

SCC SWAT Fastpitch

“State of the Diamond”

Parents, Players, Contributors and Partners:

As we close out the 2014/2015 season, I believe it's important to reflect upon the enormous effort made by many, as well as the success stories that have been accomplished this year. Below are a couple highlights:

- **Competition** – SWAT fielded extremely competitive teams in 2014/2015! By season end, our girls will have competed in over 200 games, with a 60%+ win rate. While win/loss records vary by team, it's important to recognize the *effort* given by coaches, players, and parents throughout the season. After all, this is a volunteer-led organization...and it takes everyone's effort to support our daughters in a meaningful way. The end result is that our girls got to play a sport they are passionate about, in an organization of high quality and integrity, the girls skills have improved...and the life-long memories and friendships created will be lasting.
- **Fundraising** – it's truly amazing the amount of funds that were raised this past year. Our girls raised almost \$38,000 thru corporate sponsorships, fundraisers, etc. Of this amount, \$6,843 went directly to parents/families to offset their specific dues (based on individual team program rules). The rest was used to offset direct organizational costs and keep player dues as low as possible. Had we not collected these funds, individual player dues could have been higher by as much as \$500 per year. Part of this success was made possible by an outside contributor who helped us obtain our charitable entity status with the IRS. In addition to raising tax deductible funds, this IRS designation also allowed the organization to reduce some of our practice facility costs.
- **Strong partnerships** – we continue to maintain strong community and corporate partnerships, in addition to developing new ones this past year. In 2014/2015, we had 9 companies provide funding to SWAT in excess of \$500. These partnerships are vital to our organization and I encourage you to do business with our dedicated sponsor companies. You can see a list of all of our sponsors on the SWAT website. In addition to funding, we partner with local organizations for many services and greatly appreciate their ease of doing business. Finally, we value our partnerships with AGALL and AGHS, and were fortunate to provide funding to move and upgrade the softball batting cage this past year.
- **Team Expansion** – we grew to 5 SWAT teams this past year. While our goal is not necessarily to get larger, we do want to thank the new coaches/teams who continue to share and promote our mission and core values.
- **College Program** – we successfully launched our inaugural college program for players and have learned a lot this first year.

There are many other 'daily' accomplishments that we can all point to and all of these are amazing, particularly given the fact that's its only our 4th year!! Our mission remains the same....

To develop young women's strength and confidence in all aspects of life through teamwork, commitment, dedication, and competitive softball.

While many families *pitched in* to help their individual teams, there are a couple volunteers that gave extraordinary time to all teams in a meaningful way and I want to recognize and thank them. First, **Darren Laterza** has diligently accounted for every financial transaction, opened and reconciled bank accounts, and published/distributed monthly financial reports for all of us. He has also managed and improved our website, which is *second to none* in my opinion. Both of these activities are a HUGE commitment by one parent and we simply could not have done it without Darren. Second, **Jim Butler** worked with each team to provide outdoor practice facilities in Avon Grove, help lead our fundraising efforts, moved the AGHS batting cage, and obtained our IRS charitable status, in addition to being a Coach on the 16u team. Jim's availability and overall dedication to girls softball is amazing and another reason why SWAT had another successful year. Finally, the **Managers and Coaches** of every team should truly be thanked. Being a softball coach for over 10 years, I personally know how much effort and time is required to support a year-round program of this caliber. Your SWAT leaders are dedicated people that deliver a personal commitment day-in and day-out to the entire team.

On behalf of the many SWAT coaches and managers, I look forward to another great year in 2015/2016 and encourage families to continue supporting the SWAT traditions and successes!

Dan Van Sciver