- Ice Hockey (W): June 21; 1 and 4 p.m.; June 22; 1 p.m.; Amherst Pepsi Center

- Lacrosse (M): June 21 and 28; 9 a.m.; June 18, 19, 20, 23; 4:30 p.m. Nazareth College (turf field),

Rochester [Bring appropriate equipment and shoes to the trials.]

- Lacrosse (W): June 15; noon; June 23; 5 p.m.; Penn Yan Academy; June 16; 4 p.m.; Monroe Community College [Bring goggles, turf shoes, and reversible jersey.]
- Shooting - Skeet/Trap (MW):

June 14; 9:30 a.m.; Brookhaven Gun Club; June 21-22; 9 a.m.; Rochester Brooks

- Soccer (W): June 14; 3:30 p.m.; East Rochester High School, upper fields

- Swimming (MW): June 13; 5 p.m. warm-up; June 13; 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. warm-up; University at

Buffalo, Amherst campus [Applications must be received by June 11.]

- Tennis (MW): June 28; 9 a.m.; University at Buffalo, Amherst-Ellicott Courts; June 29, rain date [Applications must be received by June 24. Bring a new can of balls.]

## Panthers' baseball almost advances to Class AA final four

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

The Sweet Home baseball team was one out away from advancing to the Section VI Class AA semifinals.

The 11th-seeded Panthers stranded Aaron Klein and Travis Denman on second and third base, respectively, with two outs in the seventh inning, in a 5-4 loss to third-seeded Clarence on Monday, June 2.

Clarence pitcher Ed Kahout struck out the final Sweet Home batter to secure the save.

Sweet Home trailed, 5-2, heading into the seventh before scoring twice. Cody Stonish walked and scored on a Ryan Gutt ground ball to the pitcher. John Graziano walked and scored on a wild pitch.

Clarence jumped out to a 3-0 lead after two innings. Sweet Home also scored runs in the fifth (Brian Pappagallo walked and scored on a Stonish RBI single) and sixth (Denman walked and scored on a Phillip Stewart sacrifice fly).

The Red Devils scored twice in the bottom of the sixth with two outs, highlighted by a bunt single from Justin Andzel and a RBI double from Marcus Grazen.

"The biggest difference in the game was they got the big two-out hit," said Sweet Home coach Derek Zgoda.

Casey Kacz (1 for 3, walk), Stonish (1 for 3), Denman (1 for 2, two walks) and Gutt (1 for 4) supplied Sweet Home with hits.

Panther batters walked eight times. They

stranded a runner on second in the fourth, second and third in the fifth, and first and second in the sixth.

Kacz pitched 5.2 innings and allowed four earned runs, eight hits, struck out four, and walked three.

"After the first two innings, he settled down and gave us a chance to win the game," said Zgoda.

Sweet Home graduates six seniors - Denman, Graziano, Pappagallo, Klein, Chris Hammer and Brian Barnas. Denman led the team in batting average (.345) and RBIs (15). Klein was named an All-Western New York Scholar-Athlete for the second time. Hammer, a middle relief pitcher, had a team-best 2.55 ERA with a 1-0 record and 14 strikeouts in 17 innings. Pappagallo started at second base. Barnas pitched. Graziano hit in the top of the batting order and played left field or second base.

Stonish, a sophomore, led the team in hits (22) and runs scored (23) and was second on the team in batting average (.319) and RBIs (14). He also had a 4-3 record on the mound with a 5.85 ERA and 27 strikeouts in 32 innings.

Gutt hit .310 with nine RBIs. Kacz had two wins on the mound with a 3.98 ERA and 34 strikeouts in 31 innings.

Sweet Home finishes 7-15.

"I think they showed improvement," said Zgoda. "I was proud of the way they played. I'm looking forward to next year."

e-mail: [pnagy@beenews.com](mailto:pnagy@beenews.com)



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## East baseball earns honors

Williamsville East held their baseball banquet on Sunday.

Team awards went to Josh DiMarco (most valuable pitcher); Chris Schiumo and Nick Weigel (MVP honors); Gary Styn (unsung hero); Austin Barnett and Andrew Steel (most improved); Dan Tyx (Charlie hustle); and Carl Lew (Flame award).

ECIC Division II postseason honors went to Schiumo, Weigel and DiMarco (first-team); Styn, Barnett and Steel (second-team); and Tyx and Pete Elliott (honorable mention).

Schiumo has been nominated for All-Western New York status but the team has yet to be picked.